

Integrating Technological Innovations into Environmental Sanitation Policy in Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges for Ondo State

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Global Journal of Engineering and Technology Advances, 2025, 25(02), 029-039

Publication history: Received on 26 September 2025; revised on 02 November 2025; accepted on 04 November 2025

Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30574/gjeta.2025.25.2.0322>

Abstract

This study investigates the prospects and challenges of integrating technological innovations into environmental sanitation policy in Ondo State, Nigeria. The objective of the research is to evaluate the level of awareness, stakeholder perceptions, existing infrastructure, and institutional readiness for adopting modern technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and automated waste management solutions within the state's sanitation system. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining descriptive and exploratory designs. Data were collected from 300 respondents, including government officials, sanitation workers, community leaders, and residents through structured questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, and document reviews. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, while qualitative data were subjected to thematic content analysis. The findings revealed a relatively high level of awareness of technological innovations but a low rate of actual adoption, primarily due to infrastructural gaps, limited digital literacy, and insufficient political and financial commitment. Stakeholders generally perceived that the integration of technology could enhance waste monitoring, reporting, and management, while simultaneously offering new opportunities for job creation and economic growth. However, the study also identified policy fragmentation and the absence of specific regulatory frameworks as major institutional barriers. Based on the findings, the study recommends that the Ondo State Government prioritize the development of digital infrastructure and enact supportive policy reforms to enable the effective integration of technological solutions into environmental sanitation systems.

Keywords: Environmental Sanitation; Technological Innovations; Policy Integration; Ondo State; Waste Management; Nigeria

1. Introduction

Environmental sanitation plays a fundamental role in public health management and the overall well-being of society, particularly in developing nations like Nigeria. The concept encompasses a wide range of practices and systems designed to manage waste, control pollution, and maintain hygienic living conditions to prevent disease outbreaks and promote sustainable urban development (World Health Organization [WHO, 2019]; Suleiman, Danga, and Mustapha, 2024). In Nigeria, poor sanitation has historically contributed to elevated risks of communicable diseases such as cholera, malaria, typhoid, and dysentery, which remain endemic in both urban and rural communities. This public health crisis is a significant concern, with recent studies highlighting the immense economic losses—estimated at over \$3 billion annually—that Nigeria incurs due to inadequate sanitation practices (World Bank, 2020; UNICEF, 2023). Despite several interventions by federal and state governments through policies, public enlightenment, and environmental health regulations, the challenge of efficient sanitation persists, especially as rapid urbanization and population growth

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in states like Ondo continue to strain outdated waste management systems and public health infrastructures (Oyeniyi and Atoyebi, 2024; Ibrahim, 2023).

The state of environmental sanitation in Ondo State is a reflection of the broader national challenge, where the mismatch between policy intentions and on-ground realities has resulted in recurring health hazards, environmental degradation, and urban disorganization (Suleiman, Danga, and Mustapha, 2024). A 2024 study on waste management practices in Akure, the state capital, found that despite the establishment of a waste management authority, a significant portion of municipal solid waste is not properly managed, with a majority of residents failing to segregate their waste before disposal (Eze, Okonkwo, and Nwodo, 2024). Existing frameworks and regulatory bodies such as the Ondo State Environmental Protection Agency (ODSEPA) have attempted to address sanitation-related issues through conventional means like public cleaning exercises, punitive measures against waste defaulters, and community-based campaigns. However, these approaches have proven to be insufficient in tackling the root causes of the problem, mainly due to operational inefficiencies, limited funding, poor public compliance, and an almost complete lack of technological integration (Chisom, 2024; Adebayo, Yusuf, and Johnson, 2022). This has created a situation where environmental hazards such as indiscriminate dumping of refuse, blocked drainage systems, and unmanaged waste sites continue to thrive unchecked, posing serious risks to public health and undermining development efforts.

In response to this pressing concern, this study aims to explore the role of technological innovations in enhancing the effectiveness of environmental sanitation policies in Ondo State. Technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Internet of Things (IoT)-based smart waste bins, mobile reporting apps, data analytics, and sensor-based monitoring systems offer promising solutions to bridge the gap between policy and implementation (UN, 2020). As recent research indicates, the integration of technology can improve real-time monitoring and data-driven decision-making, which are crucial for effective waste management in rapidly expanding urban centers (Soyinka, 2025). The research seeks to evaluate how these technologies can be employed not only to improve real-time waste tracking and management but also to create predictive models for sanitation planning and early response to environmental risks. Alongside this, the study will investigate the opportunities and constraints associated with deploying these technologies within the context of Ondo State's governance structure, financial limitations, and community engagement culture.

