Synergetic Effect of Proximate and Ultimate Analysis on the Heating Value of Municipal Solid Waste of Ado –Ekiti Metropolis, Southwest Nigeria.

#### ABSTRACT

The samples of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) were sorted ,sundried, pulverized and sieved. The proximate and ultimate analysis carried out on the combustible components of MSW in Ado–Ekiti showed that the moisture content of the components varied from 0.82% in polythene products waste to 12.79% in leaves and vegetables, volatile matter ranged from 6.70% in textiles to 67.12% in bones , the fixed carbon varied from 13.89% in rubber and leather to 81.62% in textiles, ash content ranged from 4.78% in coconut and palm kernel ton 76.48% in charcoal, the total carbon varied from 57.85% in paper and cardboards to 88.37% in textiles. The nitrogen content ranged from 0.36% in polythene products to 5.88% in fruits. Sulphur content also varied from 0.03% in coconut and palm kernel to 0.26% in leaves and vegetable. The lower the moisture content, volatile matter, ash content and nitrogen content the higher the specific energy content of the MSW.

#### Keywords: Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Proximate Analysis, Ultimate Analysis, Specific Energy Content.

#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1.0 Ultimate and Proximate Analysis of Solid Waste Components

The analysis of a waste component typically involves the determination of the percentage of C (Carbon), H (Hydrogen),O(Oxygen),N(Nitrogen),S(Sulphur). Because of the concern over the emission of chlorinated compounds during combustion, the determination of halogens is often included in an ultimate analysis. The results of the ultimate analysis are used to characterize the chemical composition of the organic matter in MSW. They are also used to define the proper mix of waste materials to achieve suitable C/N ratios for biological conversion process. The proximate analysis is concerned with the analysis of the fixed carbon, ash content, the moisture content and the volatile matte present in the waste sample. The prediction of the heating value can be calculated as already established based on Dulong equation (Kathiravale,2002) stated in equation (1.1) and (Kathiravale,2003) (1.2) and (1.3) respectively.

$$HV\left(\frac{kJ}{kg}\right) = 33801(C) + 14415\{(H) - 0.125(O)\} + 9413(S)$$
(1.1)  

$$CV\left(\frac{kCal}{drykg^{-1}}\right) = 244.7(979) + 70.4(11.9)(C) - 64.2(63.7)(N) + 572.2(798.6)(S) + 298.1(46.6)(H) - 46.7(9.63)(O) + 8.07(13.3)(OM)$$
(1.2)

$$CV\left(\frac{kCal}{drykg^{-1}}\right) = 99.5(C) - 136.2(H) + 61.9(O) + 143.1(N) - 1392.6(S)$$
(1.3)

Where HV is a Heating Value whereas C, H, O,N, OM and S are carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, organic matter or volatile matter and sulphur content on the dry basis. A number of multiple regression modeling studies were available in the literature for predicting heating value from the physical content, proximate and ultimate analysis of the municipal solid waste (Wilson 1972 and Chang et al, 2007). An empirical model was developed for the estimation of energy content of the municipal solid waste using their contents of water, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur obtained from the ultimate and proximate analysis of the waste samples as in the equation 1.4.

$$y = \left(1 - \frac{x_1}{100}\right) \left(0.327x_2 + 1.241x_3 - 0.089x_4 - 0.26x_5 + 0.074x_6\right)$$
(1.4)

Where  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5$  and  $x_6$  are the water, carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur content in the analysis and y (MJ/kg) the higher heating value predicted. The model equation gave a high correlation when compared with that of the calorimeter (Akkaya and Demir, 2009).

Higher heating value (HHV) and composition of solid fuels are important properties which define the quantitative energy content and determine the clean and efficient use of these fuels. Energy from waste, which is the major source of renewable energy, not only reduces the dependency on the traditional fossils fuels but also reduces the total greenhouse gas emissions. (Rozainee and Ngo, 2002). Malaysia is obliged to adopt the resolutions of the Kyoto convention on Global Warming by cutting down the releases of greenhouse gas into the environment in the near future. Power generation from renewable energy sources such as municipal solid waste (MSW) could have a significant contribution to achieve this goal (Rozainee and Ngo, 2002).



