

ASSESSMENT OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS IN IKEJA, LAGOS STATE.

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Abstract
Business organisations are a crucial generator of economic progress. Yet their operations also cause a range of environmental pressures. Improving corporate environmental performance is an important step toward understanding the sorts of business organisations and the environmental issues associated with them. This study is carried out to examine the sorts of commercial organisations in Ikeja, Lagos State and to determine the major environmental aspects related to their activity. Primary data was acquired from 64 organisations in four categories including manufacturing, construction, pharmaceutical and eateries using a case study design. The data was collected using structured questionnaires, interviews and field observations and analysed using descriptive statistics. Findings showed that the most common organization type in Ikeja is manufacturing businesses followed by construction organisations, pharmaceutical enterprises and eateries. The main environmental aspects cited are air pollutants, noise pollution, solid waste, wastewater generation and energy overuse. Some issues such as solid waste and effluents are directly regulated by the organisations whilst others such as air pollution from external sources are only indirectly handled. These results underscore the need for sector-specific strategies to mitigate environmental consequences and the need for stricter enforcement of environmental management principles in company operations. The study shows that Ikeja firms have a great contribution to environmental restrictions with different levels of management and responsibility. It requires better environmental monitoring by regulatory bodies, more use of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and a greater commitment by firms to sustainability practices. These are key steps toward environmental conservation and economic growth of Lagos State.

Keywords: Business organizations, Environmental aspects, Ikeja, Environmental management, Nigeria

1.0 Introduction
Business organizations play a vital role in the socio-economic development of any country, driving employment, innovation, and wealth creation. In Nigeria, urban centers such as Lagos have emerged as industrial and commercial hubs, hosting diverse categories of businesses ranging from small-scale enterprises to multinational corporations. While these organizations contribute significantly to economic growth, their activities are also associated with environmental pressures such as air pollution, noise, waste generation, and resource depletion (Adebayo & Odugbemi, 2020). The challenge, therefore, lies in balancing industrial and commercial growth with sustainable environmental management.

Lagos State, often referred to as the commercial nerve center of Nigeria, recorded a population of about 13.7 million people out of Nigeria's 221 million as at the most recent national estimates, and its economy has grown to a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US$259.75 billion, representing over 18% of national GDP while accounting for more than 80% of the country's foreign trade and over 70% of port revenues (National Bureau of Statistics [NBS], 2024; Lagos Bureau of Statistics [LBS], 2025). Within



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Lagos, Ikeja stands out as one of the most industrialized districts, housing numerous manufacturing firms, construction companies, pharmaceutical industries, eateries, and service providers. Ikeja's strategic location and infrastructure, including proximity to the international airport, major highways, and financial institutions, make it an attractive base for business activities (Ogunleye, 2019).

However, the rapid concentration of business organizations in Ikeja has resulted in considerable environmental challenges. The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA, 2021) has repeatedly noted high levels of industrial emissions, improper waste management, and water contamination linked to business operations in the area. These challenges underscore the importance of understanding the environmental aspects associated with business activities in Ikeja in order to promote sustainable practices.

Every business, regardless of size or sector, interacts with the environment. Manufacturing industries release effluents and emissions, construction companies generate dust and noise, pharmaceutical firms discharge chemical wastes, and eateries contribute to food waste and energy use. These environmental aspects, if unmanaged, can degrade ecosystems and threaten public health (Oyekanmi & Edeh, 2021). Identifying these aspects by business type is therefore an important first step in environmental performance evaluation and policy development.

Globally, many firms have adopted Environmental Management Systems (EMS), such as ISO 14001, to systematically address their environmental aspects and impacts (International Organization for Standardization [ISO], 2015). In Nigeria, however, compliance with EMS standards is still limited, especially among small and medium enterprises. Thus, empirical studies that highlight the specific environmental aspects of different types of businesses can help strengthen awareness, regulation, and corporate responsibility.

Ikeja provides a unique case for investigating business organizations and their environmental aspects. As the administrative and industrial capital of Lagos State, it hosts both large-scale industries and numerous small enterprises. The coexistence of these diverse businesses in a dense urban environment intensifies environmental pressures. Air emissions from factories, combined with noise from construction sites and traffic, solid waste from eateries, and chemical discharges from pharmaceutical firms, contribute to environmental degradation in the area (LASEPA, 2021).

