



Research Paper

# Speciation Of The Organochlorine Pesticides (OCPS) In Ashaka Wetland Ndokwa East For Cage Aquaculture In Secondary Schools As A Recipe For Education Reformation In Nigeria

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigated the organochlorine pesticides content in Ashaka wetland for cage aquaculture in secondary schools. It answered 4 research questions and tested a hypothesis. To achieve these, Ashaka wetland was mapped out into 5 research cells. From each of the research cells water samples were collected from 5 sampling spots bulked and composites drawn, fixed with  $HNO_3$  and placed in ice cooled boxes for analysis. The analytical standards adopted were APHA and CEAM and the analytical instrument used in the determination of the OCPs is Agilent LC/MS 6100. Results obtained are: adrin, range from 1.23  $\mu\text{g/l}$  to 1.86  $\mu\text{g/l}$  with a mean of 1.38  $\mu\text{g/l}$  heptachlor content range from 0.90  $\mu\text{g/l}$  to 0.99  $\mu\text{g/l}$  with a mean of 0.95  $\mu\text{g/l}$ , cis chlordane range from 1.21  $\mu\text{g/l}$  to 1.42  $\mu\text{g/l}$  with a mean of 1.33  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . the concentration of aHCH range from 0.62  $\mu\text{g/l}$  to 0.89  $\mu\text{g/l}$  with mean of 0.76  $\mu\text{g/l}$  while  $\beta\text{HcH}$  concentration range from 1.44  $\mu\text{g/l}$  to 1.92  $\mu\text{g/l}$  with a mean of 1.66  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . The mean concentrations of the OCPs were subjected to test of significance with ANOVA using SPSS model 21 at 0.05 level of significance. The p-value is 0.43 thus rejecting  $H_0$ . The study recommends that cage aquaculture should not be deployed in Ashaka wetlands because of OCPs pollution the sources of OCPs into the wetland should be investigated and checked and remediation should be carried out to allow for the use of cage aquaculture and for healthy fish for both local and international consumers.

**Keywords:** cage aquaculture, organochlorine pesticides, contamination, remédiation

Received 23 July, 2022; Revised 04 August, 2022; Accepted 06 August, 2022 © The author(s) 2022.

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## I. Introduction

Economic growth, development and stability of any nation is predicated on the quality of education of that country and for the education to meet up with ever changing global trends, it must be subjected to consistent reformation. Reformation, according to Pedro (2016), Teddy (2017) is a marked change in nature, shape or form. It is to make new, changing the look or nature (Piccolo, 2018, Joseph 2018). Reformation in the review of Andrew (2014) is a total change in character, appearance, form, or shape. Reformation is transforming, change in composition, structure or mode (Macduff 2017, Samson 2019). Succinctly put by Edwin (2018) reformation is to remodel, to recast and restructure a thing, method or process. Reformation is total overhauling, a turnaround, a metamorphosis, a mutation or transmutation (Conrad 2015, Betrand(2017), Arnold (2018), Kelvin (2018), Felix (2019) encapsulate transformation as a total change, transformation, transmogrification of a thing, a system or process. Transformation is creating something new from the old structure for more acceptability. Charles (2017) opined that transformation with respect to organization is transforming an organisational policy or programme, it entails total overhauling of the organisational mode of operation or changing the policy or programme thrust for higher profitability or service delivery. Harrison (2012) sees transformation in education as total restructuring of the curriculum for better product output. Okpaloka (2017), Haliru, (2019) believed that Nigeria education requires total transformation from scholarship to manipulative and psychomotor base curriculum. This position was equally canvassed by Odia (2018), Omajuwa (2019) that transformation in our educational curriculum is imperative to make the products of our secondary schools to be job creators rather than job seekers. Nigeria educational curriculum should wean itself from British fed curriculum of rote learning

and scholarship to technical and vocational education curriculum to empower the youths (Olokor, 2019, Ochu, 2020), while Arinze (2019), Adebayo (2019), Sodiq (2018) admonished the policy makers and monitoring agencies to ensure adequate provision of implementation equipment and materials for trade subjects especially in fishery and aquaculture for job creation and food security. This was reiterated by Maduba, (2017), Abe (2019) that senior secondary school students should be encouraged to venture into aquaculture after graduation in line with the trade curriculum for job creation, wealth generation and food security.