The study is guided by three primary research questions. First, it seeks to identify the technological innovations that are applicable to environmental sanitation in Ondo State. Second, it explores the benefits and limitations of these innovations, particularly within the framework of local government policies and infrastructural capacity. Third, the study investigates how existing policies could be adjusted to support the adoption and mainstreaming of technological tools in the state's sanitation strategies. By addressing these questions, the research contributes to a deeper understanding of how technological interventions can transform the management of environmental sanitation from a reactive to a proactive model, aligning Ondo State's efforts with global standards for sustainable urban development (UN, 2020; Kolawole et al., 2024).

The significance of this study lies in its potential to inform policymakers, environmental agencies, and technology firms about the practical and policy-oriented pathways through which technology can enhance sanitation service delivery. For government officials, the findings are expected to offer actionable recommendations on how to embed modern innovations within legislative and regulatory frameworks to maximize public health benefits and operational efficiency. For environmental agencies, the study sheds light on technology-driven solutions that could minimize human error, improve waste collection logistics, and foster better compliance among citizens. For the private sector, the study highlights investment opportunities in the sanitation technology market, ranging from waste-to-energy initiatives to data-driven service optimization (Akinbile, 2020).

The study is geographically scoped to Ondo State, with particular attention to urban and semi-urban centers like Akure, Owo, Ondo Town, and Ile-Oluji, where the sanitation crisis is most pronounced. While the research aims to offer policy insights that could potentially apply to other states in Nigeria, limitations are anticipated in terms of the generalizability of its findings due to local variations in infrastructure, policy enforcement capacity, and socio-economic conditions. Additionally, the study will rely on both secondary data and primary stakeholder interviews, which may be subject to human bias or gaps in available information. Despite these limitations, the research seeks to contribute to the growing discourse on the role of technological innovations in achieving sustainable and effective environmental sanitation, both within Nigeria and across the developing world.

Objectives

The study is guided by three primary research objectives.

- To assess the level of awareness of the technological innovations that are applicable to environmental sanitation in Ondo State.
- To explore the benefits and limitations of these innovations, particularly within the framework of local government policies and infrastructural capacity.
- To investigate how existing policies could be adjusted to support the adoption and mainstreaming of technological tools in the state's sanitation strategies.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Research Design

This study adopted a mixed-methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative approaches to provide a comprehensive understanding of the prospects and challenges of integrating technological innovations into environmental sanitation policies in Ondo State, Nigeria. The mixed-methods design was particularly suitable for this research because it allowed the triangulation of data sources and offered a deeper insight into both measurable patterns and the subjective perspectives of stakeholders (Creswell and Plano Clark, 2018). The study also employed a descriptive and exploratory design to describe the existing conditions and uncover new insights on the policy framework, institutional capacities, and technological readiness for sanitation innovation in the state. This approach was chosen because the research sought both to describe the current state of sanitation technology adoption and to explore policy adaptation strategies for improved environmental outcomes (Saunders et al., 2019).