Despite these realities, limited research has systematically examined **the** types of businesses operating in Ikeja and their associated environmental aspects**.** Previous studies have focused broadly on industrial pollution in Lagos (Olajide, 2018; Adeola, 2019), but few have provided sector-specific insights within Ikeja. This gap makes it difficult for policymakers and regulatory agencies to design targeted interventions that reflect the distinct contributions of different business categories to environmental pressures.



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The rapid industrialization of Ikeja has created employment opportunities and boosted economic activity, but it has also generated significant environmental challenges. The major problem lies in the limited documentation of how different types of businesses contribute to these challenges. Without such information, environmental management strategies risk being generalized and less effective. This study therefore seeks to bridge this gap by identifying the types of business organizations in Ikeja and examining their key environmental aspects.

The specific objective of this paper is to identify the types of business organizations in Ikeja, Lagos State, and determine the environmental aspects associated with their activities. This study is significant in several ways. First, it provides a baseline understanding of the categories of businesses operating in Ikeja and the environmental aspects linked to them. Such insights are crucial for policymakers, particularly LASEPA and the Federal Ministry of Environment, in strengthening environmental monitoring and regulation. Second, the study highlights sector-specific environmental challenges, enabling businesses to adopt targeted strategies for mitigating their impacts. Third, by documenting the environmental aspects of businesses in Ikeja, the study contributes to the broader discourse on sustainable urban development and corporate responsibility in Nigeria.

2.0 Literature Review

Concept of Business Organizations

A business organization refers to a structured entity engaged in the production or provision of goods and services for profit. They may take different forms such as sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies, or multinational corporations (Adegbite, 2018). Business organizations are categorized not only by ownership and structure but also by sector and scale of operation. In Nigeria, common categories include manufacturing, construction, pharmaceuticals, and service-oriented enterprises such as eateries. Each type of business interacts differently with the environment, depending on the nature of its operations (Adebayo & Odugbemi, 2020).

Environmental Aspects and Business Activities

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO, 2015) defines an environmental aspect as an element of an organization's activities, products, or services that can interact with the environment. Examples include energy use, emissions, effluent discharge, solid waste generation, and noise. These aspects may have significant environmental impacts if not properly managed. For instance, a construction company may generate dust and noise, while a pharmaceutical firm may release hazardous effluents. Identifying and evaluating environmental aspects is a key step in implementing Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

According to Hillary (2017), environmental aspects can be classified into two groups: (i) those an organization can **control** directly, such as waste management practices, and (ii) those it can only influence, such as supply chain impacts or customer use of products. Distinguishing



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between these is vital for effective environmental performance improvement.

Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and ISO 14001

EMS provides a framework for organizations to manage their environmental aspects systematically. The most widely recognized EMS standard is **ISO 14001**, which guides organizations to identify, monitor, and reduce their environmental impacts (ISO, 2015). Benefits of EMS adoption include regulatory compliance, cost savings, improved corporate image, and reduced environmental risks (Zutshi & Sohal, 2004). However, adoption in developing countries, including Nigeria, has been slow due to weak enforcement, limited technical capacity, and low awareness among small and medium enterprises (Ihugba, 2019).

Empirical Studies on Business and Environmental Aspects

Several studies have examined the link between business activities and environmental issues. In Ghana, Boakye and Ackah (2020) found that manufacturing firms contributed significantly to air and water pollution through effluent discharge and emissions. Similarly, Oyedele (2018) highlighted the role of construction firms in generating noise and dust pollution in Nigerian cities.

In the pharmaceutical sector, Adeola (2019) reported that improper handling of chemical waste posed risks to both public health and the environment. In the hospitality sector, including eateries, research has shown that food waste, energy use, and poor waste disposal practices contribute to urban environmental challenges (Nwaiwu, 2021). These studies highlight the sector-specific nature of environmental aspects, reinforcing the need for localized investigations such as the present study in Ikeja.

