

Groundwater Contaminants' Investigation at Aarada Waste Disposal Site Using Geophysical and Hydro-Physicochemical Approach.

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Abstract: A research on the impact of waste disposal site on groundwater resources was conducted around Aarada area, Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria using electrical resistivity (vertical electrical sounding) and hydro-physicochemical methods. This study was carried out to map the contamination patches at the subsurface and investigate the contamination level of the various hand dug wells situated in the area. A total of seven VES were carried out with length ranging between 80 to 130m. The hydro-physicochemical analysis was conducted at the peak of the wet season on nine water samples taken from nine different hand-dug wells in the research area. The result obtained from the interpreted VES data revealed leachate plumes at the subsurface in the study area. The outcome of the hydro-physicochemical method revealed hazardously high values of Fe^{2+} , Pb^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} and NO_3^- to further support the findings from the VES survey.

Keywords: Contaminants, Groundwater, Health Hazard, Hydro-Physicochemical Analysis, Leachate Plume, Vertical Electrical Sounding.

I. Introduction

Groundwater is very essential for domestic, industrial and agricultural applications. The health and productive life of the people in any society depend solely on potable and safe drinking water. However, maintaining a good quality groundwater supply that is free from microbial and chemical pollution is far from reality in most of our cities and towns due to poor waste disposal and management practices. The major causes of waste generation are industrial development and increased urbanization in the municipality. The problem of inadequate trained waste disposal personnel and equipment, poor waste collection, inadequate solid waste disposing method, improper functioning septic tank systems and indiscriminate siting of disposal sites without regards to the local geology and hydrogeology of the area contribute significantly in the contamination of soil and groundwater. Polluted groundwater has elevated microbial, ionic and volatile organic content, resulting to hazardous effects on public health and poor groundwater quality. As a result of the imminent dangerous impact of solid waste disposal site, it has become necessary to investigate the subsurface contaminant level of soil and groundwater around a municipal solid waste dumping site. The refuse dump site is located in Ogbomoso, southwestern Nigeria. It was delineated between latitude $8^{\circ}06'70''$ and $8^{\circ}06'98.7''$ north and between longitude $4^{\circ}14'28.2''E$ and $4^{\circ}14'56.9''$ east (Figure 1, 2 and 3). The waste disposal site receives municipal wastes, mainly domestic garbage, with hazardous and non hazardous constituents. These release large amount of leachate into the surrounding soil and groundwater.

Generally, electrical resistivity method provides economical and reliable means to identify and delineate leachate contaminant plumes from waste disposal site because there is elevation in the electrical conductivity of leachate to that of natural groundwater. The use of resistivity method as applied to waste dumping site studies are well documented by numerous researchers in the study of leachate contamination of soil and groundwater (Porsani et al., 2004; Karlik et al., 2001; Mukhtar et al., 2000;). The objective of this research work is to apply the electrical resistivity technique to detect and delineate leachate plume from uncontrolled solid waste dumpsite in Ogbomoso, Southwestern Nigeria. The hydro-physicochemical analysis of sampled water is to complement the results of the geophysical data and measure the degree of contaminants' accumulation.

II. Geology And Hydrogeology

The study area is located in Ogbomoso, southwestern Nigeria between latitude $8^{\circ}06'70''$ and $8^{\circ}06'98.7''$ north and between longitude $4^{\circ}14'28.2''E$ and $4^{\circ}14'56.9''$ east. The geology of this area consists of Precambrian rocks that are typical for the basement complex of Nigeria (Rahaman, 1976). The major rock associated with Ogbomoso area form part of the Proterozoic schist belts of Nigeria, which are predominantly, developed in the western half of the country. In terms of structural features, lithology and mineralization, the schist belts show

considerable similarities to the Achaean Green Stone belts. However, the latter usually contain much larger proportions of mafic and ultra mafic bodies and assemblages of lower metamorphic grade (Ajayi, 1988; Rahaman, 1976). The gneiss complex which underlies the northern and southern part of the Ogbomoso district comprises a considerable broader area of outcrops. Locally, the rock sequence composes of basically weathered quartzite and older granites. The minerals found in this area constitute mostly amphibolites, amphibole schist, meta ultra mafites and meta pelites. Extensive psammitic units with minor meta pelite can also be found. These consist of quartzites and quartz schist. All these assemblages are associated with migmatitic gneisses and are cut by a variety of granitic bodies (Rahaman, 1976).

