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## **A Comprehensive Review of Atmospheric Air Pollutants Assessment Around Landfill Sites**

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**ABSTRACT:** Air pollutants generated as a result of operations of landfill sites pose a threat not only the environment but also to human life. This work focuses on comprehensive review of atmospheric air pollutants around landfill sites with a view of identifying areas where future studies can be conducted. Environmental and health effects of air pollutants within the vicinity of landfill sites and the ways of minimizing the level of the air pollutants were presented. Previous works carried out by scholars for the past two decades were critically examined. Mathematical models for prediction of gaseous pollutants for landfill sites and assessment of human health risk due of inhalation of poisonous gases from landfill sites were discussed. Amongst conclusions made were: (1) Further studies on health impacts of particulate matters (PMs) within the vicinity of landfill sites should focus on low-income countries (LIC) especially in Nigeria which has been perceived as the capital poverty of the world. (2) Developing countries have not been practicing Circular Municipal Solid Waste Management System (CMSW) due to some militating factors hence further works should look into how the militating factors can be surmounted and provide way forward for the implementation of CMSW in developing countries. (3) More works still need to be conducted especially in temperate region to mechanistically explain the positive correlation between PMs and Coronavirus disease. (4) Future works should dive into the cost and economic implications of assessing atmospheric air pollutants within the vicinity of landfill sites for policy making decisions.

**Keywords:** Landfill, air pollutants, kinetics, atmospheric, assessment

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### **Introduction**

Human activities lead to generation of solid wastes that are usually solids and discarded as unwanted or useless (Salami, Odunlami et al., 2018). According to International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), 2.6 million tons per day of municipal solid waste is generated globally which may escalate to 4.5 million tons per day by 2050 (ISWA, 2021). The management of solid wastes involves minimization of waste generation, proper onsite handling and storage, adequate collection and transfer, and waste processing and recovery. Proper management of solid waste in developing countries is a big challenge which has been attributed to lack of financial resources and inadequate administration, lack of comprehensive and effective legislative framework, lack of awareness, inadequate data and information on solid waste (Imad, 2011; Khatib & Al-Khateeb, 2009; Ramachandra et al., 2018).

Disposal of wastes to open dumpsites is a common practice in developing (Ferronato & Torretta, 2019; Ferronato et al., 2017; Gupta et al., 2015; Imam et al., 2008; Salami et al., 2011; Salami & Susu, 2019). The operation of open dumpsite results to air pollution which is the contamination of air which makes it unfit for living. Air pollutants especially from dumpsites have very serious negative impacts on human health and environment. The solid wastes undergo microbial anaerobic digestion and release biogenic hydrocarbon gases such as polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDD), vinyl chloride monomers, non-methanic volatile organic compounds, dibenzofurans, polycyclic aromatics hydrocarbons, odor, dioxin—like polychlorobiphenyls (PCB) and benzene (Palmiotto et al., 2014; Powell et al., 2016; Soile et al.,

2018). These gases enter the atmosphere and ultraviolet radiation act as a catalyst and they are converted to gaseous pollutants including hydrogen sulfide  $(H_2S)$ , ozone  $(O_3)$ , carbon monoxide  $(CO)$ , oxides of nitrogen, carbon dioxide  $(CO<sub>2</sub>)$ , and sulfur dioxide  $(SO<sub>2</sub>)$  (Kumar et al., 2004). Figure 1 shows gas emission from a landfill site.

PMs which are also air pollutants are known as atmospheric aerosol particles or suspended particulate matters (SPMs). They are tiny particles of liquid or solid matter suspended in the air (Seinfeld & Pandis, 1998) which sources can be anthropogenic or natural (Plainiotis et al., 2010). PMs can be divided into three groups based on size: the coarse fraction having an aerodynamic diameter of less than  $10 \mu m$  (PM<sub>10</sub>) which are formed when larger solid particles are broken mechanically, fine fraction with aerodynamic diameters between 2.5 and  $10 \mu m$  (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) which are predominantly formed from gases and ultrafine fraction with aerodynamic diameters in the range of less than 2.5  $\mu$ *m* and less than 0.1  $\mu$ *m* (UFP or PM<sub>0.1</sub>) which are formed as a result of nucleation (Agarwal & Shiva Nagendra, 2016; Araújo et al., 2014; Christian et al., 2008; Dianna, 2020).

PMs are mixtures of particles which can be grouped based on origin, into two: primary particles which are directly emitted into the atmosphere by human activities, combustion processes or wind, and secondary particles which are formed in the atmosphere by gaseous pollutants transformation (Parvez et al., 2017; Popoola et al., 2018). PMs are generated in dumpsites as a result of human actions by mechanical processes which include sorting, tipping and waste compaction by bulldozers, stock piling of soil, movement of vehicles and dustcarts over



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**Figure 1.** Gas emission from a landfill site.

past deposited waste. PMs are also generated when materials of altered and decomposed wastes are dispersed by wind (Chalvatzaki et al., 2010).

