

## Assessing the Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Waste Management Workers in Ghana

**Authors :** Mensah-Akoto Julius, Kenichi Matsui

**Abstract :** This paper examines the impact of COVID-19 on waste management workers in Ghana. A questionnaire survey was conducted among 60 waste management workers in Accra metropolis, the capital region of Ghana, to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on waste generation, workers' safety in collecting solid waste, and service delivery. To find out correlations between the pandemic and safety of waste management workers, a regression analysis was used. Regarding waste generation, the results show the pandemic led to the highest annual per capita solid waste generation, or 3,390 tons, in 2020. Regarding the safety of workers, the regression analysis shows a significant and inverse association between COVID-19 and waste management services. This means that contaminated wastes may infect field workers with COVID-19 due to their direct exposure. A rise in new infection cases would have a negative impact on the safety and service delivery of the workers. The result also shows that an increase in economic activities negatively impacts waste management workers. The analysis, however, finds no statistical relationship between workers' service deliveries and employees' salaries. The study then discusses how municipal waste management authorities can ensure safe and effective waste collection during the pandemic.

**Keywords :** Covid-19, waste management worker, waste collection, Ghana

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