Assessment of Environmental Standard Compliance by Hotels in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: Environmental compliance is designed to protect the environment with laws, regulations and codes. In recent years, environmental concerns have led to a significant increase in the number and scope of compliance imperatives across all global regulatory environments. This study therefore assessed hotel compliance to environmental standards in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria using appropriate standard techniques with fifty (50) selected hotels. Data obtained show that environmental standard compliance level was 4.48±0.5, while materials/items re-use was 4.28±0.88 and certification was 3.68±0.96 on a scale of 10.0. The investigation concluded that hotels compliance to environmental standards are low due to high cost of permit and lack of awareness on the environmental standard available in the study area.

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Environmental standard practices in the hotel sector are growing around the world. Conscious sector are growing around the world. Conscious customers demand these services as tourist are increasingly concerned about climate change travelers are more likely to make an environmental eco-friendly decision to select a hotel. The hotel industry is important to the world economy as it contributes to economic and social development. According to Hsieh, (2012), Conventional hotels especially, are often associated with issues related to the deterioration of the environment. It has been reported that conventional hotels have caused enormous harm to the environment from excessive consumption of non-recyclable goods, water and energy for heating and have released significant amounts of emissions into the air, water and soil. Within the hotel sector, the areas of concern for the environment include pollution through liquid waste, high energy consumption, fittings and lighting and the increasing release of the greenhouse gases that causes changes in the atmosphere. Consequently, Environmental standard practices such as recycling of waste, waste management, supplying clean air, energy and water conservation, environmental health, adopting a purchasing policy and environmental education are being considered in various hotels in mitigation of the negative impacts on the environment (Mensah,2006). Quite a number of best practices are undertaken in the hotel sector, in this regard, this renders the sector more sustainable and environmental friendly. Given that 85% of leisure travelers consider themselves environmentally conscious, i.e. green consumers (Jeter,2012),Some hotels have embraced the principles of sustainable development to mirror customer concerns and have thus attempted to minimize the energy consumed during the customers stay through, the introduction of minor measures such as re-using linen and towels(Kasim,2006). Major steps have also been taken by hotels, which have conducted environmental audits to assess the environmental costs

of their activities in relation to energy consumption transport, waste, purchasing, health and the local environmental standard (Page 2009). Environmental standard is one of the major aspects to be considered regarding general sustainability (Jeter 2009, Page 2009).Demands from government or regulators require hotels to implement green practices (Kim and Choi,2013). Green practices are ways to use product and methods that would not negatively impact on the environment through pollution of natural resources (Smith and Parks 2010).

These green practices include sustainable management of water, energy conservation and solid waste management, ensuring air quality, environmental purchasing, community awareness and maintenance of permits. However, the Nigerian government agencies responsible for regulating hotel environmental regulations and deficient in terms of policy formulations and implementation of relevant laws and order to guide against dilapidation of the hotel industry practices.

In response to the demands of society and environmentally conscious stakeholders, several large hotel companies have disclosed their environmental practices in their company websites (Courtland, 2010). It was discovered that few members of hotels are complying to environmental standard set by regulatory bodies (Hsieh.2012). Majority of the hotels however have no environmental management policy. According to Muazu et al. (2014) very little is known about hotel environmental activity which is being carried out in a haphazard manner without the guidance of a policy. This study therefore assessed hotel compliance to environmental standards in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

MATERIAL AND METHODS
Data Collection: Primary data was employed in this research work. The primary data was through the use of questionnaire to the administration who partake in filling the Questionnaire assessment. The sample size was put at (52) fifty-two respondents. 50 hotels were chosen and one questionnaire per hotel, the questionnaire was given to the manager of the hotel to fill, this is to avoid repetition of result. While 2 agencies were chosen, to avoid repetition of results and they are the major Regulatory bodies covering hotel activities in the study area.