Several scholars have worked on assessment of air pollutants within the vicinity of landfill sites (Abaje et al., 2020; Angaye & Nestor Abowei, 2018; Koshy et al., 2009; Maisonet et al., 2004; Musa et al., 2021; Nixon et al., 2013; Richa et al., 2011; Saxena & Bhardwaji, 2003; Scheutz et al., 2017; Zmirou et al., 1994). Continuous assessment and critical review of previous works carried out by scholars on assessment of atmospheric air pollutants within the vicinity of landfill sites is important in order to X-ray what has been done and suggest works for future studies. The aim of this work is to carry out a comprehensive review of various works on assessment of atmospheric air pollutants within the vicinity of landfill sites with a view of providing what can be worked on in future studies which justifies this work.

### **Environmental and Health Effects of Air Pollutants Generated in Landfill Sites**

### *Health effects of air pollution*

Long term exposure to PMs can result different respiratory diseases such as respiratory tract inflammation, lung cancer and asthma (Guo et al., 2017; Jeon et al., 2011; Pan et al., 2010; Salami, 2022; Sun et al., 2020; Zhao et al., 2019; Zhu

et al., 2021). Previous works of scholars had also shown exposure to PMs lead to cardiovascular problems (Brook et al., 2010; Cao et al., 2011; Li, Geng et al., 2017; Long et al., 2020; Radan et al., 2019; Tofler & Muller, 2006). The findings from the work of Guo et al. (2017) revealed that an increase of  $10 \frac{\text{ug}}{\text{m}^3}$  PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> may result to a rise in circulatory disease mortality and cardiovascular problem, by 1.22% and 0.55% respectively. PMs have a high impact on the central nervous system of human (Feng et al., 2013; Mostafa et al., 2016; Wiedinmyer et al., 2014). In 2018, World Health Organization (WHO) report indicated that 93% of children were exposed to  $PM_{2.5}$  at a concentration more than the guideline level, out of which 630 million were under the age of 5 years and 1.8 billion under 15 years.

The report of Douglas et al. (2017) and Zhao et al. (2019) showed there exit a correlation between exposure to PMs and immune function. Exposure to PMs impaired immune function (Douglas et al., 2017). Recent studies ( Jiang et al., 2020; Li et al., 2020; Yao et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2020, 2021) have equally established a positive correlation between PM and risk of COVID-19 infection especially in temperate region. However a mechanistic explanation was not provided hence further studies are required in this area in order to provide mechanistic explanation for the correlation between PM and risk of COVID-19 infection. It is evident from myriad of several epidemiology studies that residence within the vicinity of landfill sites, exposed to PMs have a high risk of having immune malfunction, central nervous disorder, respiratory, cardiovascular, and cerebrovascular problems. More studies are still needed to be conducted to establish if exposure to PMs could lead to risk of COVID-19 infection problems in temperate and non-temperate region.

It is pertinent that more works on health effects of PMs be carried out in low-income countries (LIC) as 69% of researches reported on health effects of PMs were done in high-income countries (HIC) (Sharma et al., 2020). The yearly mean exposure of  $PM_{2.5}$  between 2011 and 2017 for LIC and HIC were 48.42 and 20.02 *ug* / *m*<sup>3</sup> respectively (Sharma et al., 2020). This is also a cogent reason why future studies on health impact of PMs particularly within the vicinity of landfill sites should focus more on LIC especially in Nigeria which is perceived as the capital poverty of the world.

Gaseous pollutants from landfill sites equally have tremendous impact on human health. Exposure to  $CH<sub>4</sub>$  from landfill sites may result to wheezing, shortness of breath, asphyxia or loss of consciousness, burning in the mouth or coughing (Byard & Wilson, 1992; Kumar & Gupta, 2021). Acute exposure to  $H_2S$  leads to acute respiratory failure, eye irritation, and even dearth (Doujaiji & Al-Tawfiq, 2010; Gabbay et al., 2001; Langford, 2005; Snyder et al., 1995). Lambert et al. (2006) and Lewis et al. (2003) reported long time exposure to  $H_2S$  causes ophthalmic lesions and malignant disorders respectively although it was pointed out that H2S at ambient level plays a vital role in the cardiovascular and immune system as well as central nervous system.  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  is also one of the pollutants emanating from landfill sites. Jacobson et al. (2019) had shown that exposure to  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  at elevated concentrations above the natural concentration will result to inflammation, kidney calcification, bone demineralization, reduction in higher-level cognitive abilities and endothelial dysfunction.

The result of the work of Amaducci and Downs (2022) stated that the minimum adverse effect was  $5$  ppm of NO<sub>2</sub> for human short-term exposure. The health of effects of  $NO<sub>2</sub>$ includes asthma, inflammatory reaction and decrease in lung function (Lindall, 1985; Salami, Odunlami et al., 2018; Samoli et al., 2006). The health effects of  $SO_2$  are also related to the health effects of other pollutants. Previous epidemiology studies revealed exposure to  $SO<sub>2</sub>$  causes respiratory problems, retardation in growth of fetuses of pregnant female gender and premature death (Altounyan & Cole, 1986; Chen et al., 2007; Cox & Penkett, 1971). CO is a poisonous gas. It combines with hemoglobin in the blood which in turn reduces the ability of blood to carry oxygen to the body organs. According to California Air Resources Board (CARB, 2022), the health effects of CO are not limited to headaches, fatigue

and dizziness, difficulty in breathing and inadequate supply of oxygen to the brain which may result to stroke. It causes ischemia, hypoxia, and cardiovascular diseases (Manisalidis et al., 2020).