More recent empirical evidence reinforces these sector-specific patterns. Nnorom and Odeyingbo (2020) documented that Nigeria's weak recycling infrastructure and continued reliance on informal, crude dismantling practices for electronic waste have intensified environmental contamination linked to business and import activities, a pattern consistent with the waste-management burden already evident among Ikeja's manufacturing and pharmaceutical firms. Relatedly, Uddin et al. (2026) found that firm-level environmental accounting practices covering solid waste, wastewater, energy use, and emissions monitoring significantly enhance organizational reputation and financial performance, suggesting that the environmental aspects identified among Ikeja businesses could be better managed through structured reporting rather than ad hoc compliance. Achuo and Asongu (2026), analyzing business processes across 132 developing countries, similarly established that industrial, agricultural, and service-sector activities contribute measurably to environmental degradation through increased greenhouse gas emissions, reinforcing the case for stronger regulatory incentives in contexts such as Ikeja.

At the metropolitan governance level, Okunola (2025) observed that Lagos's environmental and disaster-recovery governance remains fragmented across institutions, with weak coordination and



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limited community participation, patterns consistent with the enforcement gaps this study associates with LASEPA's oversight of Ikeja's businesses. Comparable evidence from other African contexts further supports the sectoral findings of this study: Melese et al. (2026) found that in Ethiopia's hospitality industry, top management commitment, regulatory frameworks, and adoption of energy- and waste-efficiency measures were key drivers of environmentally sustainable practice, paralleling the recommendations made here for Ikeja's eateries. Similarly, Rehman (2025) and Javed et al. (2025) demonstrated that integrating environmental criteria into recruitment, organizational capability-building, and green innovation strengthens environmental performance in manufacturing firms, lending further support to this study's call for EMS adoption and cleaner production technologies among Ikeja's manufacturing industries.

Nigeria's urban centers face significant environmental pressures due to rapid population growth, industrialization, and weak enforcement of environmental laws (Nwankwoala, 2020). In Lagos State, the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA, 2021) has documented rising levels of industrial effluents, poor solid waste management, and high noise levels in industrial hubs like Ikeja. Despite the existence of environmental policies, enforcement remains inadequate, leading to unsustainable business practices. Olajide (2018) observed that many firms in Lagos focus primarily on economic gains, with little attention to their environmental responsibilities. Adegbite (2018) similarly noted that small businesses often lack the resources to implement EMS, leaving their environmental aspects unmanaged. These challenges underscore the importance of empirical studies that highlight business-specific environmental aspects in Nigerian urban contexts.

While several studies have documented general industrial pollution in Lagos, few have systematically examined the types of business organizations in Ikeja and their environmental aspects**.** Most studies focus on single sectors such as manufacturing or construction, without comparing across categories. This leaves a knowledge gap on the diversity of environmental aspects across business types in Ikeja, an area that hosts one of Nigeria's most concentrated clusters of industries. Addressing this gap is critical for designing targeted interventions that reflect sectoral differences.

3.0 Methodology

This study adopted a case study research design**,** focusing on Ikeja, Lagos State. Ikeja is the capital of Lagos State and one of Nigeria's major industrial and commercial hubs. The area hosts a concentration of manufacturing industries, construction firms, pharmaceutical companies, eateries, and service-oriented enterprises. Its proximity to the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, major highways, and financial institutions makes it attractive to businesses. However, the high density of businesses also contributes to environmental pressures, such as waste generation, air and noise pollution, and water contamination (LASEPA, 2021).