Method of Data Analysis: Data obtained was analyzed using descriptive and inferential (Regression) statistics. The analysis was performed using SPSS.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The table 1 shows the major activities in the hotel, where lodging has the highest mean of 3.00,this implies that all the hotels considered lodging as one of their activities while Bar /Restaurant also have a high mean of 3.00,it implies that the hotel consider bar/restaurant as one of their major activities, Event has a mean of 2.92,this shows that event is also considered as the major activities but not all of the hotels agreed, few of the hotels considers it but not engaging in it, conferences has a mean of 2.34,this implies that some of the hotel considers it and engage in it, while some of the hotel considers it but does not engage in it, few of the hotels does not even consider it as an activities that should be carried out in the hotel, Business center and Car rental has the lowest mean of 2.14 and 1.66, this implies that they are not really considered as the major activities in the hotels, but some hotel engage in them to promote the hotel.

Table 1: Hotel Major Activities in Ilorin

Variables	No and Not Considered Frq (%)	No But Considered Frq (%)	Yes Frq (%)	Mean/SD
Lodging	-	-	50(100.0)	3.00±0.00
Event	-	4(8.0)	46(92.0)	2.92±0.27
Conferences	4(8.0)	25(50.0)	21(42.0)	2.34±0.63
Car Rentals	18(36.0)	31(62.0)	1(2.0)	1.66±0.52
Business Center	8(16.0)	27(54.0)	15(30.0)	2.14±0.67
Bar/Restaurant	-	-	50(100.0)	3.00±0.00

Source: (Field survey, 2022)

Table 2 shows the regression analysis of hotel compliance to environment standard, Result have shown that all the independent variable have positive impact on dependent variable (environmental standard). So it is inferred that hotel compliance is very crucial for explaining the environmental standard. The coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.537 indicated that 53.7% of the variance in the overall environmental standard was explained by the hotel compliance (Independent variable). The t-values of all independent variables were less than the significant level of 0.05, and the positive regression coefficients indicated that the regression model was statistically significant and that the independent factors positively affect the respondents' environmental standard. The correlation coefficients, β of the independent variables showed that the most important factor in predicting environmental standard was; we have complied with some environmental legislation but not all (0.647).

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Table 2: Regression Analysis of Hotel compliance to environmental standard

Independent Variable	Unstandardized Coefficient		Standardized Coefficient	t	p-value
	B	Std Error	Beta		
We comply with local and National Environment legislation and wish to do more.	0.620	0.101	1.351	6.127	0.000
We have partially complied with local and National environment legislation but it is not our priority for now.	0.421	0.097	0.918	0.328	0.000
We have gone beyond the nature environmental requirement but this is not one of its priorities.	0.114	0.130	0.246	8.566	0.000
We have complied with some environmental legislation but not all.	0.647	0.076	1.344	8.551	0.000
It is difficult complying with local and National environmental laws.	0.492	0.067	0.991	7.345	0.000

R-Square= 0.537; Adjusted R-Square= 0.321; Standard Error of the Estimate=0.219; Sources: (Field survey, 2022) P-value ≤0.05 is significant

The table 3 shows the available permits issued by KWEPA and NESREA for hotels and the ones the hotels have acquired. Where noise pollution has the highest mean of 4.82, this implies that the hotel has a permit issued for Noise pollution, while E-waste, waste treatment, recycling/destruction, and organic and solid waste follows with the mean of 4.78, 4.76, 4.72 and 4.40 respectively, this shows that the hotel have permit issued for them while less water with the mean of 4.22, this implies that many of the hotels sees the permit issued for less water is not required.

Table 4 shows the acquisition of permit translate to environmental compliance, sometimes true recorded highest mean of 38.0%,this implies that hotel sometimes acts according to the permits acquired by them, followed by rarely true with 36.0%,this shows that some of the hotel does not act according to the permit that they have acquired and some of the hotel does, while usually true and never true recorded the least with 20.0% and 6.0%,it shows that some of the hotels does not act according to the permits acquired.