Ozone  $(O_3)$  which is also a pollutant generated in landfill sites is formed through a chemical reaction between nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).  $O_3$  causes immunological, functional biochemical and morphologic disorder in human (Lippmann, 1989). It is undoubted from several epidemiology studies that residences within the vicinity of landfill sites exposed to air pollutants emanating from landfill sites have a huge risk of developing asphyxia, acute respiratory failure, ischemia, ophthalmic lesions, kidney calcification, and bone demineralization. Other health effects are endothelial dysfunction, decrease in lung function, pregnancy problem, and premature death.

### *Environmental effects of air pollutant*

According to CARB (2022), presence of PMs impacts negatively on the environment by causing a decrease in visibility (haze). PMs are absorbed in atmosphere and scatter light. As the volume of PMs increases in the atmosphere especially  $PM<sub>2.5</sub>$ , more light is scattered resulting in less clarity. This is an indication that people living within the vicinity of landfill sites are likely to be susceptible to visibility problem.

Gaseous air pollutants emanating from landfill sites such as  $SO_2$ ,  $NO_2$ ,  $CH_4$ , and  $H_2S$  react with water vapor in air and in the presence of ultraviolet ray, form acid rain (Sobodh, 2017; USEPA, 2022). The acid rain peels paints and corrode roof. This shows the residence within the vicinity of landfill sites will incur more expenditure for maintenance of their structures when compared to those who do not leave within the vicinity of landfill sites. The gaseous pollutants also undergo chemical reaction and result to global warming which is the general increase in the temperature of earth and water bodies. This implies the vicinity of landfill sites is likely to be hotter and residence will experience a hotter condition. Moreover, gaseous pollutants cause climate change which affect adaptive features of man and plants.

### **Ways of Minimizing Air Pollutants Generated in Landfill Sites**

According to Himmel (2022), landfill gas can be stable for more than 20 years and comprises  $\text{CH}_4$  (50 vol %),  $\text{CO}_2$  (40 vol %),  $N_2$  (0–4 vol %),  $H_2O$  (5–7 vol %),  $H_2S$  (20 ppm), and merkaptene (30ppm). These components of landfill gas constitute gaseous air pollutants. Gómez-Sanabria et al. (2022) reported that to minimize air pollutants generated in landfill sites, Circular Municipal Solid Waste Management (CMSW) system must be employed. The CMSW for reduction of air pollutants in landfill sites involves the following steps (GAIA, 2022):

- • Food loss and wastage account for 6% of the entire greenhouse gas emission (Poore & Nemecek, 2018). Therefore food loss and wastages should be minimized which translates to reduction in landfill gas (Dorward, 2012; Salemdeeb et al., 2017; Venkat, 2011).
- Source segregation must be practiced. Putrescible (organic waste) must be separated from the source as this eradicates CH4 and other gaseous pollutants from landfill sites, enhances the utilization of the putrescible materials and prevents cross contamination with other disposed wastes which increases the rate of recycling (Morris et al., 2013).
- Disposed organics should be reused as the organics composed of valuable nutrient and carbon. They can be used for composting (at landfill sites or home) for agricultural fertilizer (Abu Qdais et al., 2019; Pezzolla et al., 2012). Moreover organic as a stock feed for biogas and animal feeds
- The organic residue must be stabilized or treated using biological or mechanical process before disposing to landfill sites. This process minimizes generation of CH4 by 80%–90% (Gioannis et al., 2009; Scaglia et al., 2010).
- Installation of landfill gas capturing facilities at landfill sites is paramount as some organic which find their ways to landfill sites will continue to produce CH4 for several years (Powell et al., 2016).
- The landfill sites should be covered preferably with selected soil organisms which degrade fugitive CH4 emission (Barlaz et al., 2004; Mønster et al., 2015).

Burning of municipal solid wastes (MSW) releases air pollutants such as  $CO_2$ ,  $SO_2$ ,  $NO_x$ , and  $NH_3$  to the atmosphere (Ipeaiyeda & Falusi, 2018). The study of Gómez-Sanabria et al. (2022) revealed that burning of MSW resulted in 2.5Tg/ annum of  $PM_{2.5}$  in 2015 out of which black carbon was 7% while organic carbon was 60%. The study further indicated that  $PM_{2.5}$  emitted from burning of MSW contributed 8% of the world anthropogenic emission of  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ . To reduce air particulate pollutant generated in landfill sites, mechanical activities should be minimized in landfill sites while CMSW, which steps have been enumerated must be implemented to reduce the generation of gaseous pollutants in landfill sites. In addition, burning of waste must be averted as this result to generation of air pollutants. Land use management which involves implementing any measures to control and regulate the use of land to achieve certain objectives should also be practiced with a view to minimize the volume of air pollutants emanating from landfill sites. Reduction of emission from landfill sites can be achieved through zoning ordinances in order to have acceptable air quality standards (Dajani et al., 1977; Mostafa et al., 2016).

It is clear from previous works of researchers that CMSW has not been implemented in developing countries which have

been attributed to poverty, high population and urbanization, lack of fund and infrastructure and low level of education. However, studies on how these militating factors can be surmounted for the implementation of CMSW are limited in the literature. Hence future studies should focus on how these impediments for implementation of CMSW can be overcome in developing countries.