Fish is important to man because it contains all the nutrients needed by humans for healthy living (Ajanuku, 2018). Fish is the easiest way rural population can achieve their daily protein requirement of 50g/day for men and 46g/day for women, as recommended by the World Health Organisation (Clark, 2018, Muhamed, 2016). Nigeria annual fish requirement is 3.1 million metric tonnes while the local production is 900,000 metric tonne (Adeosun, 2016, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), 2021). Fish import bill of Nigeria in 2021 was 500 billion naira and Nigeria stands as the greatest fish importer in Africa (Ruwani, 2022, Oteriba, 2022, NBS, 2021). Ogwu (2020) advised youths and fresh secondary school graduates to take up aquaculture by deploying cage aquaculture method because it is less capital demanding. Cage culture is the art of raising fish in a cage placed and anchored in an existing body of water (Ogwu&Okonji, 2021). Lawal (2017) Bamgboye (2015) advised that water analysis should be conducted on the body of water to be so involved in cage aquaculture for the presence of toxic substances to ward off bioaccumulation and biomagnification. Possible water pollutants as listed by Ogunbiyi (2010), Jobdi (2012) are polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), furans, dioxins, detergents, microplastics, heavy metals, pesticides such as carbamate, organophosphate and organochlorine pesticides (OCPs). Bioaccumulation is the tendency of toxicants in an aquatic ecosystem to gain entry into the tissues and cells of aquatic organisms while biomagnification is the propensity for the toxicants once in the organisms tissue to multiply in geometry. (American Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), 2012). Organochlorines are compounds containing carbon and chlorine atoms which are used in pesticide formulation (Ogwu, 2020). Prolonged exposure and ingestion of OCPs by humans will result in health complications as nausea, tremour, seizure, cancer of the lung, gastrointestinal disorder (International Agency for Research in Cancer (IARC), 2010), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), 2012). Wetland is an ecosystem that has the capacity to harbour water for 3-6 months of the year (Ramsar, 1971, Ogwu&Attamah, 2022). The thrust of this study is the determination of the concentration of the organochlorine pesticides in Ashaka wetlands for cage aquaculture in secondary schools for educational transformation in Nigeria. The OCPs to be investigated are adrin, heptachlor, cis-chordane, alpha-lindane ( $\alpha$ HCH) and beta-lindane ( $\beta$ HCH).

### **Research Questions**

The study is guided by research questions as below:

1. What are the content of the OCPs in Ashaka wetlands
2. Are the concentration of OCPs within the limit stipulated by WHO (2014).
3. Can cage aquaculture be deployed in Ashaka wetlands
4. Can the produce from the Ashaka wetland meet Codex 1963 standards.

### **Hypothesis**

This study is guided by a hypothesis as follows:

H<sub>0</sub>: There is no significant difference between the concentrations of OCPs in Ashaka wetlands and WHO maximum allowable concentrations for OCPs in water.

Area of Study

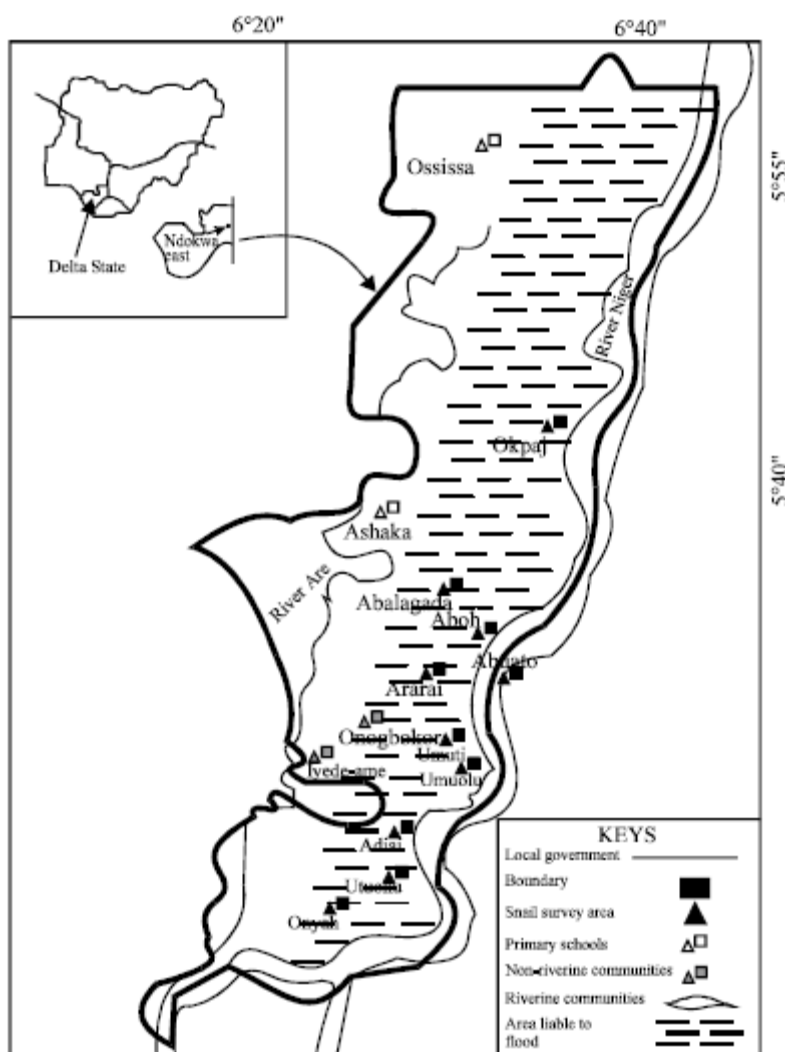


Figure 1: Map of ndokwa east showing ashaka  
Source: Chinyere&Anyalebechi, (2017)