Plate 1.1 : An indiscriminate dumping of refuse at the King's Market Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

#### 1.1.1 Aim and Objectives of the Research

The aim of this project is to determine the proximate and ultimate analysis of

the municipal solid waste in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State

The specific objectives of the research are to :

- (i) determine the proximate analysis of the municipal solid waste samples .
- (ii) determine the ultimate analysis of the municipal solid waste samples.
- (iii) find out the synergetic effect of the result obtained from the proximate and ultimate analysis on the specific energy content of the municipal solid waste.

#### 2.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1.0 Determination of Proximate Analysis of Solid Waste Sample.

Proximate analysis involves the determination of moisture content, volatile matter, ash content and fixed carbon of the waste sample. All these properties are very important if solid waste samples are to be used as fuel.

#### 2.1.1 Determination of the Percentage Moisture Content of the Municipal

#### Waste Samples.

The weight of silica crucible was measured using the digital weighing balance and recorded  $w_1(g)$ , the spatula was used to fetch 1.00g of pulverized solid waste samples inside the crucible. The content kept inside the silica crucible and the crucible was measured and recorded as  $w_2(g)$ . It was then heated in a muffle furnace at a temperature of  $105^{0}$ C for 1 hours. The crucible is taken out, cooled in a dessicator and weighed. The process of heating ,cooling and weighing is repeated until a constant weight of the Municipal solid waste sample (anhydrous) was obtained  $w_3(g)$ . The equation 2.5 was used to determine the percentage moisture content of the combustible components of the municipal solid waste.

$$\% M.C = \frac{w_2 - w_3}{w_2 - w_1} \times 100$$
(2.5)

Where  $:w_2 - w_3$  is the loss in weight of the solid waste sample.

 $w_2 - w_1$  is the initial weight of the solid waste sample.

The procedures to determine the moisture content of the combustible components of municipal solid waste were replicated three times and the average values were presented in the composite Table 3.1

#### 2.1.2 Experimental Determination of the Percentage Volatile Matter of the Municipal

#### Solid Waste Samples.

A unit weight of moisture free pulverized solid waste sample in the silica crucible was weighed on the digital weighing balance as  $w_3(g)$ . The sample was further heated in a crucible fitted with cover in a muffle furnace at a temperature of  $950^{\circ}$  C for 7 minutes. It was cooled in the dessicator and weighed on the digital weighing balance as  $w_4(g)$ . The percentage volatile matter in the combustible components of the municipal solid waste was determined using equation 2.6.

$$\% V.M = \frac{w_{\rm s} - w_{\rm s}}{w_{\rm s} - w_{\rm s}} \times 100 \tag{2.6}$$

where :  $w_3 - w_4$  is the loss in weight of moisture free waste.

 $w_3-w_1$  is the initial weight of the moisture free solid waste.

The procedures to determine the volatile matter of the combustible components of municipal solid waste were replicated three times and the average values of the volatile matter of each of the components obtained were presented in the composite Table 3.1.

#### 2.1.3 Experimental Determination of the Percentage Ash Content of the Municipal Solid

#### Waste Samples.

The crucible was weighed on the digital weighing balance and recorded as  $w_1(g)$  Spatula was used to fetch 1.00g of solid waste sample into the silica crucible. It was then measured and recorded as  $w_6(g)$ . The sample in the open crucible was thereafter burnt (in the presence of air) at a temperature of  $750^{\circ}$ C in a muffle furnace till a constant weight is achieved. The residue ash was measured and recorded as  $w_7(g)$ . The procedure was repeated three times for each of the combustible components of the municipal solid waste samples. The equation 2.7 was used to determine the percentage of ash content in the combustible components of the municipal solid waste.