The rocks of the Ogbomoso district may be broadly grouped into gneiss-migmatite complex, mafic-ultra mafic suite (or amphibolite complex), meta sedimentary assemblages and intrusive suite of granitic rocks. A variety of minor rock types are also related to these units. The gneiss-migmatite complex comprises migmatitic and granitic, calcareous and granulitic rocks. The mafic-ultramafic suite is composed mainly of amphibolites, amphibole schist and minor meta ultramafites, made up of anthophyllite-tremolite-chlorite and talc schist. The meta sedimentary assemblages, chiefly meta pelites and psammitic units are found as quartzites and quartz schist. The intrusive suite consists essentially of Pan African (c.600Ma) Granitic units. The minor rocks include garnet-quartz-chlorite bodies, biotites-garnet rock, syenitic bodies, and dolerites (Rahaman, 1976; Folami, 1992).

The study area overlies the western upland region of the Nigeria highland plateaux with average altitude between 1000m and 1500m above mean sea level (Akinloye, et al. 2002). The drainage type is intrinsically dendrites. Locally, Ogbomoso area experiences tropical rainfall which dominates most of southwestern part of Nigeria and the area has two distinct seasons, the wet season usually between March and October, and the dry season which falls between November and February every year. The annual rainfall for the study area is 1247mm, but the amount varies from 1016mm to 1524mm, and is almost entirely concentrated in the wet season. The study area falls within the guinea savannah belt of Nigeria but human activities such as exploitation are gradually changing the vegetation to that of Sudan savannah.

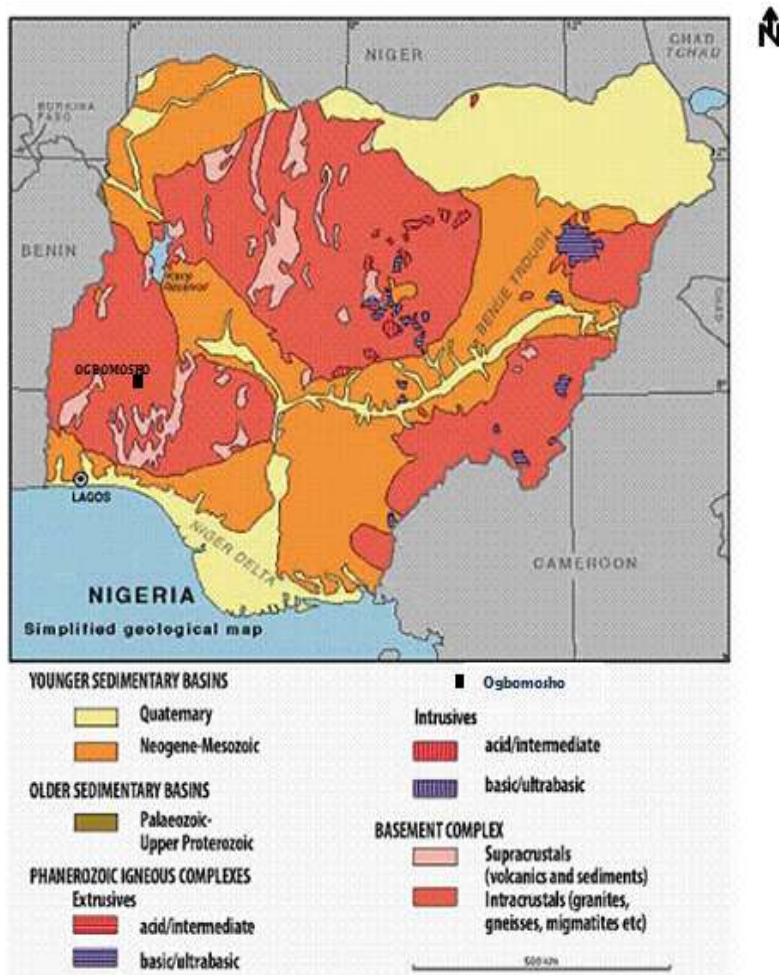
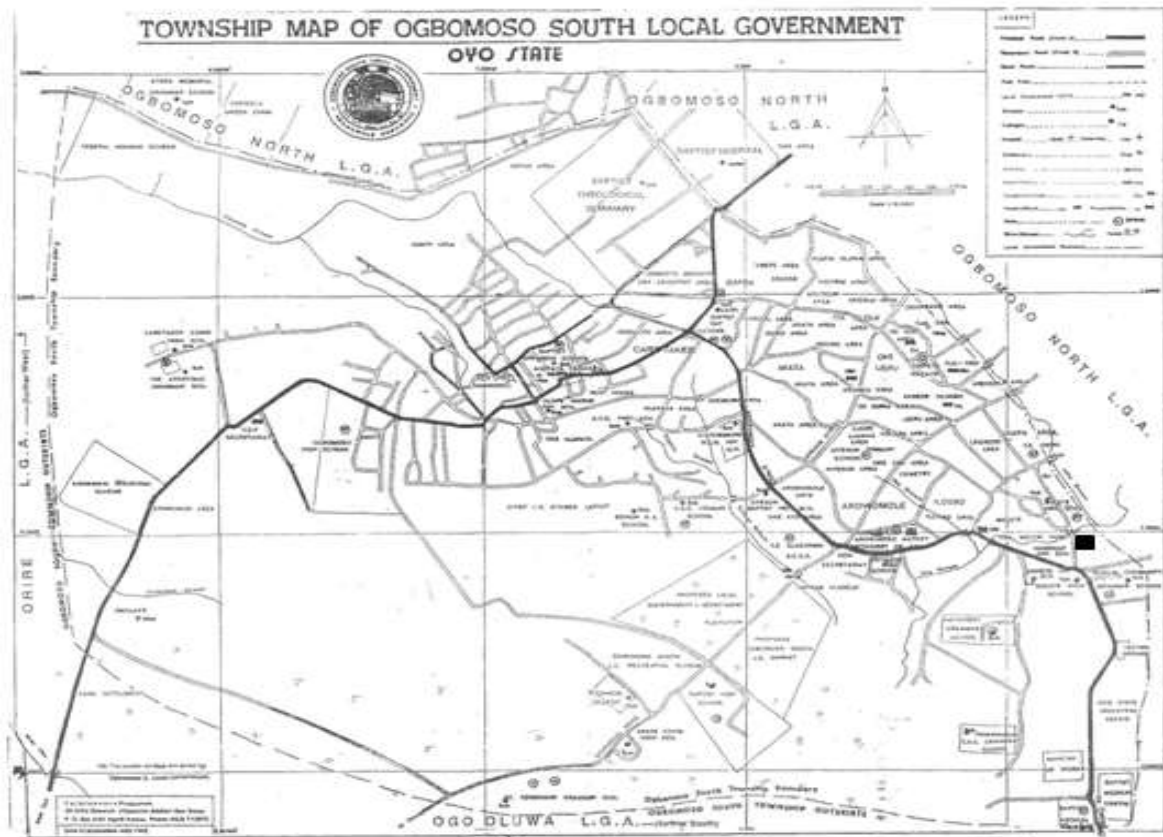