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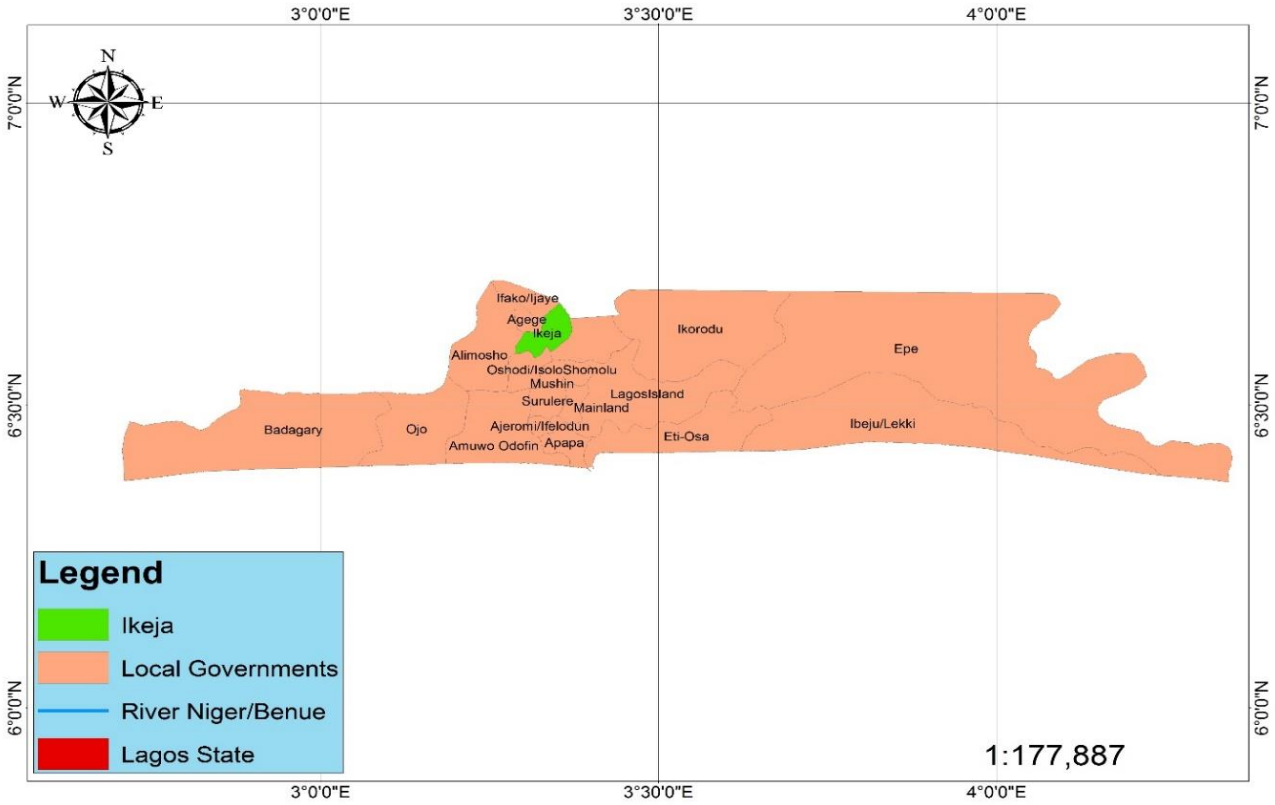


Figure 1: Map of Lagos State Showing the Location of Ikeja Metropolis.
Source: Author's Fieldwork, (2024)

The study population comprised all registered and operational business organizations in Ikeja. These included large, medium, and small enterprises across different sectors such as manufacturing, construction, pharmaceuticals, and eateries. The design was chosen because it allows for in-depth exploration of the types of business organizations operating in a defined geographic area and their associated environmental aspects. Both quantitative (structured questionnaires) and qualitative (interviews and field observations) approaches were employed to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the subject. A total of 64 business organizations were selected for the study. The sample was distributed across four categories: Manufacturing industries (20); Construction firms (16); Pharmaceutical companies (14); and Eateries (14).

Sample Size =Population X $^{40}/_{100}$
= 160 X $^{40}/_{100}$
= 64

Table 1: Showing Sample Size of Businesses in Ikeja.

S/N	Nature	No of Businesses Units	Sample Size of 20%
1.	Eateries	50	20
2.	Constructions	62	25
3.	Pharmaceutical	20	8
4.	Manufacturing	28	11
		160	64