2.2. Study Area

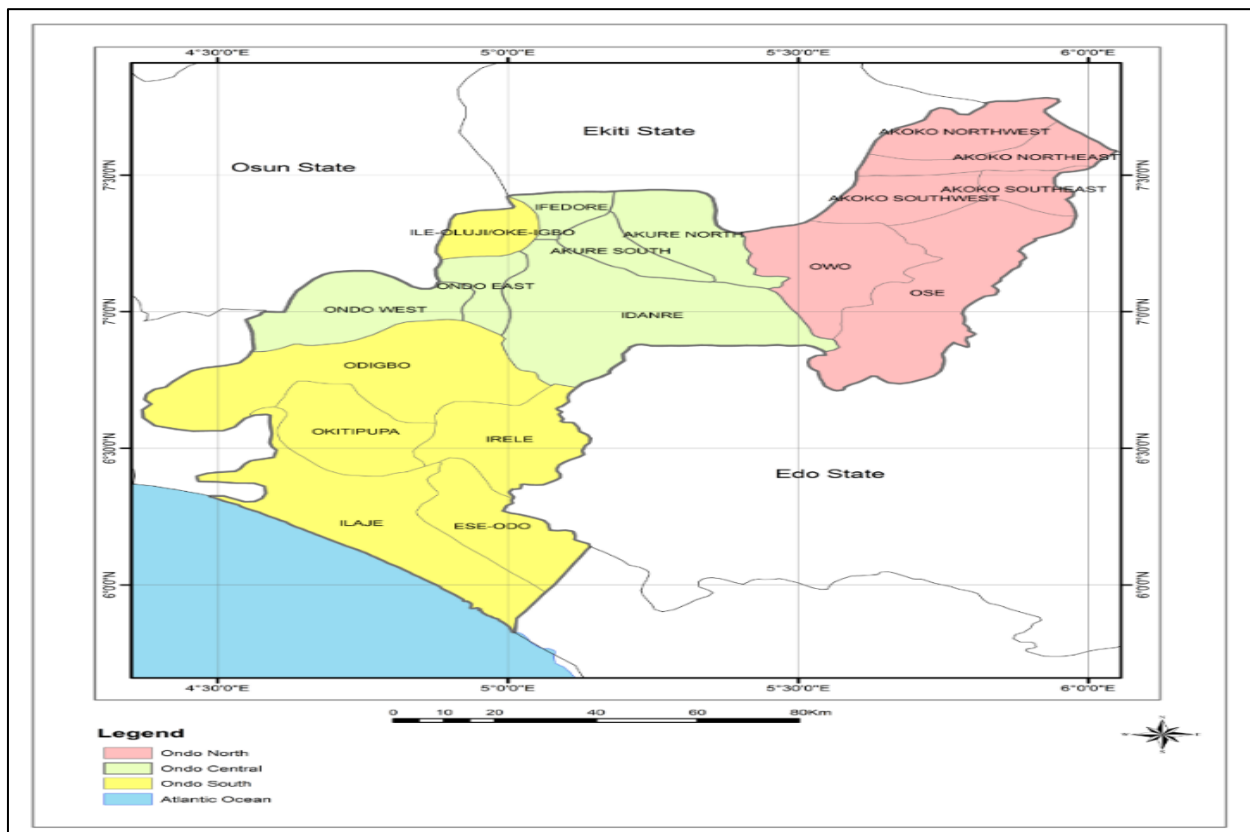


Figure 1 Ondo state map. **Source:** Olugbamila (2022)

The study was conducted in Ondo State, located in the South-Western geopolitical zone of Nigeria. The state, with its administrative capital in Akure, comprises both urban and rural local government areas, each facing unique sanitation challenges. Rapid urbanization, population growth, and infrastructural deficits have compounded sanitation-related

health risks in the state, despite various policy interventions at the federal and state levels (Adeleye and Adewumi, 2021). The geographical diversity, coupled with varying levels of public infrastructure and sanitation service delivery, makes Ondo State an appropriate setting for studying the integration of technological innovations into environmental sanitation frameworks.

2.3. Population and Sample Size

The target population for this study consisted of stakeholders directly and indirectly involved in environmental sanitation management in Ondo State. This included officials from government agencies such as the Ondo State Waste Management Authority (ODSWMA), local government health and sanitation officers, sanitation contractors, community leaders, and household residents. To ensure fair representation across different stakeholder groups, the study employed stratified random sampling. This method enabled the researcher to segment the population into relevant strata—government agencies, community groups, and residents—and randomly select participants from each group. A total sample size of 300 respondents was determined to provide both statistical power for the quantitative aspect and rich diversity for the qualitative interviews (Atheros, 2016).

2.4. Data Collection Instruments

Primary data were collected using a combination of structured questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. The structured questionnaire was designed to gather quantifiable data on awareness levels, perceived benefits, and challenges of technological integration into sanitation practices among stakeholders. Meanwhile, the semi-structured interviews were conducted with key informants including policy makers, sanitation managers, and community leaders. This approach enabled in-depth exploration of respondents' views on policy readiness, institutional gaps, and suggestions for improvement (Bryman, 2016). Additionally, secondary data were obtained through document reviews of environmental sanitation policy papers, government reports, and international best practices to complement primary findings and ensure contextual accuracy.