Ashaka is a clan in NdokwaEast local government area of Delta State. It is situated in the geographical coordinates of 5° 639 N and 6° 399 E and has a population of 5,255 inhabitants (National Population Commission, 2006). The people of Ashska are mainly farmers and fishermen, some are petty traders and artisans while a few work as civil servants teaching in secondary schools, some work in customary Court, maternity and hospital (Ndanenu, 2013). Ashaka is a wetland settlement and the farmers employ chemical pest control in their operations and this is evident in the presence of backpack sprayers in every household in Ashaka. The wetland remains the recipient of the agricultural wastes through runoffs, flash floods and erosion.

II. Materials and Methods

Ashaka wetland on the four flanks of the settlement was divided into 5 research cells (Adegoke, 2012, Ajayi, 2015). From each of the research cells, water was sampled with a clean plastic sampling bottle from 5 spots at 10cm depth. The samples from each cell were bulked and composite drawn and fixed with nitric oxide to prevent oxidation then placed in ice-cool boxes for laboratory analysis. The analytical standards adopted were American Public Health Association Standard and Chemical Analysis for Ecological Matter (CEAM) standard. The analytical instrument deployed for the determination of the OCPs are Agilent 6100, series single quadrupole liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry (LC/M) 6100.

### III. Results

The result obtained are as in Table 1

**Table 1: result of the OCPs investigated and the WHO 2014 maximum allowable concentration for OCPs in water in µg/l**

Parameter	LOCATIONS					Mean	SD	WHO in µg/l
	A	B	C	D	E			
Adrin	1.23	1.02	1.86	1.53	1.28	1.38	0.32	0.3
Heptachlor	0.99	0.97	0.98	0.91	0.9	0.95	0.04	0.1
Cis chlordanes	1.26	1.43	1.33	1.21	1.42	1.33	0.10	0.005
Alpha lindane	0.89	0.62	0.67	0.88	0.72	0.76	0.12	0.01
Beta lindane	1.44	1.45	1.67	1.81	1.92	1.66	0.21	0.01

The mean concentration of the OCPs in Ashaka wetland presented as in Figure 2.

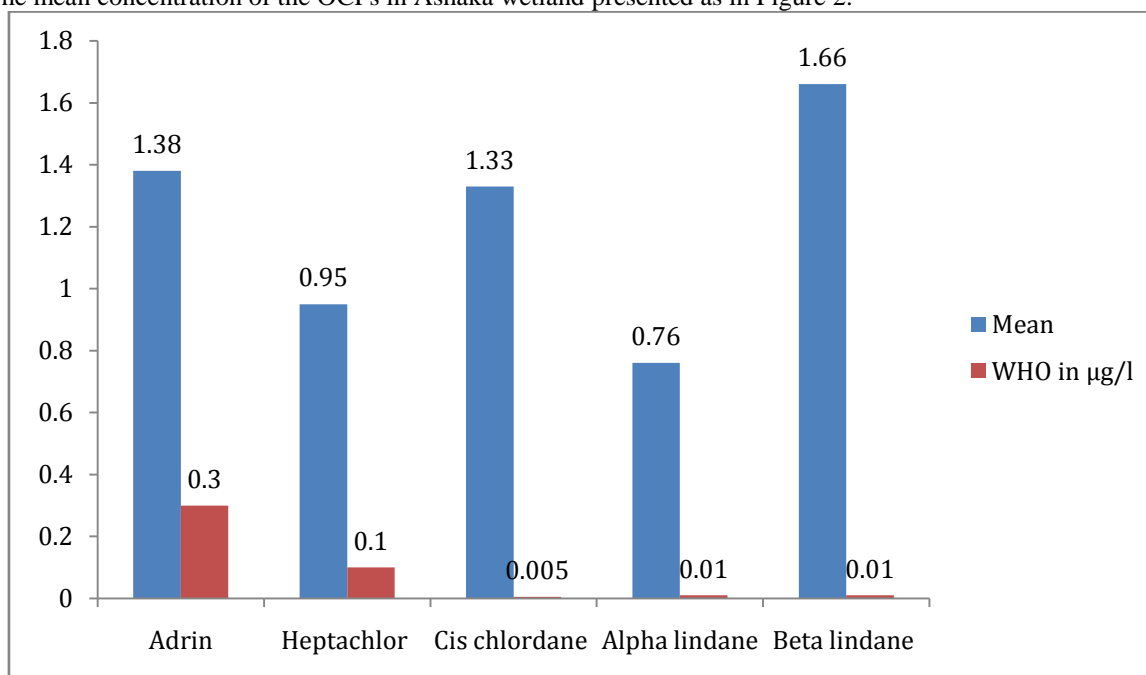


Figure 2: OCPs in Ashaka wetlands and WHO (2014) maximum allowable concentration in Ug/l