% Ash Content in the solid waste = 
$$\frac{w_{\tau} - w_1}{w_{\theta} - w_1}$$
 (2.7)

Where:  $w_7 - w_1$  is the weight of residual ash formed.

 $w_6 - w_1$  is the weight of solid waste initially taken.

This procedure was replicated three times and the average values of % ash in the solid waste of each of the components obtained were presented in the composite Table 3.1.

#### 2.1.4 Determination of the Percentage of the Fixed Carbon of the Municipal Solid

#### Waste Samples.

The percentage fixed carbon was determined directly by deducting the sum total of moisture, volatile matter and ash percentage from 100.

% Fixed Carbon=100– (% moisture content + % volatile matter + % ash) (2.8)

The above procedure was replicated three times and the average values of the fixed carbon of each of the components obtained were presented in the composite Table 3.1.



Plate 2.5: Digital Weighing Balance

#### 2.1.5 Ultimate Analysis of the Waste Samples

Ultimate analysis was also carried out to determine the percentage total carbon (C), percentage nitrogen (N),percentage sulphur (S),percentage hydrogen and oxygen (H<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>) present in the combustible components of the municipal solid waste generated in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.

#### 2.1.6 Determination of the Total Carbon in the Municipal Solid Waste Samples.

The percentage total carbon of the waste sample was determined directly by adding the volatile matter and the fixed carbon together as in the equation 2.9

#### % Total Carbon = Volatile Matter + Fixed Carbon(2.9)

The percentage total carbon of each of the components obtained were also presented in the composite Table 3.2.

#### 2.1.7 Experimental Procedure to Determine the Percentage of Nitrogen in the

#### Municipal Solid Waste Samples.

The nitrogen estimation in the solid waste sample was done by Kjeldahal's method.1.00g of the prepared solid waste sample was measured and recorded as  $w_8(g)$ . The solid waste sample was heated with

concentrated  $H_2SO_4$  (tetraoxosulphate (vi) acid) in the presence of  $K_2SO_4$ (Potassium tetraoxosulphate (vi) salt) and CuSO<sub>4</sub> (Copper (ii) tetraoxosulphate (vi) salt) in a long necked flask called Kjeldahal's flask thereby converting the nitrogen in the solid waste sample into ammonium sulphate. When a clear solution is obtained that is when all the nitrogen present is converted to ammonium sulphate, the solution was treated with 50% NaOH (Sodium hydroxide) solution. The ammonia formed was distilled over and absorbed in a known quantity of standard  $H_2SO_4$  solution. The volume of an un-used acid was then determined by titration against a standard solution of NaOH. The amount of acid neutralized by liberated NH<sub>3</sub> from the solid waste sample was then evaluated, the equations 2.10 and 2.11 were then used to determine the titre value and the percentage of nitrogen in the solid waste sample respectively.

(Titre Value ) V t = 
$$V_1 - V_2$$
 (cm<sup>3</sup>) (2.10)

where :  $V_1$  is the volume of  $H_2SO_4$  neutralized (cm<sup>3</sup>)

 $V_2$  is the volume of  $H_2SO_4$  neutralized in determination (cm<sup>3</sup>)

 $w_8$  = mass of the solid waste sample (g)

% Nitrogen in the solid waste sample = 
$$\frac{V_{t \times Normality \times 1.4}}{W_{g}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$
 (2.11)

The above procedure was replicated two times and the average values of the % nitrogen content of each of the components obtained were computed and presented in the composite Table 3.2.

#### 2.1.8 Experimental Procedure to Determine the Percentage of Sulphur in the

#### Municipal Solid Waste Samples.

25 ml of the weighed samples were dissolved in water and pipette into 50ml standard flasks followed by 20 ml gelatine BaCl<sub>2</sub> solution and made up to 50 ml mark. The solutions were allowed to stand for 30 minutes. The absorbance of the standard solution ( $Na_2SO_4$ ) and the samples were read from the spectrophotometer at 420 nm. The graphs of absorbance against concentration of standards were plotted and sample concentration evaluated from the graph. The equation 2.12 was used to calculate % sulphur in

the solid waste samples. The above procedures were repeated two times for each of the samples and the mean values obtained were presented in the composite Table 3.2.