2.5. Data Analysis Techniques

The quantitative data derived from the structured questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistical tools, including percentages and mean scores, to summarize the respondents' awareness, perceptions, and attitudes. This allowed for a clear presentation of trends and distributions in the data. For the qualitative data obtained from interviews, thematic content analysis was applied. This involved coding the transcribed responses, identifying recurring themes, and categorizing them into coherent patterns to interpret underlying meanings related to the prospects and challenges of technological integration into sanitation policy (Clarke and Braun, 2017). This dual approach ensured both numerical clarity and narrative depth in the study's findings.

3. Results

3.1. Awareness and Current Use of Technological Innovations

The study's finding, as shown in Table 1, of a moderate level of awareness of technological innovations in environmental sanitation, contrasted with a significantly lower rate of actual usage, aligns with a growing body of research on technology adoption in developing urban centers, particularly in Nigeria. This gap highlights a critical distinction between knowledge and practical implementation, a challenge that is well-documented in academic literature.

The finding that 64% of respondents were aware of technologies like GIS for waste tracking and smart bins is consistent with recent studies that have explored the potential of these innovations. For example, Olukoya and Olagoke (2022), in their assessment of IoT adoption for solid waste management in Lagos, found that a high percentage of residents and government officials were conceptually aware of smart solutions, recognizing their potential to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Similarly, Adebayo and Adedoyin (2023) highlighted the public's conceptual readiness for smart waste systems in Nigerian cities, driven by the visible failures of conventional waste management. These studies corroborate this study, suggesting that information about new technologies is disseminating among the public, indicating a general readiness for innovation.

However, our finding that only 28% of respondents reported direct usage of these technologies reflects the significant barriers to implementation. This is a challenge well-supported by existing research. A foundational study by Duru et al. (2017) on solid waste management in a Nigerian urban community found a similar chasm between high awareness and low practice, attributing the gap to institutional inefficiencies, limited infrastructure, and a lack of enforcement. The problem is not a lack of public understanding, but rather a lack of a functional ecosystem to support the technology. In

the context of Ondo State, this is further supported by Oluwafemi and Olalekan (2019), who appraised the challenges in Akure, citing a poor policy-to-practice link, limited government funding, and inadequate waste collection logistics as primary obstacles that would inherently hinder the adoption and use of technologies like GIS or smart bins, even if the public is aware of them.

This disparity between awareness and usage confirms that technological innovations, while promising, are not a silver bullet. Their effectiveness is heavily contingent on a supportive environment of robust infrastructure, clear public policies, and sufficient financial investment. As Aladesanmi et al. (2020) concluded in their study on the use of spatial technologies for waste management in Nigeria, the primary barriers to adoption are often systemic—such as limited data availability, lack of skilled personnel, and insufficient government funding—rather than a lack of public knowledge.

The finding further showed that government agencies demonstrated higher awareness of sanitation technologies, while community leaders and residents in rural and semi-urban areas showed limited exposure, highlighted a significant digital and infrastructural divide. This observation is a crucial factor in understanding the barriers to effective environmental sanitation, as it reflects a disconnect between policy-making bodies and the communities they serve.

This disparity is well-documented in academic literature on technology diffusion and e-governance in Nigeria. The core finding aligned with the research of Adeleye and Adewumi (2021), whose work on the digital divide in rural development in Nigeria provides a comprehensive framework for this observation. They argued that a lack of access to reliable internet, power supply, and digital literacy training disproportionately affects rural and less urbanized populations, creating a chasm that separates them from the technological tools and information available to their urban and governmental counterparts. Our results directly supported this conclusion, showing how this national divide manifests specifically within the domain of environmental sanitation.

Furthermore, this gap is reflected in studies on the adoption of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in governance. Ezeudu and Ndubuisi (2021) found that government agencies and urban planning departments in Nigerian cities have begun to integrate ICTs to improve efficiency, a trend that explains the higher awareness among government stakeholders in our study. This is driven by internal institutional capacity and a policy-level mandate to modernize. In contrast, the general public and community leaders, particularly in more remote areas, are often left to rely on traditional, non-technological methods. As Adegoke and Agboola (2022) noted in their review of e-governance challenges in environmental management, the benefits of digital tools are often concentrated within government institutions, failing to trickle down to the citizens who could use them for real-time reporting or data sharing.