Table 3: Environmental Permits Issued By KWEPA or NESREA for Hotels

Environmental Permits Issued	Mean±SD
Noise Pollution	4.82±0.72
E-Waste (Transport)	4.78±0.42
Recycling/ destruction	4.72±0.54
Organic and solid waste	4.40±0.60
Less water	4.22±0.68

Sources: (field survey, 2022)

Table 4: Acquisition of Permit by Hotels Translate to Environmental Compliance

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Never True	3	6.0
Rarely True	18	36.0
Sometimes True	19	38.0
Usually True	10	20.0

Sources: (field survey, 2022)

Table 5 indicates the frequency of time been inspected by environment authorities over the last 3 (three) years where occasionally shows the highest (44.0%). This

indicates that the authorities occasionally inspect the hotels. This was followed by "rarely" and very "frequently" with 36.0% and 16.0% respectively, this implies that the authorities inspects the hotel once in a while, at their convenient time, while "never" recorded 4.0% has the lowest frequency, this shows that some of the hotels acknowledge that the authorities have never been to the hotel for inspection.

Table 5: Frequency of time been inspected by environment authorities over the last 3(three) years

Variables	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Very Frequently	8	16.0
Occasionally	22	44.0
Rarely	18	36.0
Never	2	4.0

Sources: (field survey, 2022)

The table 6 shows the environmental standard compliance by Hotels, where we comply with local and National Environment legislation and wish to do more has the highest mean of 4.48, this implies that the hotels have been complying to the regulations of the local and national environment and wish to do more, while we have partially complied with local and national environment legislation but it is not our priority for now has a mean of 4.28, this implies that some of the hotels has partially complied to the regulations but not their priorities for now, where we have gone beyond the nature environmental requirement but this is not one of its priorities has a mean of 4.20,this implies that some hotels has gone beyond the nature environmental requirement but not one of their priorities for now, Also, we have complied with some environmental legislation but not all with the mean of 3.98 this implies that some hotels have been complying to the environmental legislation but not all, while it is difficult complying with local and National environmental laws reveals the lowest mean of 3.20, this shows that some hotels has not been able

to comply with the local and national environmental laws due to some difficulties.

Table 6: Environmental Standard Compliance by Hotels

Environmental Standard Compliance by Hotels	Mean±SD
We comply with local and National Environment legislation and wish to do more.	4.48±0.50
We have partially complied with local and National environment legislation but it is not our priority for now.	4.28±0.88
We have gone beyond the nature environmental requirement but this is not one of its priorities.	4.20±0.78
We have complied with some environmental legislation but not all.	3.98±0.87
It is difficult complying with local and National environmental laws.	3.20±1.07

Sources :(Field Survey, 2022).

The table 7 shows the challenges facing hotel complying to the environmental standard, High certification and implementation cost, uncertain market benefits and others has the highest mean of 3.68, 3.62 and 3.60 respectively, this implies that the hotels does not know the benefits attached to the compliance of environmental standard and the implementation cost to carry out the environmental standard is high.

Table 7: Challenges Facing hotel Compliance with Environmental standard

Challenges of Environmental Standard Compliance by Hotels	Mean ±S.D
Lack of information about environment standard and their benefits.	2.72±1.63
Lack of environmental knowledge and skills among the hotel staff.	1.14±0.61
Lengthily time to apply.	3.34±1.22
High certification and implementation cost.	3.68±0.96
Uncertain market benefits.	3.62±0.88
There are more important sector specific standards.	3.46±0.99
Others	3.60±0.70

Sources: (Field Survey, 2022).

While, there are more important sector specific standards and lengthily time to apply also follows with the mean of 3.46 and 3.34 respectively, this implies that some hotels believes that there some important specific standards that brings in more benefits to them and also complying to environmental standard takes a lengthily time to apply, while lack of information about environment standard and their benefits and lack of environmental knowledge and skills among the hotel staff has the lowest mean of 2.72 and 1.14 respectively, this implies that the some of the hotels are not educated about the environmental standard, the impact and also some hotels does not have skilled employees that can carry out the environmental standard.

*Conclusion***:** Majority of the hotels are not aware about the environmental standard available in the study area, they do not know about the market benefits attached to the compliance of the hotel to the standards. Furthermore, the regulatory agencies has not been fully visiting the hotels for inspections. There are lack of professionals and skills among the employees employed in the hotels to carry out the environmental standard properly; therefore is need for programs that will be for the hotels in other to educate them more about the environmental standard.

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