

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES  
OF CAREGIVERS ON THE DISPOSAL OF  
SOILED DISPOSABLE NAPPIES IN THE  
RURAL AREAS OF MAKHADO MUNICIPALITY**

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**University of Venda**

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CAREGIVERS ON THE DISPOSAL OF SOILED  
DISPOSABLE NAPPIES IN THE RURAL AREAS OF  
MAKHADO MUNICIPALITY**

by

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## ABSTRACT

The rapid increase of solid waste remains a global challenge. Municipal solid waste management poses a greater challenge in developing countries, most of those countries do not collect waste and the little that is collected is not properly disposed of. Solid waste is generally increased by globalization, urbanization, population and economic growth in the developing countries. Generally the living conditions in many developing countries are not up to standard. There is a lack of water, poor sanitation and hygiene. Disposal of soiled disposable nappies on the other hand has emerged as one of the major challenge in solid waste management. The use of disposable nappies has created a tremendous burden on landfill sites, since they are discarded after single use.

The aim of this study was to investigate the knowledge, attitude and the practices of the disposing of soiled disposable nappies by care givers in the rural areas of Makhado municipality, and to identify any difference in both variables discussed above as results of educational level, socio-economic positions or age amongst caregivers. A self-reporting questionnaire was completed amongst 200 caregivers randomly selected within the four sub regions of Makhado municipality.

Through the questionnaire, (85%) response rate was obtained from the respondents who are caregivers, visited at their homes.. The majority respondents to this study were female (83.5%) aged 18- 35yrs, with the average educational level of standard 9, most depending on grant(83%) as house wife or working at the farms(79 %) The study further identifies that the majority of the respondents got the information about the safe disposal of soiled disposable nappies from the health campaigns (63%) then the media (12.5%). Observation made during this study also identified various potential health hazards which can be caused by poor disposal of the soiled disposable nappies, such as disease outbreak, majority of respondents also identified this fact

In conclusion the study has discovered that intensive health education regarding the safe disposal of soiled disposable nappies should be directed to the low income group, and the low educational level, as little attention has been previously given to caregivers in the rural areas. There is a need to also increase the awareness of the water pollution

amongst the caregivers, as results of poor disposal of these disposable nappies, particularly in the Makhado rural areas where waste collection is compromised. There is also documented evidence that these soiled disposable nappies are not biodegradable, and they can therefore stay underground for over 50yrs, causing sub-terrain water pollution, through process of leaching, especially during rainy seasons.

**Key words:** Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, Disposable nappies, disposal, Caregivers, Municipality, Villages, Diseases Outbreak, Health hazards Landfill, Water and Sanitation, Living conditions Respondents.