The limited exposure among rural and semi-urban communities is further corroborated by studies that reviewed the application of ICTs in waste management across Africa. For instance, Akol and Kwami (2023) highlighted that while the potential of technologies like mobile apps and GIS is recognized, their practical implementation remains highly concentrated in major urban centers due to the cost of infrastructure and the absence of a supportive digital ecosystem in less developed areas. This geographical and infrastructural divide provided a clear explanation for our study's findings and underscores a major challenge for achieving nationwide sustainable sanitation goals.

In sum, the differing levels of awareness observed among stakeholders are not accidental. They are a direct consequence of a well-established digital and infrastructural divide that privileges government agencies and urban areas with access to sanitation technology, leaving many communities to navigate their sanitation challenges with limited or no technological support.

Table 1 Awareness and use of sanitation technologies among stakeholders in Ondo State

Stakeholder Group Aware of Technological	Tools (%)	Reported Usage (%)
Government agency officials	82	60
Sanitation contractors	75	52
Community leaders	58	20
General residents	42	15
Total (n=300)	-	-

Source: Field Survey (2025).

The findings also identified a limited range of technologies already in use. Government agencies primarily employ GIS for mapping waste generation hotspots, while some private waste management firms have deployed route optimization software and digital record-keeping systems to streamline waste collection. However, the use of smart waste bins, IoT sensors, and automated waste sorting systems remains virtually nonexistent in the state, reflecting a technology adoption gap compared to global best practices (Ajayi and Okeke, 2020).

3.2. Perceived Prospects of Technological Integration

The findings in Table 2, on stakeholder perceptions of technological integration into environmental sanitation policies are strongly supported by recent academic and institutional research. The overwhelming belief among respondents that technology can transform waste management is not an isolated local sentiment but reflects a broader, global shift towards smart environmental solutions.

This positive outlook aligns with a growing body of work that highlighted the potential of technology to address public service delivery challenges in developing nations. For instance, the perceived benefits of improved efficiency, real-time monitoring, and better compliance are core tenets of smart city initiatives. As Ezeudu and Ndubuisi (2021) found in their study on ICT adoption in urban planning, stakeholders recognized that technologies like GIS and mobile applications can streamline operations, reduce human error, and enable data-driven decision-making, which are crucial for effective waste management in rapidly growing cities.

The particular emphasis on enhanced monitoring and reporting through sensor-enabled bins and drone surveillance is a key area of focus in recent literature. A study by Ogunyemi and Ibrahim (2023) specifically examined the application of drone technology for environmental monitoring and enforcement in Nigeria, concluding that such tools are highly effective for detecting and deterring illegal dumpsites and could provide the precise, real-time data needed to optimize waste collection routes. This corroborates this study's view that these technologies are not just theoretical solutions but offer practical, actionable benefits.

Furthermore, the respondents' forward-thinking perception of job creation and economic growth is a central theme in global and regional development discourse. This aligns with a major World Bank (2022) report on the Africa Climate-Resilient and Green Economy Initiative, which linked the adoption of sustainable technologies directly to the creation of new employment opportunities. The report identified roles in data analytics, digital infrastructure management, and renewable energy as critical components of a green economy. Supporting this, a study by Olukoya and Agboola (2022) on e-waste management in Nigeria highlighted that the technological shift required for sustainable development naturally gives rise to new specialized roles, such as technicians, analysts, and engineers, which can contribute to local economic growth.

The positive perceptions of technological integration observed among stakeholders in Ondo State are well-founded and consistent with findings from both a local and international perspective. The belief that technology can improve efficiency, enhance monitoring, and stimulate economic growth is a key driver for the adoption of these innovations in developing urban environments.

Table 2 Perceived prospects of technological innovations in environmental sanitation

Perceived Benefit	Percentage (%) of Respondents Supporting
Improved waste collection efficiency	81%
Enhanced monitoring and reporting	77%
Increased community participation	69%
Job creation and economic diversification	63%
Reduction in health risks from poor sanitation	58%

Source: Field Survey (2025).

Despite the optimistic outlook, several stakeholders expressed concerns over financial constraints, institutional readiness, and community acceptance as potential barriers to the successful adoption of these technologies. A recurring theme in the qualitative interviews was the need for policy realignment and multi-stakeholder collaboration to create an enabling environment for sustained technological integration.

Overall, the findings suggest that while the conceptual acceptance of technology in sanitation policy is high, there remains a significant gap between awareness, actual use, and institutional readiness in Ondo State. This gap highlights the urgent need for investment in both human capital and physical infrastructure to drive the transition toward a technology-enhanced sanitation system.