Figure 1: Geological Map of Nigeria Showing the Location of Ogbomoso



■ Study area

Figure 2: Map of Ogbomosho Showing the Location of the Study Area

III. Materials And Method

The VES was carried out using Schlumberger electrical array (Zohdy et al., 1974). The Campus Tiger resistivity meter was employed for resistance measurements. A total of seven electrical soundings were established, with maximum half current electrode spacing ($AB/2$) of 65m. The field data was interpreted by applying partial curve matching technique (Koefoed, 1979) with the help of master curves (Orellana and Mooney, 1966) and sets of auxiliary charts (Zohdy, 1965; Keller and Frischnecht, 1966). From the preliminary interpretation, initial estimates of the resistivity and thickness of the various geoelectric layers at each VES locations were determined. These geoelectric parameters were then employed as starting models for the computer-aided iteration using Resist software (Vander Velpen, 1988). The partial curve matching technique carried out on the seven VES revealed a 3 layered model with H type curve (resistive-conductive-resistive).

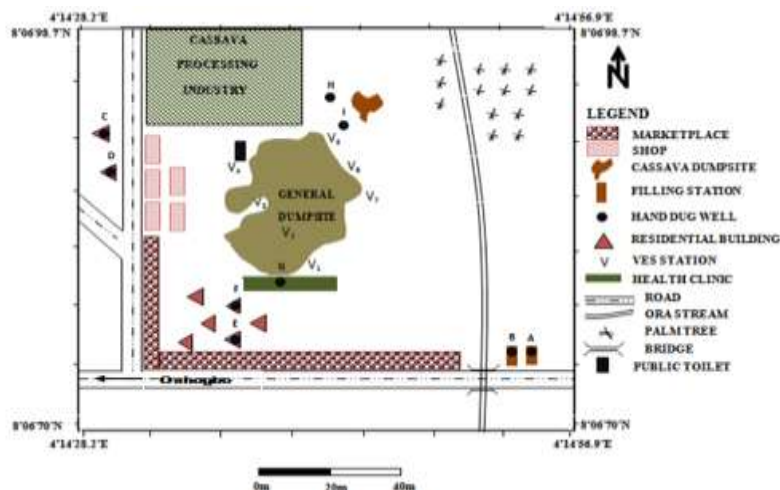


Figure 3: Base Map of the Study Area

IV. Result And Discussion

4.1 Geoelectric Parameters

The processed raw data presented as resist graphs (Fig. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10) were employed to generate the geoelectric sections in Fig. 11 and Fig. 12 as used by Adagunodo and Sunmonu (2012). The surface topographic map depicted in Fig. 13 revealed the terrain of the waste disposal area. The partial curve matching technique carried out on the field data revealed a 3 layered model with H type curve ($\rho_1 > \rho_2 < \rho_3$) for all the soundings. Electrical method primarily reflects variations in ground resistivity (Omosuyi et al., 2007). The electrical resistivity contrasts between lithological sequences (Dodds and Ivic, 1998; Lashkaripour, 2003) in the subsurface are often adequate to enable the delineation of geoelectric layers and identification of aquiferous or non-aquiferous layers (Schwarz, 1988). The VES interpretation reveals three geoelectric layers across the research area: the topsoil consisting of sand and decomposed organic matters; the weathered layer which is made up of sandy soil and the bedrock constituting the fractured or fresh basement. The geoelectric sections show subsurface variation in electrical resistivity along the profiles and attempt to correlate the geoelectric sequence across the profiles. In the first layer, the resistivity values ranged from 33.4 to 130.9 Ω m with a relative thickness of 1.1 to 1.6m. The second layer has resistivity values varying from 10.4 to 26.8 Ω m with relative thickness of 1.3 to 3.8m. However, the low resistivity values depicted in this layer is due to pollution which resulted from the high porosity and permeability characteristics of the sandy soil encouraging the seepages of the leachate plumes to a maximum depth of 5.4m at the subsurface. The region of this layer beneath VES 2 conducted on the waste disposal site where there is older wastes deposit depicted low resistivity value of 10.4 Ω m. It also reveals an elevation in the resistivity values in the order VES 1, 3, 4 5, 6 and 7 which revealed that the leachate emanated from the region where there is older deposit of wastes and spreading out in all direction polluting the hand dug wells nearby in the process. This geoelectric layer also served as the first aquifer on the research site from which virtually all the hand dug wells in the area obtained their water. The third layer has resistivity values ranging from 233.6 to 356.7 Ω m which indicated the presence of fractured zones and resistivity values between 1649.9 and 2764.9 Ω m; reflective of fresh basement. The thickness of this geoelectric layer is to an infinite depth.