### **Previous Works on Assessment of Air Pollutants**

Raza et al. (2021) reported that the mean level of assessed  $PM_{2.5}$  ranged between 127.1 and 286 6*ug* /  $m^3$  and between 172.3 and  $343.4\frac{ug}{m^3}$  at the source site and downwind respectively in wet season around the solid waste facility in Lahore Pakistan. Lawrencia et al. (2022) indicated the  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations were found to be  $99 \pm 56$  and  $218 \pm 158$  *ug* /  $m^3$  (median  $\pm$  interquartile range) respectively in the waste recycling site in Ghana. The polyaromatic hydrocarbons cancer risk ranged between 10−4 and 10−6 which is a pointer for the need to reduce emission at the site. Douglas et al. (2017) estimated the  $PM_{10}$  concentrations within 1 km radius from modern municipal waste incinerator in Britain to range between 1×10−5 and 5.53×10−2*ug* / *cm*<sup>3</sup> . This contributed a small amount to United Kingdom  $PM_{10}$  ground level which varied between 6.59 and  $2.68 \times 10^1 \, \text{ug}$  /  $\text{m}^3$  yearly. Imad (2011) pointed out that developing and least developed countries need to plan for sustainable development process and implement integrated waste management scheme. This is necessary as it will upgrade the open dumping practices in developing countries particularly in Africa countries.

The components of odor emitted from landfill sites composed of dimethyl disulfide, toluene, styrene, acetone, xylene, and ammonia. Others are n-butyl aldehyde. n-butanone, dimethyl sulfide, and acetic acid (Chemel et al., 2012; Fang et al., 2012). Dincer et al. (2006) showed that odorous gases in Turkey comprises VOCs which composed sulfur/nitrogen containing compounds (0.00–5.05 *ug* / *m*<sup>3</sup> ), monoaromatics (0.09– 47.42 *ug* / *m*<sup>3</sup> ), esters (0.01–7.54 *ug* / *m*<sup>3</sup> ), aldehydes (0.01– 38.55*ug* / *m*<sup>3</sup> ), halogenated compounds (0.001–62.91 *ug* / *m*<sup>3</sup> ), ketone (0.03–67.60), and volatile fatty acids (VFAs) (0.05– 43.71  $ug / m<sup>3</sup>$ ). It further stated that the concentrations of esters, aldehyde, and ketones explained the variability in the odor concentrations up to 96%.

In the work of Rafiq et al. (2018), it was estimated that the total volume of CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> were  $2.257 \times 10^8$  and  $9.026 \times 10^7$  m<sup>3</sup>/year respectively from Muhammad Wala site of Faisalabad, Pakistan. Chalvatzaki et al. (2010) reported the maximum emission rate of  $CO_2$ , H<sub>2</sub>S,  $C_6H_6$ , and vinylchloride were 2.14 × 10<sup>-1</sup>, 6.68 × 10<sup>-2</sup>, 4.68 × 10<sup>-1</sup>, and 4.11 × 10<sup>-2</sup> mg/ annum respectively from Akrotiri landfill site in Greece. In the results obtained by Chen et al. (2008), the concentrations of  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and  $CH<sub>4</sub>$  of a non-active landfill site in Taiwan varied between 324 and 409ppm and between 1.7 and 4.6ppm respectively. The emission rates ranged between 495 and 1,531

and between 8.8 and 163 mg/m<sup>2</sup>h for  $CH_4$  and  $CO_2$  respectively. It was also revealed that  $CH<sub>4</sub>$  and  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  measured within the vicinity of solid waste facility varied between 1.5 and 13.7ppm and between 443.4 and 509.8ppm respectively in the work of Raza et al. (2021). The work of Khademi et al. (2022) determined the concentrations of VOCs,  $C_6H_6$ , toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene to be 3.7, 0.68, 0.61, and 1.3 ppm respectively. The concentrations of  $C_6H_6$  emitted was of great concern because it carcinogenic effect. Bogner et al. (1995) observed the rates from different controlled monitored experiments for emission of CH4 between 1998 and 1994 varied between 0.003and  $>1,000 g$  CH<sub>4</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>d from three various landfills in United State. They reported that landfill covers soil used as sinks was capable of minimizing the amount of  $CH<sub>4</sub>$  emission to the atmosphere.

