Analysis of Noise Pollution in Selected Areas of Ota, Nigeria

Marvel L. Akinyemi, Moses E. Emetere and Longe O. Tolu

Abstract—The physiological effects of noise pollution are alarming. Its visible effect on hearing damage, cardiovascular, childhood hypertension and hormonal disturbances are evident in developing communities. Six locations were selected in Ota, Nigeria. Data set obtained from the digital sound level meter was used to model the noise climate and the equivalent continuous noise level. While the noise climate of the mini-market though high was predictive in nature, the noise climate in the secondary school was high and not quite predictive.

Index Terms—noise pollution, sound level, adverse effect, analysis

1 INTRODUCTION

Noise pollution have been proven to be associated with physiological effects such as hearing damage (WHO, 1999), cardiovascular disorder (Babisch, 2000), childhood hypertension (Evans and Lepore, 1993) and hormonal disturbances. Exposure to high levels of noise, even for a short period of time may lead to a temporary loss of hearing. For example, when employees are exposed to high levels of noise every working day for many years, they gradually develop a permanent hearing loss. Noise pollution has a longer lasting negative effect on people. In developing countries the level of noise pollution is not checked, hence, individuals are exposed to it all day long. There are different kinds of noise pollution. The most common class of noise is the community noise and the industrial noise. Community noise is emitted from all sources except the industrial workplace. Noise emanates primarily from road networks, rail, traffic congestions, industries, construction, and the neighborhood (WHO, 1999). Also, noise can be classified with respect to frequency. For example, acoustic activities termed as low frequency noise ranges from 200Hz and below; noise with medium frequency ranges between 200Hz and 2000Hz; noise with high frequency ranges from 2000Hz and above. Interestingly, noise cannot be measured directly, what can be measured is the sound level. Sound level is measured in decibels (dB), by a device called a sound level meter. The sound level can be sensed via the auditory system which processes information hundreds of times faster than photoreceptors or olfactory neurons in microsecond versus hundreds of milliseconds (See figure 1). This feat is possible because the auditory system has the fastest metabolic rate in the brain (Hudspeth and Konishi, 2000). Hence the human ear can respond to minute pressure variations in the air if they are in the audible frequency range, roughly 20 Hz - 20 kHz.

The phon is a non-standard noise unit that is designed to reflect perceived loudness and can be calculated in form of decibel. For example, a sound of 80 phons is equivalent to a sound as loud as 1-kHz tone. Another non-standard noise unit is the sone. 1 sone is equal to 40 phons. In this paper, we examine the different level of noise effects in selected regions of Ota-ranging from secondary schools, bus terminal and university

2 NOISE POLLUTION INDICES

We adopted the Gaussian positional technique to calculate the noise pollution of each location. Here, we adopted various positions ranging from P1 to P50 which was obtained directly from sampled data. Like the Gaussian percentile technique (Rajiv and Yogesh, 2012), the noise climate (NC) was obtained. The NC can be used to determine the Equivalent Continuous Noise Level (Leq) and Noise Pollution Level (Lnp).

\[
NC = L_{\text{max}} - L_{\text{min}} \quad [1]
\]

\[
Leq = L_x + \left( \frac{\text{NC}}{60} \right)^2 \quad [2]
\]

\[
L_{\text{np}} = L_{\text{eq}} + NC \quad [3]
\]

Here, \( L_x \) are the various positions obtained directly from sampled data.

3 ACQUISITION OF DATA

The selected locations for this research include secondary schools, bus terminal, university, religious centers e.t.c. These locations are made up of high population, whose daily activities leads to noise pollution. A total of six locations were selected for this research (as mentioned above). The equipment used is a digital sound level meter (mannix testing and measurements model - DSM8922). The equipments measuring range 30 to 130 dB and a resolution of 0.1 dB. DSM8922 has a frequency range of 31.5 Hz to 20kHz which conforms to the EN 50081-1/1992 and EN 50082-1/1997 standards. DSM8922 is electromagnetically compatible with high safety precision. Noise measurements were carried out 50m away from noise source and every 5m towards the noise source and the measurements were taken in the afternoon (2:00-3:00pm) during the
peak of the days’ work in order to get the maximum noise from the various selected locations. The basic precautions taken to ensure accuracy includes ensuring that the digital sound level meter was held at a distance not less than 1m away from any reflecting object and at a height of 1.2m above the ground in accordance with the European Union (EU) Directive 86/188/EEC.

![Sound pressure variations](image)

Fig. 1: The auditory system and sound perception (C. R. Nave 2014)

4 RESULT AND ANALYSIS

The six locations considered were location 1 is the Mini-market, location 2 is the bus terminal, location 3 is secondary school, location 4 is restaurant, location 5 is the university and location 6 is the religious centers. From figures 2, 3 and 4, the noise climate of locations 3 is the relatively highest of the locationtions studied. This means that the persons here are exposed to some degree of hearing damage (WHO, 1999), there may also be certain risk of cardiovascular disorder (Babisch, 2000), and childhood hypertension (Evans and Lepore, 1993). The mini-market possessed the highest noise climate.

![Noise climate of six locations](image)

Fig. 2: Noise climate of the six locations

It is nearly accurate for the bus terminal to possess the highest maximum sound level due to blare from vehicular activities. The restaurant has the lowest maximum sound level. Location 1 possessed the highest minimum sound level. This is affirmed by the noise climate simulation in figure 2. The sinusoidal nature of the noise climate of the mini-market is unique compared to other locations. This means the level of activity is predictive and can be controlled.

![Maximum sound level for six locations](image)

Fig. 3: The maximum sound level for six locations

The predictive nature of the mini-market is further confirmed by the equivalent continuous noise level. This affirms that a near regular sinusoidal noise climate depends on its continuity in transmission. The secondary school showed less-predictive features due to its low equivalent continuous noise level shown in figure 5. Generally, figure 5 showed that as
acoustic activities increases linearly to the background, acoustic noise level decreases exponentially, this shows that as the signals move away from the noise source, the background acoustic also decreases as the background acoustic fades away. Also, figure 5 further shows that the closer the observer is to the source of sound, the sharper the sound is perceived by the human ear.

![Fig. 5: Equivalent continuous noise level for six locations](image)

### 5 Conclusion

The study of the research shows that the predictive nature of the acoustic activities in the selected location in Ota, Nigeria. The environmental control may be difficult to proffer in these cases. The noise climate in the secondary school located close to a major high way portrays some form of danger as students may be exposed to certain level of noise pollution which may result in some degrees of intellectual distraction and inability for good concentration (WHO, 1999). There is also the risk of cardiovascular disturbances (Babisch, 2000), and childhood hypertension (Evans and Lepore, 1993).

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### References


