TECHNICAL REPORT

ON

STUDENTS INDUSTRIAL WORK EXPERIENCE SCHEME (SIWES)

AT

KWARA STATE WATER COOPERATION

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DEDICATION

I dedicate my Industrial Training report to Almighty God, who has given me the grace to participate in the SIWES program, to my Parents and as many that have contributed greatly to the success of my Industrial Training.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank God who has seen me throughout my SIWES program and also thank my Industrial based supervisor who guided me through My Industrial training. I also send out my appreciation to my lecturers, friends and Coworkers for their moral support. My special thanks to my wonderful and lovely parents Mr. and Mrs. Folorunsho who were there for me in terms of care, prayers, financial support and others.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) is a skill acquisition program designed to expose students in tertiary institutions to practical work environments, enabling them to apply theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom to real-world industrial processes. SIWES was established in Nigeria in 1973 by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) as a response to the growing concerns among employers about the lack of practical skills and industrial exposure among graduates of higher institutions (ITF, 2024).

The scheme is particularly targeted at students in disciplines such as engineering, sciences, agriculture, health sciences, technology, and other fields where practical knowledge is essential. It acts as a bridge between the academic world and the professional sphere, ensuring that students are adequately prepared for the demands of their respective industries. SIWES is an integral part of the educational process, particularly for technical and vocational courses, and is a mandatory requirement for graduation in many Nigerian tertiary institutions.

Before SIWES was introduced, there was a significant disconnect between the theoretical knowledge imparted by higher institutions and the practical skills required by industries. Employers often complained that graduates were ill-prepared for the workforce due to insufficient exposure to industrial practices and equipment (Agboola et al., 2016). This gap hindered productivity and increased the cost of training new employees. Recognizing this challenge, the Federal Government of Nigeria mandated the establishment of SIWES to provide students with hands-on experience during their academic programs.

The program involves collaboration among three key stakeholders: tertiary institutions, industries, and regulatory bodies like the ITF. Each stakeholder plays a crucial role in ensuring the success of SIWES. Educational institutions are responsible for preparing students academically and nominating them for

industrial placements. Industries provide the platform for practical training, while regulatory bodies like ITF oversee and fund the program to ensure its effectiveness.

1.2 BRIEF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SIWES

The history of SIWES dates back to 1973 when it was established by the ITF as part of its mandate to develop human resources for Nigeria's industrial sector (ITF, 2024). The program was officially launched in 1974 after receiving approval from the Federal Government. Initially, SIWES was fully funded and managed by ITF. However, due to financial constraints and administrative challenges, ITF withdrew from managing the scheme in 1978.

In response to this development, management responsibilities were transferred to the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) in 1979. These bodies were tasked with overseeing SIWES activities within universities and polytechnics respectively (Okorie & Ezeji, 1988). Despite these efforts, challenges persisted due to inadequate funding and lack of coordination among stakeholders.

In November 1984, management of SIWES was reverted back to ITF following renewed government support. Since then, ITF has been responsible for coordinating SIWES activities nationwide. Over time, SIWES has undergone several reforms aimed at improving its efficiency and expanding its scope. For instance, in 2004, ITF introduced guidelines that made participation in SIWES compulsory for students in accredited courses requiring industrial training (ITF, 2004).

Today, SIWES is widely recognized as one of Nigeria's most impactful initiatives for bridging the gap between education and employment. It has become an essential component of technical education curricula across universities, polytechnics, colleges of education, and other tertiary institutions.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF SIWES:

- The program teaches the student on how to interact effectively with other workers and supervisors under various conditions in the organization
- It will help students to gain increased maturity and understanding of the workplace
- The students will have chance to evaluate companies for which they might wish to work
- It exposes students to work methods and techniques in handling equipment and machines that may not be available in educational institution.
- The program provides students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge in real work and actual practice.
- SIWES increases a student sense of responsibility.
- SIWES provides students the opportunity to test their interest in a particular career before permanent commitments are made.
- It helps them to gain interpersonal and entrepreneual skills.
- It inserts in them the right kind of work attributes and professionalism through interactions with people in the organization.

CHAPTER TWO

DESCRIPTION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ATTACHMENT

2.1 LOCATION AND BRIEF HISTORY OF ESTABLISHMENT

The Kwara State Water Corporation (KWWC) is headquartered in Ilorin, the capital city of Kwara State, Nigeria. Its main office is strategically located to coordinate water supply operations across urban and rural areas of the state. The corporation also operates several water treatment plants, reservoirs, and pumping stations distributed across Kwara State to ensure efficient water distribution to residents.