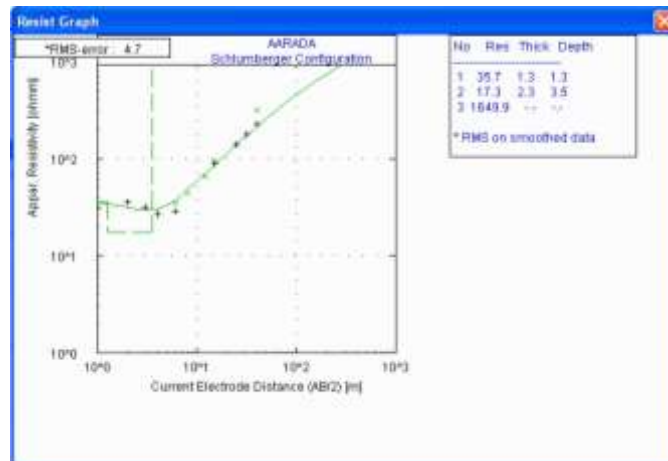


Figure 4: Showing VES 1

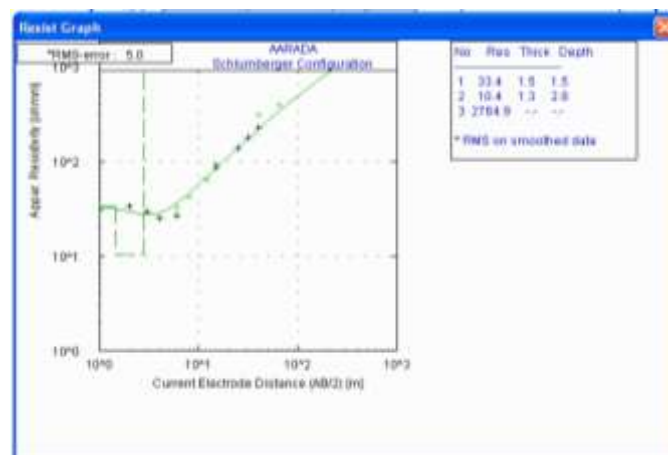


Figure 5: Showing VES 2

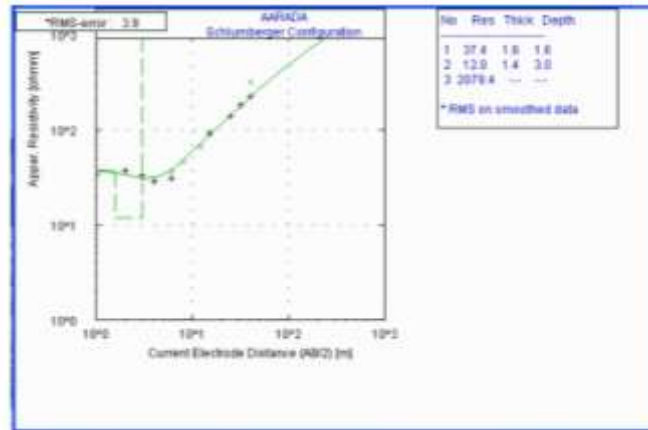


Figure 6: Showing VES 3

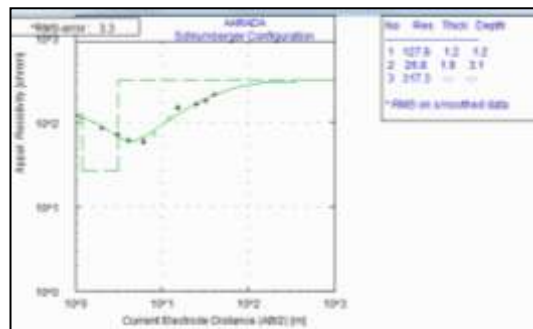


Figure 7: Showing VES 4

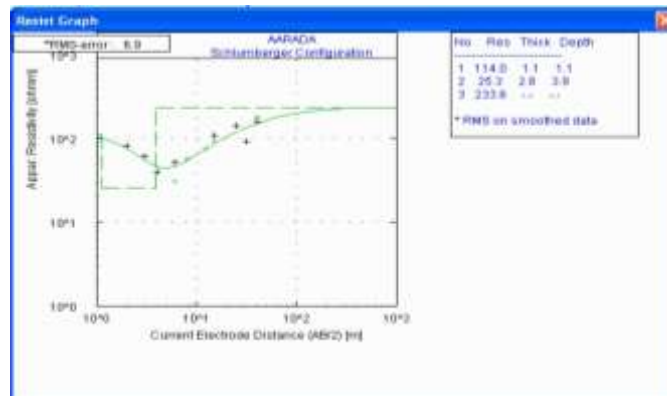


Figure 8: Showing VES 5

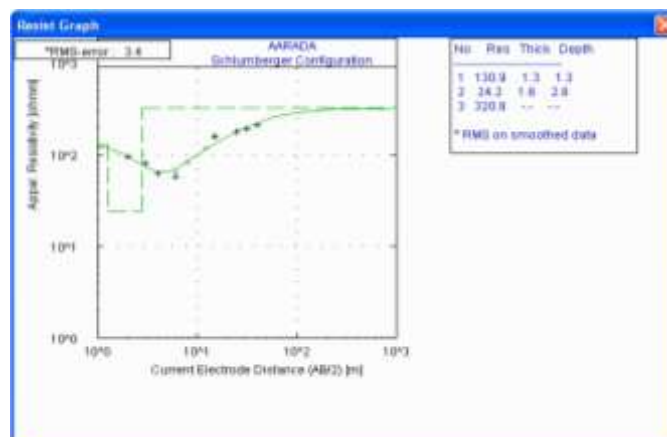


Figure 9: Showing VES 6

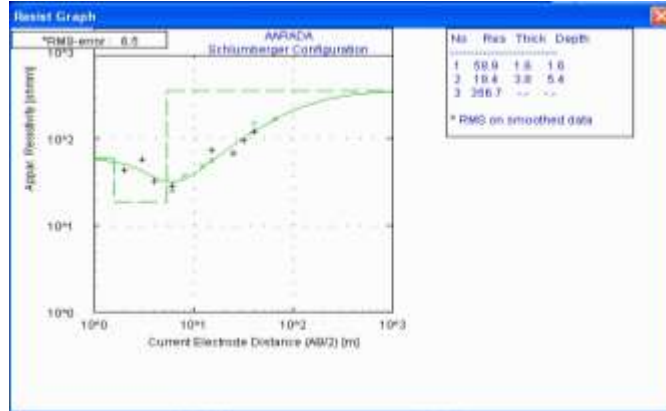


Figure 10: Showing VES 7

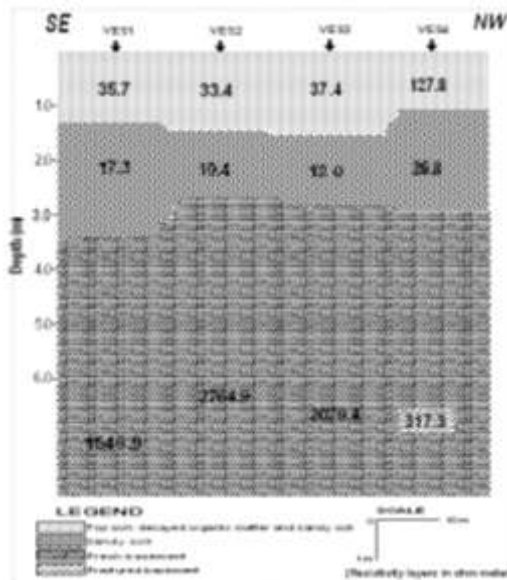


Figure 11: Geoelectric Section Beneath VES 1, 2, 3 and 4

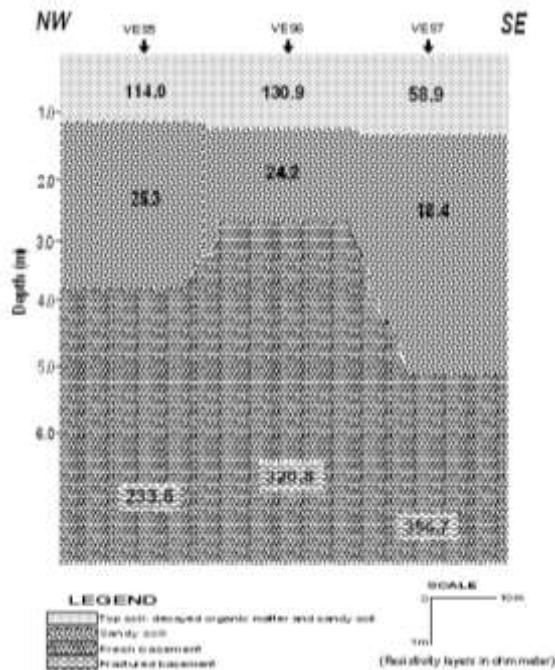


Figure 12: Geoelectric Section Beneath VES 5, 6 and 7

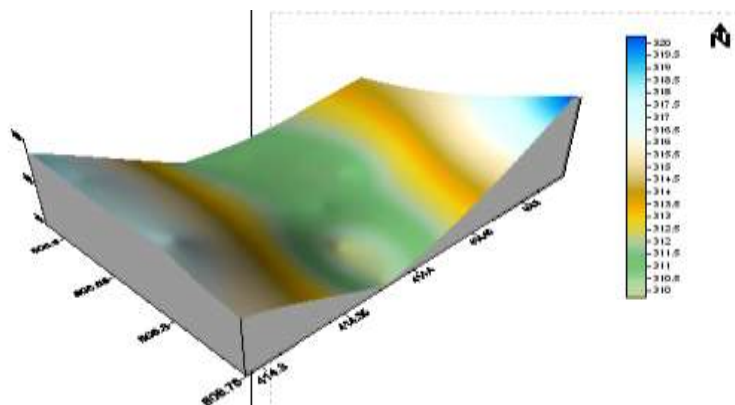


Figure 13: Surface Topographic Map of the Study Area

4.2 Hydro-Physicochemical Analysis

The various parameters tested for in the sampled wells show different concentration: from mild to highly hazardous level as presented in Table 1. The World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines were used for assessing the groundwater quality in the research area. The result of the assessment revealed that most of the hand dug wells (especially those close to the refuse dump) in Aarada area are fairly acidic, shows anomalously high concentration of TDS, NO_3^- , Cl^- and coliform counts which simply indicates that their usage for domestic purposes without administering necessary treatment in advance will provoke serious health hazard. The depths of the sampled wells and their various distances from the waste disposal site are also presented in Table 1 while summary of the results of the method employed for the hydro-physicochemical analysis and who standards for potable drinking water are presented in Table 2. The hydro-physicochemical analysis conducted showed that wells A, B, C, D and E are in good conditions; the concentration of various parameters tested are within the WHO standard while wells F, G, H and I have high concentration of NO_3^- and total bacteria counts which are attributed to anthropogenic activities. The high concentration of total dissolved solids in most of the samples may be an indication of gradual weathering of the basement rocks.

Waterborne diseases are the most predominant in the study area. 55% of the patients on admission list suffer from typhoid fever; cholera about 25%; gastroenteritis 15% while other disease type 5%. This analysis was made after personal communication with the medical doctors from the health clinic situated within the refuse dumpsite facility. Polluted water is a favourable environment where Coliform group of bacteria (pathogens of most waterborne diseases) breed. The elevated concentration in coliform counts of wells H and I indicates that they are highly polluted with fecal wastes and the domestic usage of these contaminated hand dug wells expose the local community to high risk of infection. However, wells A, B, C, D and E show non-detectable coliform counts which is a reflection of more hygienic environment.