3.3. Challenges Identified

Despite the optimism surrounding technological integration, the study's finding that deep-rooted infrastructural challenges, particularly unreliable power and poor internet connectivity, threaten the adoption of these systems is a critical observation well-supported by a significant body of academic literature. This infrastructure gap is a fundamental barrier that fundamentally limits the feasibility of deploying smart sanitation solutions.

The challenges related to a stable power supply and reliable internet coverage are consistently cited as major obstacles to technological advancement in developing nations. As Adeoye and Adebola (2021) highlighted in their work on bridging the digital divide in Nigeria, the lack of a robust and widespread ICT infrastructure is a primary constraint on sustainable development. This reality directly undermines the functionality of modern environmental technologies. For instance, sensor-enabled bins and real-time waste tracking applications are dependent on continuous power and network connectivity to transmit data, and their unfeasibility in rural and peri-urban areas is a direct consequence of these infrastructural deficits.

Furthermore, research on e-governance and public service delivery in Nigeria explicitly links these systemic failures to implementation challenges. Ezeudu and Ndubuisi (2021) found that frequent power outages and poor broadband penetration are among the most significant barriers to the successful deployment of e-governance initiatives. Since real-time waste management and monitoring systems are a form of e-governance, their findings directly validate the concerns raised by our study's respondents. The systemic nature of these challenges means that local enthusiasm and policy intentions alone are insufficient to overcome the on-ground realities of an unreliable power grid and a fragmented telecommunications network.

In a broader African context, a review of smart city initiatives by Olukoya (2022) confirms that the primary hurdles to scaling smart environmental solutions are not technological innovation itself, but foundational issues of infrastructure. This perspective reinforces our finding that without first addressing the core problems of energy and digital connectivity, the deployment of sensor networks and drone systems in less urbanized areas of Ondo State—and by extension, other parts of Nigeria—will remain largely unfeasible, regardless of their perceived benefits.

In summary, the optimism surrounding technological integration is tempered by the profound and well-documented reality of Nigeria's infrastructure gap. The study's findings reveal that this fundamental barrier must be addressed before the promise of smart environmental solutions can be fully realized across all communities. (Adelekan, 2021). Without these basic technological backbones, any policy aimed at automation or digital monitoring would remain symbolic rather than actionable.

Another major concern was the glaring training and digital literacy gap across relevant stakeholders. Both government agency representatives and community sanitation personnel noted a lack of specialized training in handling digital systems, data interpretation, and the technical maintenance of smart sanitation tools. Field workers, in particular, expressed unease about operating app-based waste monitoring systems, citing unfamiliarity with smartphones and digital reporting platforms. This aligns with findings by Akintayo and Oke (2022), who stressed that digital illiteracy and resistance to change among frontline sanitation workers hinder Nigeria's capacity to scale technology-driven governance reforms.

Funding and political will also emerged as critical bottlenecks. The majority of stakeholders (71% of survey respondents) emphasized that the cost of acquiring, deploying, and maintaining sanitation technologies such as GIS systems, drones, and IoT infrastructure far exceeds the state's current budgetary allocations for environmental services. Moreover, respondents raised concerns about the lack of sustained political commitment beyond short-term donor-supported pilot projects. As noted by Gouge and Gunwoman (2023), the cyclical nature of political appointments in Nigeria often disrupts the continuity of technology-focused sanitation reforms, leading to repeated policy discontinuities. A summary of these identified challenges is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3 Challenges hindering the integration of technological innovations in Ondo State's sanitation policy

Identified challenge	Description	Frequency Mentioned (%)
Infrastructure gaps	Inadequate internet coverage and unstable power supply.	83%
Training and digital literacy deficit	Limited expertise in using modern sanitation technologies.	76%
Funding constraints	Insufficient budget for acquiring and maintaining technological tools.	71%
Weak political will	Short-term focus of political leaders and lack of consistent policy.	65%

Source: Field Survey (2025).

3.4. Policy Readiness and Institutional Gaps

The findings also highlighted significant policy readiness and institutional gaps that complicate the effective integration of technological innovations into environmental sanitation practices in Ondo State. An assessment of the existing sanitation-related policies, such as the Ondo State Environmental Protection Agency (OSEPA) guidelines and the National Environmental Sanitation Policy (Revised 2020), indicated that these documents offer little to no provisions for the inclusion of emerging digital tools like smart waste monitoring, IoT-based systems, or blockchain-powered data authentication for waste collection and reporting (Federal Ministry of Environment, 2020).