The mean concentrations of the OCPs were subjected to test of significance with analysis of variance (ANOVA) with social package for social science (SPSS) model 21 at 0.05 level of significance. The p-value is 0.43 thus rejecting  $H_0$ .

### IV. Discussion of Findings

The analysis of the OCPs in Ashaka wetland presented varying concentrations of the variables investigated.

The analysis showed that the concentration of adrin in Ashaka wetland range from 1.02 µg/l to 1.86 µg/l with a mean of 1.38 µg/l. The WHO maximum allowable concentration for adrin in water is 0.30 µg/l, This result of increased adrin in water is similar to the reports of Ajakaiye and Olumo (2015) in Ose River Ondo state and Abdulai(2016) in Gamji River Gombe State.

The investigation of the OCPs in Ashaka wetland also revealed that the concentration of heptachlor range from 0.90 µg/l to 0.99 µg/l with a mean of 0.95 µg/l. The WHO (2014) acceptable limit for heptachlor in water is 0.10 µg/l, Thus the heptachlor content in Ashaka wetland is higher than maximum allowable limit. A similar result was presented by Odia (2019) in Ovia River Benin City and Ojikutu (2015) who also reported high heptachlor in Ogunpa River Ibadan Oyo State. The investigation of OCPs in Ashaka wetlands also showed that Cis chlordanes content range between 1.21 µg/l to 1.43 µg/l with a mean concentration of 1.33 µg/l. The WHO (2014) maximum allowable concentration for cis chlordanes in water is 0.005 µg/l. thus the cis chlordanes content in Ashaka wetland is higher than the acceptable limit. Increased concentration of cis chlordanes was

reported by Lam and Ikpe (2014) in KatsinaAla River Benue state. Ogwu et al., (2022) also reported high concentration of cis chlordane in Otorgo wetlands in Ughelli Delta State.

The investigation of the OCPs content of Ashaka wetland presented the concentrations of alpha lindane ( $\alpha$ HCH) of range of 0.62  $\mu\text{g/l}$  to 0.89  $\mu\text{g/l}$  with a mean concentration of 0.76  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . The maximum allowable concentration for  $\alpha$ HCH in water is 0.01  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . this concentration is higher than the acceptable limit for  $\alpha$ HCH in water. A similar result was reported by Odalonu and Wigwe (2018) at Osamala wetland in Anambra state. This report is however a variation from the reports of Ogunbambi and Omiyale (2016) in Olomoge Lagoon Lagos. The wetland water analysis of Ashaka wetland revealed that the beta lindane ( $\beta$ HCH) content range between 1.44  $\mu\text{g/l}$  to 1.92  $\mu\text{g/l}$  with a mean concentration of 1.66  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . The WHO (2014) maximum allowable concentration for  $\beta$ HCH in water is 0.01  $\mu\text{g/l}$ . This concentration is above the acceptable limit. Oyeneeye (2014) reported similar concentration of  $\beta$ HCH in Ominla in Osun state. Also Ekpo and Lember (2017) gave similar report in Omanbala River, Anambra state.

## V. Conclusion

Education is the master key for unlocking every potential in the economy of any nation for it to be at par in comity of nations in job creation for the youths, wealth generation and food security. To achieve these, the education system and curriculum require constant restructuring and reformation. Several models have been suggested as tools for job creation, and food security but the most highly recommended is youths empowerment through skill acquisition in aquaculture especially aquaculture adopting low capital intensive cage aquaculture. Good quality water is a factor in cage aquaculture and that mandated this study.

The analysis of the wetland water of Ashaka wetland for the concentration of OCPs showed that the wetland is polluted with the OCPs investigated thus making the deployment of cage aquaculture impracticable because it will be antithesis to the set objective as the product will not be healthy for consumers locally and internationally. This is because it will fail Codex Alimentarius (1963) set down standard for export of animal products to international consumers.

## VI. Recommendations

Against the backdrop of the results obtained from the analysis, the study recommends as thus:

1. Cage aquaculture should not be deployed in Ashaka wetland by the youths and schools in Ashaka and its environ.
2. The source or sources of OCPs into the wetland should be investigated and checked.
3. Remediation of the wetland is highly recommended to return the wetland to its hitherto pristine ecosystem for cage aquaculture development for healthy produce for local and international consumers.

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