Hossain et al. (2019) had shown that the measured concentrations of air pollutants:  $PM_{2.5}$ ,  $PM_{10}$ ,  $SO_2$ ,  $NO_x$ , and  $CO$ were 39.2, 145.8, 18.39, 5.7 *ug* / *m*<sup>3</sup> and 2ppm respectively. The concentrations of all these air pollutants were within the Bangladesh National Ambient Air Quality Standards (2005) of 65, 150, 365, 100 *ug* /  $m^3$  and 9 ppm for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ,  $\text{PM}_{10}$ , SO<sub>2</sub>,  $NO<sub>x</sub>$  and CO respectively. The CH<sub>4</sub> generated or emitted from landfill can be used as a source of energy (Faour et al., 2007; Karanjekar et al., 2015; Kormi et al., 2017; Salami et al., 2020; Shin et al., 2005) but unfortunate most developing countries especially in Africa are tapping these benefits of waste to wealth and waste to energy principles. The amount of  $CH<sub>4</sub>$ emission from Sanandaj landfill has been estimated at 410, 549, and 671m3/hr for 2023, 2028, and 2033 respectively (Shahmoradi et al., 2015). In another study, it was shown that  $1.164 \times 106 \,\mathrm{m}^3/\mathrm{annum}$  of CH<sub>4</sub> was produced in Kachok dumpsite (Kenya) in the year 2018 (Kabok et al., 2021). The work of Pansuk et al. (2018) in Thailand revealed that open burning of solid waste emitted  $N_2O$ , CH<sub>4</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub> at the rate of 0.574, 22.29, and 418.73 killoton per year (kt/yr) respectively. Other air pollutants emitted by open burning include PM, NO,  $SO_2$ , and CO at the rate of 16.5, 6.2, 1.0, and 86.4 kt/ yr respectively. The study of Jha et al. (2008) had shown that in India, the greenhouse gas emission flux range from Chennai landfill sites include  $CH_4$  (1–23.5 mg/m<sup>2</sup>h), N<sub>2</sub>O (6–460 ug/ m<sup>2</sup>h), CO<sub>2</sub> (39–906 mg/m<sup>2</sup>h) at Kodungaiyur and CH<sub>4</sub> (0.9– 433 mg/m<sup>2</sup>h), N<sub>2</sub>O (2.7–1,200 ug/m<sup>2</sup>h), CO<sub>2</sub> (12.3–946.4 mg/ m2h) at Perungudi. The summary of the previous works conducted by researchers are presented in Table 1.

### **Prediction of Gaseous Pollutants**

Gaseous pollutants models show the mathematical representation of a system from which gaseous emission can be forecast or predicted. When the amount of gaseous emissions are known through prediction with the aid of the mathematical models, it helps the authorities and decision makers to put measures in place with a view to ensuring the emission do not have negative impacts on the society. Several mathematical

models have been used to predict the emission of air pollutants from landfill sites. The models for prediction of gaseous air pollutants generated from landfill sites were based on Monod's equation which is a well-known kinetic model for biodegradation processes and depending on the concentration of substrate, if the concentration of substrate is large with constant concentration of microorganism, lead to zero order model and if the concentration of substrate is small with constant concentration of microorganism, yields first order models. Other models include complex models (second order kinetics), stoichiometric models, numerical models, and air dispersion models.

### *Zero order kinetics models*

The gaseous pollutants generation from landfill site is not a function of age and type of wastes in landfill. However the generation of pollutants (biogas) is constant against time.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) model is a function of population, methane correction factor and degradable component of the waste. It is depicted in equation (1) (IPCC, 1996).

$$
Q = MSWT \times MSWF \times MCF \times \n\nDOC \times DOCF \times F \times \frac{16}{2} - R(1 - OX)
$$
\n(1)

Where *Q* connotes methane emissions, *MSWT* is the total generated *MSW, MSWF* represents fraction of *MSW* discharged to solid waste landfill site, *MCF* is the correction factor for CH4, *DOC* is degradable organic carbon, *DOCF* is portion of *DOC* dissimilated, *F* denotes fraction of CH<sub>4</sub> present in in landfill gas (0.5 by default),  $R$  is  $CH<sub>4</sub>$  recovered, and  $OX$  means oxidation factor (zero by default).

German European Pollutant Emission register (German EPER) model worked on the assumption that the potential emission from a volume of waste will take place in the disposal year. This assumption can only work in a landfill with constant volume of waste and constant composition which in reality is difficult to achieve hence this model may yield inaccurate result. The German EPER model is presented in equation (2) (Scharff & Jacobs, 2006).

$$
Me = M \times BDC \times BDCf \times f \times D \times C \tag{2}
$$

Where *Me* is the quantity of diffused CH<sub>4</sub> emitted, *M* is the yearly quantity of waste in landfill, *BDC* is the fraction of biodegradable carbon (usually 0.15), *BDCf* means converted fraction of biodegradable carbon (0.5), *f* denotes calculation factor of converted carbon into  $CH_4(1.33)$ . *D* is collection efficiency: active LFG recovery and cover  $(0.1)$ , no recovery  $(0.9)$  and active degassing  $(0.4)$  and C is concentration of CH<sub>4</sub>  $(0.5)$ . A constant quantity of waste discharge in a landfill with a constant composition changes this model to a degradable first order model (Kamalan et al., 2011).





*(Continued)*

(Continued)



×



*(Continued)*



**Table 1.** (Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

n.a=not available.

n.a=not available.

Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) model worked on the principle of quantity of waste disposed, age and methane generation potential. It is shown in equation (3) (SWANA, 1998).

$$
Q = \frac{ML_o}{t_o - t_f} \tag{3}
$$

Where  $L_{\rho}$  is the generation potential of CH<sub>4</sub>,  $t_{\rho}$  denotes lag time and  $t_f$  is the end time of generation.

### *First order kinetics models*

It is assumed there exist a relationship between carbon portion of the waste and exponential function of rate of decay by time against methane generation. The models put into consideration the landfill conditions (temperature, precipitation, and climate) and quantity of waste which include carbon content, degradability of waste, moisture content, and waste age (Kamalan et al., 2011; Ozkaya et al., 2007).