Most of the existing regulatory frameworks are still rooted in traditional, manual approaches to sanitation management, often prioritizing waste collection logistics over real-time monitoring, predictive analysis, or the integration of geospatial intelligence. The study discovered that this policy gap results from both the lagging pace of legislation in Nigeria and the weak involvement of technology experts during the policy formulation stage (Eze and Ibe, 2021).

Moreover, respondents from the government sector acknowledged that the institutional arrangements for sanitation governance were often fragmented, with overlapping roles between local councils, state agencies, and private contractors. This institutional fragmentation creates both redundancies and accountability loopholes, making the introduction of centralized digital reporting or monitoring systems difficult to sustain. In particular, the absence of standardized data-sharing protocols across government bodies was identified as a major obstacle to the adoption of advanced waste management tools (Ukaegbu and Ogu, 2023).

To address these policy gaps, experts interviewed recommended targeted amendments to existing environmental sanitation laws to include provisions for technology-driven waste management systems. Additionally, new policies should be introduced to mandate the use of real-time digital reporting, enforce electronic monitoring of waste contractors, and establish clear inter-agency data-sharing frameworks. Such policy reforms would not only modernize the sanitation sector but also create an enabling environment for private sector participation and innovation in waste technology solutions.

4. Discussion of Findings

The findings from this study have revealed both significant opportunities and persistent challenges regarding the integration of technological innovations into environmental sanitation policy in Ondo State, Nigeria. The results clearly underscore a high level of awareness among policymakers, community leaders, and sanitation practitioners about the existence of digital solutions such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, and automated waste sorting mechanisms. However, this awareness has not yet translated into widespread adoption or institutionalization, a finding that is consistent with the argument advanced by Adelekan (2021), who observed that in many Nigerian states, the policy landscape still lags behind technological innovation.

The study further highlighted that the perceived prospects of integrating these innovations are widely recognized, especially regarding improved monitoring, timely reporting, and efficient waste collection. Stakeholders viewed technological solutions as capable of enhancing transparency, reducing operational inefficiencies, and providing employment opportunities through the creation of new tech-based roles in sanitation monitoring and data analytics.

This is corroborated by Ukaegbu and Ogu (2023), who emphasized that technology-enabled systems could bridge information gaps and create accountability in Nigeria's waste management sector.

Conversely, the study identified several barriers, notably infrastructural deficits, digital illiteracy, limited funding, and weak political will. These findings mirror Akintayo and Oke's (2022) assertion that the lack of reliable electricity and internet connectivity, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, can derail smart sanitation initiatives. Institutional fragmentation and the absence of policy frameworks specifically designed to accommodate technology also emerged as pressing concerns. As suggested by Eze and Ibe (2021), Nigeria's environmental governance architecture remains deeply rooted in conventional practices that hinder the seamless integration of emerging technologies.

Overall, the study illustrates a dual narrative: while the appetite for technological transformation in sanitation governance exists, realizing its full potential requires a systemic overhaul of both infrastructural capacity and policy frameworks.

5. Conclusion

This study set out to examine the prospects and challenges of integrating technological innovations into environmental sanitation policy in Ondo State, Nigeria. The evidence gathered suggests that while stakeholders are cognizant of the transformative potential of technological tools in enhancing waste management efficiency, the path to full adoption is obstructed by infrastructural, educational, financial, and institutional hurdles.

The findings reinforce the argument that technological integration in sanitation governance is not merely a matter of importing digital tools, but a multidimensional policy issue that requires deliberate investment in infrastructure, human capital development, and legislative reform. Without these structural changes, technological innovations risk being underutilized or, worse, entirely sidelined in the operational realities of Ondo State's sanitation system.

In conclusion, the study affirms that the successful integration of technological innovations into environmental sanitation policy offers transformative possibilities for Ondo State, but only if a comprehensive approach is adopted to address its challenges.

Acknowledgment

The authors are grateful to all the community leaders and respondents in Ondo State for their cooperation during data collection.

Disclosure of conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests

Declaration statements

All authors have read, understood, and have complied as applicable with the statement on "Ethical responsibilities of Authors" as found in the Instructions for Authors

Statement of Informed Consents

Informed consents of every respondent were obtained before getting them involved in the survey.

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