% of sulphur in the solid waste =  $\frac{R \times V \times Df}{mass \ of \ sample \ used}$  (2.12) (Udo and Ogunwale,1986)

where : R is the Graph reading

V is the Total Volume = 25 ml

Df is the Dilution factor

#### 2.1.9 Determination of % of Hydrogen and Oxygen in the waste sample

The percentage of hydrogen and oxygen in the waste sample was obtained analytically by the difference between the sum of percentage total carbon, nitrogen , sulphur, and 100. The results was presented in the composite Table 3.2.

% Hydrogen + % Oxygen = 
$$100 - (\% \text{ of } C + N + S)$$
 (2.13)

#### 3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This study was designed to determine the quantity as well as the synergetic effect of the proximate and ultimate analysis on the specific energy content of the municipal solid waste of Ado-Ekiti , Ekiti State obtained by Rominiyi, (2015). The results of the sorting processes, percentage composition ,classification, proximate and ultimate analysis, the energy content of the municipal solid waste and the graphical illustrations of the combined effect of proximate and ultimate analysis were also presented.

S/N	Components	%	% Volatile	%	%	Total
		Moisture	Matter	Fixed	Ash	
		Content		Carbon		
1	Bones	3.58	67.12	6.43	64.27	100
2	Food waste	5.90	9.49	76.95	7.66	100
3	Rubber and Leather	0.86	53.05	13.89	32.20	100
4	Polythene products waste	0.82	9.18	78.23	11.77	100
5	Paper and Cardboards	5.57	36.88	20.97	36.58	100
6	Textiles waste	1.80	6.70	81.62	9.88	100
7	Leaves and Vegetables	12.79	24.87	43.07	19.27	100
8	Animals' dungs and Excreta	11.33	24.00	46.00	18.67	100
9	Wood waste	9.40	12.24	69.64	8.72	100
10	Charcoal	6.73	11.50	70.21	11.57	100
11	Fruit waste	9.55	20.60	55.38	14.47	100
12	Coconut and palm kernel waste	8.91	7.94	78.37	4.78	100
13	Tuberous peels waste	9.55	7.65	75.40	7.40	100

#### Table 3.1: Proximate Analysis of Municipal Solid Waste Samples Results

The composite table 3.1 shows that the percentage moisture content of the components of the Municipal Solid Waste varies from 0.82 % in polythene products waste to 12.79 % in leaves and vegetables ,volatile matter ranges from 6.70 % in textiles waste to 67.27 % in bones waste , the ash content ranges from 4.78 % in coconut and palm kernel waste to 67.48 % in bones waste while the fixed carbon ranges 6.43% in bones and leather to 81.62 % in textiles waste .The total carbon ranges from 57.85 % in paper and cardboards to 88.32 % in textiles waste.

S/N	Components	%	%	%	%	Total
		C	$N_2$	S	H <sub>2</sub> + O <sub>2</sub>	
1	Bones	73.55	ND	0.08	26.37	100
2	Food waste	86.44	1.40	0.06	12.10	100
3	Rubber and	66.94	2.69	0.19	30.18	100
	Leather					
4	Polythene	87.41	0.36	0.16	12.07	100
	products waste					
5	Paper and	57.85	0.45	0.13	41.57	100
	Cardboards					
6	Textiles waste	88.32	1.16	0.07	10.45	100
7	Leaves and	67.94	1.43	0.26	30.37	100
	Vegetables					
8	Animals'	70.00	1.61	0.19	28.20	100
	dungs and					
	Excreta					
9	Wood waste	81.88	0.71	0.06	17.35	100
10	Charcoal	81.71.	1.15	0.05	17.09	100
11	Fruit waste	75.98	5.88	0.14	18.00	100
12	Coconut and	86.31	0.89	0.03	12.77	100
	Palm kernel					
	waste					
13	Tuberous	83.05	1.42	0.07	15.46	100
	peels waste					