Landfill Gas Emission Model (LandGEM) is used for determination of mass of CH4 which can be generated based on the mass of waste disposed. The LandGEM is presented in equation (4) (Scharff & Jacobs, 2006).

$$
Q = \sum_{i=1}^{n} k L_o M_i \left( e^{-kt} \right) \tag{4}
$$

Where *k* is methane generation constant and  $M_i$  waste in placed in specific time t. The waste composition used in this model was United State waste composition of MSW, inert material and other non-hazardous wastes (USEPA, 2004) and USEPA, 2005).

The Netherland Organization of applied Scientific Research (TNO) model determined generation of LFG as a function of organic carbon degradation in the waste. It is mathematical shown in equation (5) (Kamalan et al., 2011).

$$
\alpha_{t} = 1.87 \zeta A C_{o} k_{1} e^{k_{1}t} \tag{5}
$$

Where  $\alpha_t$  is gas production in landfill at a given time,  $\zeta$  is dissimilation factor (0.58), 1.87 represent conversion factor, *A* denotes quantity of waste in place,  $C<sub>o</sub>$  is the quantity of organic carbon in waste and  $k_1$  stands for constant rate of degradation (0.094). TNO model was developed with the assumptions of quantity of organic carbon presented in Table 2.

Gas SIM model uses two approaches for the estimation of emission of CH<sub>4</sub> (Gregory et al., 2003). It is a probabilistic model which uses multi-phase equation, mathematically described in equation (6).

$$
\alpha_{t} = \zeta C \sum_{j=0}^{m} \sum_{i=1}^{n} A_{j} k_{i} C_{o,i,j} e^{-k_{i}(t-j)}
$$
(6)

**Table 2.** Amount of Organic Carbon Used in TNO (Scharff & Jacobs, 2006).



Where *C* is the conversion factor, *m* is the number of landfilling, *j* is year of landfilling quantity *Aj* , n represents number of fraction *i, i* is waste fraction with degradable rate  $k_i$   $A_j$  represents quantity of waste in year *j*,  $C_{\rho}$ , *i*, *j* stands for quantity of organic matter in fraction *i* landfilled in year *j*,  $k<sub>i</sub>$  is degradation rate constant of fraction i.

In this multi-phase model, the waste input is need to be in Mg and the specified degradation during the particular year is required. Moreover, each waste category is assigned a *k* value degradability class. The second approach uses LandGEM model to estimate formation of methane.

### *Complex models*

Mathematical complex models like the Halvadakins model for landfill gas prediction is a function of growth of sequential biological process. The complex microbial ecosystem in landfill is represented by a system described by equations of the first order which are in terms of the following (Elfadel et al., 1989): carbon sources, pathways and sinks, description of hydrolysis of the hydrolyzable and biogasiflable waste components, utilization of aqueous carbon for acidogenic growth and methanogen biomass, acetate utilization and consequent methane generation and  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  and hydrogen representing 25%–30% of the total produced  $CH<sub>4</sub>$ .

### *Stoichiometric models*

Stoichiometric models put into consideration the chemical, physical and biological reactions which occur in landfill sites, changing complex compounds in the waste into simpler and more stable compounds (Rodrigo-Ilarri & Rodrigo-Clavero, 2020). The breaking down of organic portion of the wastes takes place because there exists a substrate with nutrients (carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen) that contributes to the growth of existing microorganisms which then convert the substrate into gases such as  $CH_4$ ,  $NH_3$ , and  $CO_2$  (Canale,

1971). The stoichiometric equations which describe chemical reactions occurring inside landfill sites are influenced by the imposed environmental conditions (Levenspiel, 1999) and degradation of organic portion of the waste occurs under anaerobic condition.

Buswell and Neave (1930) proposed a stoichiometric model cited by Tchabanoglous et al. (1993) for the prediction of quantity of  $CH<sub>4</sub>$  once the chemical formular of the sample of waste has been established. The stoichiometric model presented in equation (7) which displaces the stoichiometric balance between organic portion of waste quantity and gaseous products which excluded sulfur. Buswell and Hatfield (1936) developed any stoichiometric model cited by Murphy and Thamsiririroj (2013) and Achinas and Euverink (2016) for the prediction of  $CH<sub>4</sub>$  as described in equation (8). The model did not consider nitrogen and sulfur as part of the chemical formular for the waste sample. Buswell and Mueller (1952) developed a model cited by Deublein and Steinhauser (2008) and Salami et al. (2020) which included nitrogen and sulfur in chemical formular of the waste sample. The products of reaction in the model were  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$ , NH<sub>3</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>S. The Buswell and Muller model is shown in equation (9).

$$
C_a H_b O_c N_d + \left( a - \frac{b}{4} - \frac{c}{2} + \frac{3d}{4} \right) H_2 O \rightarrow \left( \frac{4a + b - 2c - 3d}{8} \right) \tag{7}
$$
  

$$
CH_4 + \left( \frac{4a - b + 2c + 3d}{8} \right) CO_2 + d N H_3
$$

$$
C_a H_b O_c + \left(a - \frac{b}{4} - \frac{c}{2}\right) H_2 O \rightarrow \left(\frac{a}{2} + \frac{b}{8} - \frac{c}{4}\right) CH_4
$$
  