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

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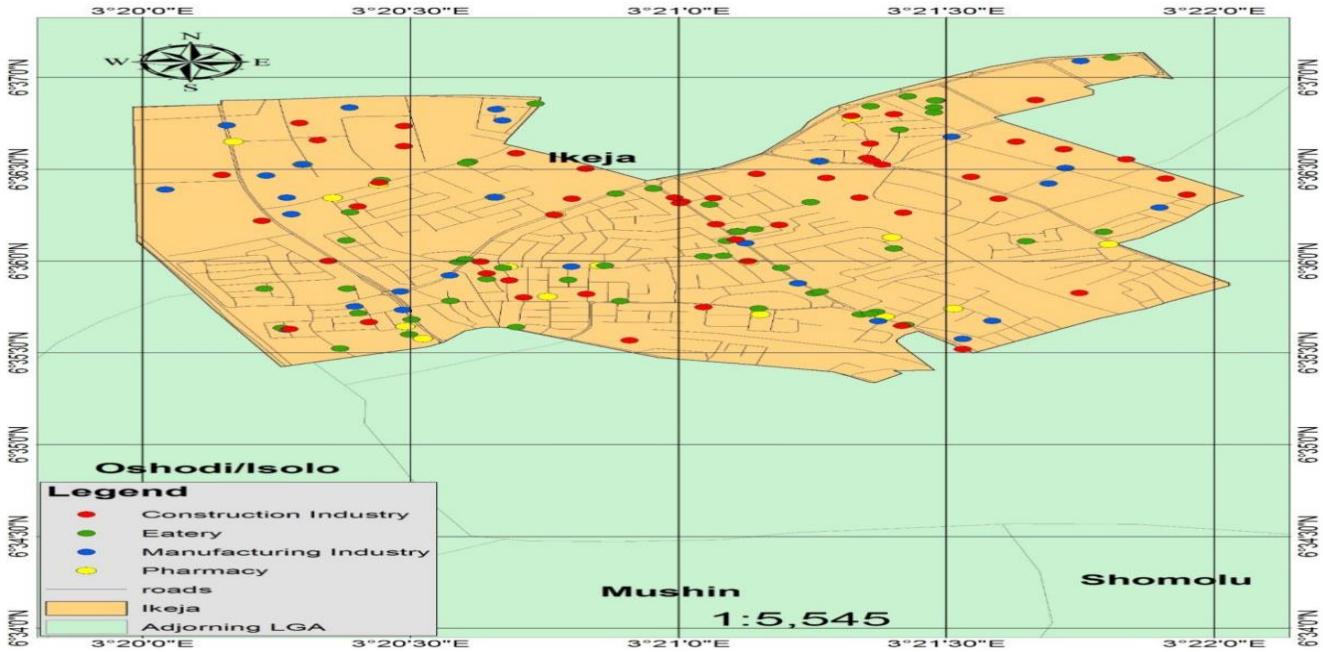


Figure 2:Map of Ikeja Showing Business Organizations
Source: (Author's Fieldwork, 2024) through (ARC GIS, 10.3 Version)

A purposive sampling technique was used to ensure that the selected organizations reflected the diversity of business activities in Ikeja. This approach was considered appropriate given the study's focus on environmental aspects specific to different types of organizations.

Three instruments were employed for data collection, they include:

Structured Questionnaire: Administered to managers and key staff to capture organizational characteristics, awareness of environmental aspects, and management practices.

Key Informant Interviews: Conducted with regulatory officials from Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) and selected business representatives to obtain deeper insights.

Field Observation Checklist: Used to document observable environmental aspects such as waste disposal practices, emissions, noise levels, and energy use within business premises.

Quantitative data were coded and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and tables were used to present findings on types of business organizations and their environmental aspects. Qualitative data from interviews and observations were transcribed, categorized thematically, and used to complement the quantitative findings.



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The questionnaire and observation checklist were reviewed by experts in environmental management and pre-tested with five organizations outside the sample frame. Necessary adjustments were made to ensure clarity and relevance. Reliability was confirmed using Cronbach's alpha, with a coefficient of 0.82, indicating strong internal consistency. Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the Departmental Research Committee. Respondents were informed of the purpose of the study, assured of confidentiality, and provided consent before participating. Sensitive data were anonymized to protect organizational identities.

4.0 Results and Discussion

Types of Business Organizations in Ikeja

The study identified four major categories of business organizations operating in Ikeja: manufacturing industries, construction firms, pharmaceutical companies, and eateries. Based on the sample size distribution, the results show that manufacturing industries dominate the Ikeja business environment, accounting for nearly one-third (31.3%) of sampled firms. Construction firms follow closely (25%), while pharmaceutical companies and eateries represent 21.9% each. This distribution reflects Ikeja's dual character as both an industrial and service-oriented hub.