Table 1: Result of the hydro-physicochemical analysis of hand dug well samples carried out at the peak of the raining season.

| Parameters | Well A | Well B | Well C | Well D | Well E | Well F | Well G | Well H | Well I |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Distance of wells from the dumpsite (m) | 25 | 19 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Depth of wells (m) | 6 | 5.5 | 6.1 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 4.5 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 4.1 |
| Colour | Clear, colourless | Clear, colourless | Clear, colourless | Clear, colourless | Clear, colourless | Clear, colourless | Light brown | Clear, colourless | Light brown |
| Taste | Tasteless | Tasteless | Tasteless | Tasteless | Salty taste | Salty taste | Salty taste | Salty taste | Salty taste |
| Odour | Odourless | Odourless | Odourless | Odourless | Odourless | Undesirable odour | Undesirable odour | Odourless | Odourless |
| pH | 6.9 | 6.9 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 8.0 |
| Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) | 26.5 | 26.0 | 26.4 | 27.8 | 27.1 | 26.5 | 27.2 | 28.5 | 26.9 |
| Fe^{2+} (mg/L) | 0.75 | 1.5 | 1.85 | 1.65 | 2.1 | 3.1 | 2.81 | 3.51 | 2.72 |
| Pb^{2+} (mg/L) | 0.001 | 0.005 | 0.006 | 0.009 | 0.01 | 0.015 | 0.42 | 1.0 | 0.95 |
| Cu^{2+} (mg/L) | 0.65 | 0.5 | 1.57 | 1.57 | 2.89 | 2.05 | 0.31 | 2.15 | 0.98 |
| Zn^{2+} (mg/L) | 3.45 | 2.33 | 3.4 | 2.91 | 4.20 | 4.1 | 3.57 | 4.0 | 3.63 |

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|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| K ⁺ (mg/L) | 15.15 | 14.7 | 21.0 | 17.75 | 37.11 | 23.32 | 43.86 | 54.31 | 41.33 |
| Na ⁺ (mg/L) | 13.45 | 18.23 | 27.31 | 31.15 | 57.27 | 40.32 | 53.97 | 59.98 | 55.76 |
| Mg ²⁺ (mg/L) | 15.44 | 8.74 | 17.4 | 10.26 | 17.84 | 23.5 | 19.78 | 29.97 | 17.05 |
| Cl ⁻ (mg/L) | 9.95 | 17.5 | 21.53 | 37.5 | 39.67 | 49.7 | 60.25 | 65.33 | 61.57 |
| SO ₄ ²⁻ (mg/L) | 2.15 | 2.75 | 3.12 | 1.53 | 5.93 | 7.58 | 7.85 | 11.55 | 9.75 |
| NO ₃ ⁻ (mg/L) | 5.77 | 14.96 | 19.39 | 23.75 | 31.65 | 87.97 | 90.50 | 97.98 | 93.24 |
| HCO ₃ ⁻ (mg/L) | 6.87 | 5.3 | 5.7 | 7.89 | 10.5 | 15.13 | 23.75 | 37.93 | 26.42 |
| CN ⁻ (mg/L) | 0.33 | 0.35 | 0.42 | 0.35 | 0.49 | 0.83 | 0.96 | 3.15 | 3.76 |
| Total Solids (mg/L) | 1500 | 1575 | 1575 | 1565 | 1670 | 1740 | 1963 | 1800 | 1950 |
| Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L) | 779 | 750 | 840 | 900 | 1145 | 1300 | 1315 | 1345 | 1296 |
| Suspended Solids (mg/L) | 1270 | 1220 | 1250 | 1395 | 1410 | 1427 | 1400 | 1510 | 1515 |
| DO (mg/L) | 89.77 | 60.41 | 67.58 | 71.42 | 60.91 | 100.5 | 150.14 | 135.95 | 69.72 |
| BOD (mg/L) | 0.07 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 3.95 | 4.72 | 5.40 | 5.49 | 5.95 | 6.27 |
| COD (mg/L) | 0.32 | 3.1 | 3.51 | 3.27 | 4.21 | 4.15 | 5.13 | 6.0 | 6.95 |
| Total Hardness (mg/L) | 63.72 | 59.73 | 35.52 | 67.83 | 78.57 | 65.75 | 81.35 | 89.79 | 90.65 |
| Turbidity (mg/L) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 1.21 | 0.97 | 1.3 | 1.35 | 1.47 |
| Conductivity (μS) | 805 | 795 | 800 | 845 | 943 | 1320 | 1470 | 1495 | 1550 |
| THBC (cfu/ml) | 7 | 55 | 47 | 74 | 89 | 100 | 835 | 270 | 890 |
| THFC (cfu/ml) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 3.78 | 4.76 | 3.97 | 6.43 |
| Total coliform (cfu/ml) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 0.97 | 2.13 | 1.15 | 5.0 |
| Feacal coliform (cfu/ml) | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 3.3 | Nil | 3.78 |