+ 
$$
\left(\frac{a}{2} - \frac{b}{8} + \frac{c}{4}\right) CO_2
$$
 (8)

$$
C_aH_bO_cN_dS_e + \left(a - \frac{b}{4} - \frac{c}{2} + \frac{3d}{4} + \frac{e}{2}\right)H_2O \rightarrow
$$
  

$$
\left(\frac{4a + b - 2c - 3d - 2e}{8}\right)CH_4 + \left(\frac{4a - b + 2c + 3d + 2e}{8}\right) \tag{9}
$$
  

$$
CO_2 + dNH_3 + eH_2S
$$

Where *a, b, c, d*, and *e* are number of atoms of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur respectively. Feng et al. (2013) had shown that the theoretical amount of  $CH_4 (M<sub>th</sub>)$  from waste sample can be predicted using equation (10) with the following assumptions

• The product of reaction comprises only  $H_2S$ ,  $CH_4$ ,  $NH_3$ , and  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ ;

- No accumulation of ashes;
- Waste input consists only carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen and sulfur and
- Perfect mixing and constant temperature

$$
M_{tb} = \frac{22.4 \left(\frac{4a - b + 2c + 3d + 2e}{8}\right)}{12a + b + 16c + 14d + 32e} \tag{10}
$$

### *Numerical models*

Numerical models use weighted residual method (WRM) which results to simpler models for easy application. Using the simplified numerical models assist landfill operators and those making decisions to have easier and better understanding about emission of methane (Shariatmad et al., 2007). Applying WRM to numerical models has shown a reliable and reasonable result with few data for real landfill (Kamalan et al., 2011) which makes the numerical model to be very effective. The numerical model, mathematically written in equation (11) can be applied for individual landfill with few methane data and the unknown parameters can be obtained with try and error (Shariatmad et al., 2007)

$$
\int_{\text{domain}} w_{ip} \left( G - \psi \right) dt \, d w = \int_{\text{domain}} a_{mn} \left( w_{ip} \sum_{n,m=1} N_{mn} \right) \Leftrightarrow f_i
$$
\n
$$
= k_i \sum a_{mn}
$$
\n(11)

Where  $\psi$  is a chosen function to satisfy boundary conditions,  $a$ is coefficient to be determined and *N* which is a trial function on the boundary should be zero. The target of WRM is to select  $a_{mn}$  in a way that residue (R) becomes small over a selected domain.

### *Air dispersion models*

The American meteorological Society/ USEPA Regulatory model (AERMOD) is used for the assessment of concentrations of pollutants and deposition from various sources. It totally incorporates the Plume Rise Model Enhancement (PRIME) building downwash algorithms, advanced deposition parameters, urban heat island effects, location terrain, and advanced meteorological turbulence calculation. It is an advanced and sophisticated air dispersion modeling package which uses the USEPA preferred regulatory air dispersion model into a powerful and easy-to-use interface (Lakes Environmental Software, 2022). AERMOD can be used to estimate the emitted pollutants from landfills, disperse into the atmosphere. Table 3 presents the summary of mathematical prediction models for gaseous pollutants.



### **Table 3.** Summary of Mathematical Prediction Models of Gaseous Pollutants.

n.a=not available.

### **Human Health Risk Assessment of Pollutants**

*Risk exposure assessment of gaseous pollutants*

The exposure to pollutants from landfill sites can be acute or chronic (Giusti, 2009). The process of assessing the exposure to pollutants from landfill sites involves determination of frequency, duration of previous, present and future exposure, magnitude, and identification of pathway for potential exposure (Spinazzè et al., 2017). Guo et al. (2017) evaluated the noncancer risks from inhalation of formaldehyde (CH<sub>2</sub>O), H<sub>2</sub>S,

### **Table 4.** Air Quality Index and Health Implications in India.



**Table 5.** Air Quality Index and Health Implications Mainland China.



and  $SO_2$  using hazard quotient (HQ) shown in equation (12) while cancer risk (CR) as a result of inhalation of  $CH<sub>2</sub>O$  was computed as presented in equation (13).

$$
HQ = \frac{CA}{MRL} \tag{12}
$$

Where *CA* is the concentration of contaminants in air and *MRL* is minimal risk level.

$$
CR = IUR \times EC \tag{13}
$$

Where *IUR* is the inhalation unit risk and *EC* is the exposure concentration.

Pawełczyk (2013) examined the effect of exposure to multiple non-carcinogenic contaminants using hazard index (HI) depicted in equation (14).

$$
HI = \sum_{i}^{n} HQ_{i}
$$
 (14)

Salami et al. (2016) evaluated air status within the vicinity of Soluos dumpsite in Igando community of Lagos State using air quality index (AQI). The pollutants considered in the study include CO,  $CO_2$ , ozone, and  $NO_2$ . The AQI is presented in equation (15).

$$
I = \frac{I_{bigb} - I_{low}}{C_{bigb} - C_{low}} \left( C - C_{low} \right) + I_{low}
$$
 (15)

Where *I* is air quality index, *C* is pollutant concentration, *C low* is the concentration breakpoint less or equal to *C*, C high is the concentration breakpoint greater or equal to *C, I low* means the index breakpoint corresponding to *C low* and *I high* is the index breakpoint corresponding to *C high*. The AQI and health implications for India and Mainland China, adopted from the work of Salami et al. (2016) are shown in Tables 4 and 5 respectively.