Environmental Aspects of Business Organizations

Businesses in Ikeja exhibited diverse environmental aspects depending on their sector. Table 2 summarizes the key aspects observed across the four categories.

Table 2: Environmental Aspects of Business Organizations in Ikeja

Environmental Aspect	Manufacturing	Construction	Pharmaceutical	Eateries
Air emissions	✓	✓	✓	–
Noise pollution	✓	✓	–	–
Solid waste generation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wastewater/effluents	✓	–	✓	✓
Energy consumption	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chemical waste/discharge	–	–	✓	–

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

As shown in Table 2, Manufacturing industries is associated with nearly all major aspects—air emissions, noise, solid waste, wastewater, and energy use. Construction firms are major contributors to dust, noise, and solid waste; also recorded high energy consumption from heavy equipment. Pharmaceutical companies was noted for chemical discharges in addition to wastewater, solid waste, and emissions from generators, while **e**ateries mainly generated solid waste (food leftovers, packaging), wastewater (from cleaning and cooking), and high energy consumption.

Controllable vs. Influence-able Aspects

Table 3 provides a summary of interviews with business representatives. It revealed a distinction between aspects they could control directly (e.g.,



solid waste disposal, wastewater treatment) and those they could only influence (e.g., emissions from surrounding industrial clusters, or waste handling practicesof contractors).

Table 3: Controllable and Influence-able Environmental Aspects

Category	Controllable Aspects	Influence-able Aspects
Manufacturing industries	Solid waste, wastewater, noise	Air emissions (shared environment)
Construction firms	Noise, dust, solid waste	Traffic-related emissions
Pharmaceutical companies	Chemical waste, effluents	Distribution/supply chain impacts
Eateries	Food waste, wastewater, energy use	Customer-related waste disposal

Source: Field Survey, 2024.

Discussion of Findings

The study revealed that manufacturing industries dominate the business landscape in Ikeja, followed by construction firms, pharmaceutical companies, and eateries. Each category is associated with distinct environmental aspects, with solid waste generation and energy consumption emerging as the most common across all sectors. Other aspects such as air emissions, wastewater discharge, and noise pollution varied in intensity depending on the type of business. Importantly, businesses recognized a difference between aspects they could control directly and those they could only influence, reflecting the realities of urban industrial clusters where environmental effects often overlap.

The findings are consistent with earlier studies that identified manufacturing and construction firms as significant contributors to environmental degradation in Nigerian cities (Oyedele, 2018; Olajide, 2018). Like in other studies, manufacturing industries in Ikeja exhibited multiple environmental aspects, including air emissions, solid waste, and effluents (Adebayo & Odugbemi, 2020). Construction firms were notable for noise and dust generation, aligning with global literature on the environmental challenges of urban construction (Zutshi & Sohal, 2004).

The pharmaceutical sector, while smaller in size, was unique in its contribution to chemical waste and hazardous effluents, supporting Adeola's (2019) findings on risks associated with pharmaceutical production. Eateries, though less industrial in nature, contributed significantly to urban solid waste and wastewater, confirming Nwaiwu's (2021) observations on the environmental impacts of hospitality businesses.

The categorization of environmental aspects into controllable and influenceable dimensions provides useful insight for environmental management. For example, while manufacturing firms can directly manage their solid waste and effluent treatment, they may only influence air quality indirectly due to the cumulative emissions from surrounding industries. This mirrors



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Hillary's (2017) argument that organizations must distinguish between what they can control internally and what requires collective or policy-level action.

The findings suggest that while some Ikeja businesses are aware of their environmental aspects, systematic adoption of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) remains limited. This is consistent with Ihugba's (2019) observation that Nigerian businesses, especially small and medium enterprises, face barriers in adopting ISO 14001 standards due to cost and lack of technical expertise. Without EMS, many organizations lack structured frameworks to monitor and reduce their impacts.