Table 2: Summary of the results of the method employed and who standards of potable drinking water

| Parameters | Method Employed | WHO Standard |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Colour | - | Clear, colourless |
| Taste | - | Unobjectionable to consumers |
| Odour | - | Unobjectionable to consumers |
| Ph | pH meter (APHA 4500 – H) | 6.8 – 8.5 |
| Temperature (°C) | Thermometer | 24.5 – 39.7 |
| Fe ²⁺ (mg/L) | Atomic absorption spectrophotometry (APHA 3120 - B) | 1.0 |
| Pb ²⁺ (mg/L) | Atomic absorption spectrophotometry (APHA 3120 - B) | 1.05 |
| Cu ²⁺ (mg/L) | Atomic absorption spectrophotometry (APHA 3120 - B) | 1.5 |
| Zn ²⁺ (mg/L) | Atomic absorption spectrophotometry (APHA 3120 - B) | 4.0 |
| K ⁺ (mg/L) | Atomic absorption spectrophotometry (APHA 3500 - KB) | 15 |
| Na ⁺ (mg/L) | Atomic absorption spectrophotometry (APHA 3500 - NaB) | 200 |
| Mg ²⁺ (mg/L) | Atomic absorption spectrophotometry (APHA 3500 - MgB) | 150 |
| Cl ⁻ (mg/L) | Titrimetry (APHA 4500 - B) | 600 |
| SO ₄ ²⁻ (mg/L) | Spectrophotometry (APHA 4500 SO ₄ B) | 400 |
| PO ₄ ³⁻ (mg/L) | Spectrophotometry (APHA 4500 P) | 250 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------|
| NO ₃ ⁻ (mg/L) | Spectrophotometry (APHA 4500 NO ₃ B) | 50 |
| CN ⁻ (mg/L) | Titrimetry (APHA 4500 - B) | 0.5 |
| Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L) | Gravimetry (APHA 2540 - B) | 1000 |
| Suspended Solids (mg/L) | Spectrophotometry (APHA 2540 - D) | 30 |
| DO (mg/L) | Titrimetry (APHA - O) | - |
| BOD (mg/L) | Titrimetry (APHA 5210 - B) | 10 |
| COD (mg/L) | Titrimetry (APHA 5220 - B) | 40 |
| Total Hardness (mg/L) | Titrimetry (APHA 2340 - B) | 500 |
| Turbidity (mg/L) | Turbidimeter (APHA 2130 - B) | 5.0 |
| Conductivity (µS) | Conducting meter (APHA 2510 - B) | 1500 |

V. Conclusions And Recommendation

The electrical resistivity (Vertical Electrical Sounding) method was used to investigate the contamination level and extent in the study area. The analysis of the VES survey revealed that leachate spread out in all direction originating from the part of the refuse dumps with older wastes deposit polluting the nearby hand dug wells it comes in contact with to a distance less than 10m from the waste body. The geoelectric sections of the interpreted VES data delineated the leachate extent to a maximum depth of 5.4m in the subsurface. The analysis of the hydro-physicochemical result conducted on the hand dug wells F, G, H and I showed concentrations of organic and inorganic parameters tested exceeding World Health Organization's permissible limits. This is due to the fact that the depths of those wells terminated within the contaminated zone indicating a high degree of pollution. However, the results obtained for the hand dug wells A, B, C, D and E depicted non-detectable contamination level. The good condition of these sampled wells is due to their various depth of penetration which is greater than 5.4m and their distance from the waste disposal area (more than 10m away). In addition, the close proximity of wells H and I to the cassava waste disposal site resulted to anomalously high CN⁻ concentration in their tested samples. In spite of these observations, good quality drinking water can still be obtained in the research area by drilling wells to greater depth of penetration. This will highly slow down the rate at which contamination plumes infiltrates the groundwater resources in the area. Also, the assessment of the research site and analysis of water samples from hand dug wells in the area should be carried out periodically. This will enhance continuous consumption of good water quality. Moreover, the result of the hydro-physicochemical analysis conducted on the hand-dug well located within the hospital situated less than 4m away from the waste disposal site shows high total coliform counts. It is therefore suggested that the hospital should be evacuated so that patients seeking health care delivery system in the clinic will not have their health problems compounded. This research work enlightens the residence in and around the refuse dumpsite facility on how to obtain contaminant-free groundwater. This study also reveals the importance of using geophysical and hydro-physicochemical approach for acquiring the physical and chemical properties of a waste disposal site on the quality of groundwater. The employment of different techniques allows the resolution of possible discrepancies and reveals the most accurate description of a waste disposal site's characteristics.

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