### Table 3.2 : Ultimate Analysis of Municipal Solid Waste in Ado – Ekiti , Ekiti State

Table 3.3: The Specific Energy Content (kJ/kg) of the Combustible Components of the Municipal

Solid Waste Generated in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

S/N	Components	Specific Energy Content
		(kJ/kg)
1	Bones	6,994.39
2	Food waste	14,176.14
3	Rubber and Leather	20,946.52
4	Polythene products waste	35,959.00
5	Paper and Cardboards	11,210.00
6	Textiles waste	17,800.48
7	Leaves and vegetables	14,069.37
8	Animals' dungs and Excreta	13,848.16
9	Wood waste	16,795.96
10	Charcoal	18,711.70
11	Fruit waste	14,328.96
12	Coconut and palm kernel waste	13,944.80
13	Tuberous peels waste	14,574.95

Source : (Rominiyi, 2015)



# Fig.3.1 : Variation of % Moisture Content with Specific Energy Content (kJ/kg) of Combustible Components of MSW.

It can be inferred from the result of proximate analysis in the fig.3.1 that the lower the moisture content of the municipal solid waste above, the higher the specific energy content.Polythene products waste have the least moisture content of 0.82% hence the higher calorific value of 35,959.00kJ/kg, rubber and leather has a moisture content of 0.86% with the corresponding specific energy content of 20,946.52 kJ/kg. The leaves and vegetable waste have the moisture content of 12.79% and specific energy content of 14,069.37kJ/kg.





Also in the fig.3.2 it was observed that the higher the volatile matter, the higher the tendency the waste sample to catch fire easily by lowering the ignition temperature which invariably lower the heating value of the solid waste. Bones and textile waste have 67.12% and 6.70% volatile matter with corresponding 6,994.39 kJ/day and 17,800 kJ/day specific energy content respectively while polythene products waste of 9.18% , Charcoal waste 11.50% and Tuberous-peels waste 7.65% volatile matter have calorific values of 35,959.00 kJ/kg, 18,711.70 kJ/kg and 14,574.95 kJ/kg respectively.





Fig. 3.3 : Variation of % Fixed Carbon with Specific Energy Content (kJ/kg) of the MSW

#### Fig. 3.4: Variation of % Ash Content against the Specific Energy Content (kJ/kg) of MSW

The above bar charts in fig 3.3 and fig.3.4 showed the percentage ash content and that % fixed Carbon of the municipal solid waste It shows that the higher the fixed carbon the higher the specific energy content while the higher ash content results into lower specific energy content of the waste sample.



# Fig.3.5: Variation of % Total Carbon against Specific Energy Content (kJ/kg) of the MSW.

The fig.3.3 and fig.3.5 above vindicated that the higher the fixed carbon and total carbon present in the solid waste samples, the higher its specific energy content. The polymeric materials, textiles waste, Coconut and palm kernel waste, Charcoal, food waste, fruit waste and others have very high percentage fixed carbon and total carbon, hence high specific energy content and so also the lower the percentage of fixed carbon and total carbon present in the municipal solid waste sample, the lower the heating value.



Fig. 3.6: Variation of % Sulphur Content against the Specific Energy Content (kJ/kg) of MSW



Fig.3.7 : Variation of % Nitrogen Content against the Specific Energy Content (kJ/kg) of MSW

High percentage of sulphur favour a high heating value of the municipal solid waste except in some

few cases of polythene products waste, textiles waste and tuberous peels waste whereas the higher

percentage of nitrogen lower the heating value of the solid waste sample and vice-versa.

#### CONCLUSION .

The energy content of the components of municipal solid waste sample varies with their elemental

compositions.

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