This gap is significant in light of recent evidence: Uddin et al. (2026) found that structured environmental accounting practices covering waste, wastewater, energy, and emissions monitoring translate directly into improved reputational and financial outcomes for firms, while Rehman (2025) and Javed et al. (2025) demonstrated that embedding environmental criteria into recruitment, organizational capability-building, and green innovation processes significantly strengthens environmental performance in manufacturing settings. These findings suggest that Ikeja's manufacturing and pharmaceutical firms, in particular, stand to gain measurable reputational and operational benefits from adopting similar structured environmental management and reporting practices.

The sectoral differences in environmental aspects also highlight the need for targeted interventions rather than blanket regulations. For instance, construction firms require stricter enforcement of noise and dust control measures, while pharmaceutical companies should prioritize safe disposal of chemical waste. Eateries, on the other hand, need improved waste segregation and energy-efficient practices.

The results underscore the importance of strengthening environmental regulation in industrial hubs like Ikeja. Agencies such as the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) need to intensify monitoring and enforcement, ensuring that businesses comply with environmental standards. At the same time, businesses themselves must adopt proactive sustainability practices, including waste reduction, cleaner production methods, and renewable energy use. The distinction between controllable and influenceable aspects suggests the necessity of multi-stakeholder collaboration. While individual firms can manage internal aspects, broader issues such as regional air quality require coordinated action between businesses, regulators, and communities. This need for coordinated, multi-level action mirrors Okunola's (2025) findings on Lagos's disaster and environmental governance, which similarly identified fragmented institutional frameworks and weak stakeholder coordination as key barriers to effective environmental management in the metropolis.

5.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

This study set out to identify the types of business organizations operating in Ikeja, Lagos State, and to examine the environmental aspects associated with their activities. The findings show that manufacturing industries dominate the



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Ikeja business landscape, followed by construction firms, pharmaceutical companies, and eateries. Each sector is associated with distinct environmental aspects: while manufacturing industries contribute to multiple issues including air emissions, noise, solid waste, and wastewater, construction firms are primarily linked to noise, dust, and solid waste. Pharmaceutical companies pose additional risks through chemical waste discharges, whereas eateries contribute mainly to food waste, wastewater, and high energy use.

A key insight from the study is the distinction between controllable and influenceable environmental aspects. Businesses have direct control over waste management, effluent treatment, and energy efficiency, but can only influence broader issues such as regional air quality or supply chain impacts. This distinction highlights the complexity of environmental management in dense urban industrial centers such as Ikeja.

The study concludes that while businesses in Ikeja play vital roles in economic development, their environmental aspects pose significant challenges to sustainable urban living. Addressing these requires both sector-specific interventions and coordinated action across industries, regulators, and communities.

The study later recommends that:

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) should intensify inspections and enforcement of environmental regulations in Ikeja. This includes ensuring that industries comply with waste disposal guidelines, noise limits, and effluent treatment standards.

Government and professional associations should encourage businesses, especially SMEs, to adopt EMS frameworks such as ISO 14001. Incentives such as tax rebates, subsidies, or recognition awards can promote compliance and sustainability practices.

Manufacturing firms should prioritize cleaner production technologies and pollution control equipment; Construction firms should adopt dust suppression measures, noise barriers, and improved waste recycling on sites. Pharmaceutical companies must develop safe handling and disposal mechanisms for chemical waste to protect public health; while **Eateries** should improve food waste segregation, adopt biogas or composting technologies, and reduce reliance on inefficient energy systems.

Since some environmental aspects are beyond the control of individual firms, collective approaches are needed. Industry clusters, local communities, and regulatory agencies should collaborate through environmental forums or partnerships to address shared challenges such as air quality and waste management.

Businesses should invest in public awareness campaigns on waste segregation, recycling, and environmental health. CSR initiatives that target community environmental improvement (e.g., drainage clearing, tree planting, or waste-to-energy projects) can strengthen corporate image while contributing to sustainability.



Balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability in Ikeja requires a dual approach: stronger regulation from government agencies and proactive adoption of sustainable practices by businesses. By addressing both controllable and influenceable environmental aspects, Ikeja can move toward a more sustainable urban future that aligns with the goals of environmental protection, public health, and economic resilience.

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