### *Risk assessment of particulate pollutants*

Human health risk assessment is a way through which possible negative effects of human to dangerous substances are characterized. For assessment of non-cancer risk of particulate matters from landfill sites, HQ, and HI can be used. The HQ is only applied for evaluation of exposure to one particulate matter while HI is applied for assessment of exposure to many particulate matters (Zmijkova et al., 2018). For evaluation of cancer risk, excess life time cancer risk (ELCR) can be applied in the case of one particulate matter and total excess life time cancer risk ( $ELCR_{tol}$ ) in the case of many particulate matters.  $HQ, HI, ELCR,$  and  $ELCR$  tol for particulate matters can be quantified using equations (16)–(19), according to Zmijkova et al. (2018) and USEPA (2014).

$$
HQ = \frac{ADD}{RFD} \tag{16}
$$

$$
HI = HQ_1 + HQ_2 + HQ_3 + ... + IQ_i \tag{17}
$$

$$
ELCR = \frac{LADD}{CSF} \tag{18}
$$

$$
ELCR_{tol} = ELCR_1 + ELCR_2 + ELCR_3 + ... ELCR_i(19)
$$

Where *ADD* is the average daily dose for inhalation of particulate matter i, *RFD* is the reference dose of particulate matter i via respiratory pathway, *LADD* stand s for life time cancer risk for particulate matter i through inhalation, and *CSF* represents cancer slope for particulate matter I, through inhalation.

Bodor et al. (2022) determined the short term effect of exposure to  $PM_{10}$  using the relative risk (RR) model as depicted in equation (20), on the basis that the measured concentration value of  $PM_{10}$  was higher than the background value. RR describes the adverse health effects associated among the population exposed to a higher pollutant concentrations relative to lower pollutant (Hassan Bhat et al., 2021).

$$
RR = \exp[\beta \left( X_{PM10} - X_{BPM10} \right)] \tag{20}
$$

Where  $X_{PM10}$  is the annual mean concentration of  $PM_{10}$ ,  $X_{BPM10}$  is the background concentration of PM<sub>10</sub>, and  $\beta$  represents the risk function coefficient. RR associated with  $PM_{2.5}$ was determined with the aid of equation (21).

$$
RR = \left[ \frac{\left( X_{PM2.5} + 1 \right)}{\left( X_{BPM2.5} + 1 \right)} \right] \beta \tag{21}
$$

Where  $X_{PM2.5}$  is the annual mean concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$ ,  $X_{BPM2.5}$  is the background concentration of  $PM_{2.5}$ , and  $\beta$  represents the risk function coefficient. The work of Ostro (2003) revealed that attributable fraction (AF) which indicates the ration of death from certain diseases and excess risk (ER) can be estimated using equations (22) and (23) respectively.

$$
AF = \frac{\left(RR - 1\right)}{RR} \tag{22}
$$

$$
ER = RR - 1 \tag{23}
$$

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

*Conclusion*

1. Most of the studies carried out on the health effects of  $PM_{25}$  (approximately 69%) were done in high-income countries (HIC) (Sharma et al., 2020).

- 2. From available literature, it is obvious the developing countries have not been practicing CMSW due to some militating factors.
- 3. From previous studies ( Jiang et al., 2020; Li et al., 2020; Yao et al., 2020), positive correlation between PMs and risk of COVID-19 infection has been reported.
- 4. Adequate attentions and considerations have not been given to the cost and economic implications of assessing air pollutants within the vicinity of landfill sites as these were very scarce in virtually all the literature reviewed.
- 5. There is lack of comprehensive data bank in the area of assessment of atmospheric air pollutants within the vicinity of landfill sites in developing countries hence funding should be made available especially by donors for researchers in developing countries for development of comprehensive data bank.
- 6. Several researchers have developed mathematical models for prediction of pollutants generated in the landfill sites. However there is still need for improvements especially in the number of assumptions made for the development of the models which in this present day reality, will be difficult to achieve. Some of the assumptions include:
	- German EPER model assumed the potential emission from a certain quantity of waste will occur in the disposal year which can only be achieved when there is constant volume of waste and composition in a landfill site.
	- For prediction of methane using stoichiometric model, it was assumed there will be no accumulation of ashes, the product gases include only  $CH<sub>4</sub>$ ,  $NH<sub>3</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>,$  and H<sub>2</sub>S and a constant temperature condition.

### *Recommendations for future studies*

- 1. It is imperative that the future studies on the health impacts of PM within the vicinity of landfill sites should focus more on LIC especially in Nigeria which is perceived as capital poverty of the world.
- 2. The studies on how the militating factors can be surmounted are limited in the literature. Hence there is need for more studies to be conducted with a view of proffering solutions and ways forward for the implementation of CMSW in developing countries.
- 3. Further studies should be carried out to substantiate and establish the reported positive correlation between PMs and COVID-19 infection especially in non-temperate regions with a view to mechanistically explain the positive correlation between PMs and the risk of COVID-19 infection.
- 4. It is imperative the cost and economic implication of assessing atmospheric air pollutant are looked into as this will serve as a tool for policy makers in making decisions.

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SL sourced for the materials and wrote the paper. PLT conducted the revision and proofread the gallery proof.

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