The history of KWWC dates back to its establishment in 1995 under the Water and Sewerage Corporation statute. It was created as part of the state government's efforts to address the growing demand for potable water and improve access to clean water for households, industries, and institutions in Kwara State. Prior to its establishment, water supply in the state was managed by local government councils. However, this decentralized approach led to inefficiencies, poor service delivery, and a lack of accountability in water management.

The creation of KWWC was a response to these challenges and was aimed at centralizing water supply management under a single entity with the technical expertise and resources required to meet the needs of the population. The corporation was tasked with overseeing the extraction, treatment, storage, and distribution of water across the state. It was also mandated to ensure that water supply systems were sustainable, reliable, and capable of supporting the state's growing population.

KWWC sources its water primarily from surface water bodies such as rivers and reservoirs. The Asa River, which flows through Ilorin, serves as a major source of raw water for treatment and distribution. Over the years, KWWC has invested in infrastructure development, including the construction of modern water treatment plants, storage tanks, and an extensive network of pipelines. These investments have been aimed at improving service delivery and expanding access to clean water in both urban centers and rural communities.

Despite its achievements, KWWC has faced several challenges since its inception. These include aging infrastructure, inadequate funding, population growth that outpaces infrastructure development, and issues related to climate change affecting water availability. In response to these challenges, KWWC has implemented various reforms focused on improving operational efficiency, increasing revenue generation through better billing systems, and partnering with private sector organizations for technical support.

2.2 OBJECTIVES OF ESTABLISHMENT

The Kwara State Water Corporation was established with several objectives designed to address critical issues related to water supply and management. These objectives include:

1. **Provision of Adequate Water Supply**

The primary objective of KWWC is to ensure that all residents of Kwara State have access to sufficient quantities of potable water for domestic, industrial, agricultural, and institutional use. This involves expanding the coverage area of water supply systems and increasing production capacity to meet growing demand.

2. **Improvement of Water Quality**

KWWC is committed to delivering clean and safe drinking water that meets national and international health standards set by organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO). This involves implementing advanced treatment processes to remove contaminants from raw water sources.

3. **Sustainable Water Resource Management**

Another key objective is to promote sustainable practices in water resource management. This includes protecting natural water sources from pollution, reducing wastage through efficient distribution systems, and adopting technologies that minimize environmental impact.

4. **Infrastructure Development**

KWWC aims to develop and maintain robust infrastructure for water extraction, treatment, storage, and distribution. This includes constructing new facilities such as treatment plants and pipelines while upgrading existing infrastructure to enhance reliability.

5. **Community Engagement**

The corporation recognizes the importance of involving local communities in decision-making processes related to water management. By engaging with stakeholders through public awareness campaigns and consultations, KWWC ensures that its policies align with the needs and expectations of residents.

6. **Financial Sustainability**

To achieve long-term sustainability, KWWC seeks to establish a financially viable model for its operations. This involves improving revenue collection through efficient billing systems while ensuring that tariffs remain affordable for consumers.

7. **Capacity Building**

KWWC is dedicated to building the technical capacity of its workforce through training programs and partnerships with industry experts. This ensures that staff members are equipped with the skills needed to operate modern equipment and implement best practices in water management.

2.3 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organizational structure of Kwara State Water Corporation is designed to facilitate efficient management and coordination across various functions. The structure is hierarchical, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities at each level:

1. **Board of Directors**

At the top of the hierarchy is the Board of Directors, which provides strategic oversight for the corporation's activities. The board is responsible for setting policies, approving budgets, monitoring performance metrics, and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.

2. **General Manager**

The General Manager serves as the chief executive officer of KWWC and oversees day-to-day operations. This individual is responsible for implementing policies set by the board, coordinating activities across departments, managing resources effectively, and representing KWWC in external engagements.

3. **Departments**

KWWC is divided into several key departments that handle specific aspects of its operations:

- Engineering/Technical Services Department: Responsible for designing new infrastructure projects such as treatment plants and pipelines while maintaining existing facilities.
- Operations and Maintenance Department: Focuses on ensuring uninterrupted operation of water supply systems through regular maintenance checks and prompt repairs.
- Commercial Services Department: Handles customer relations, billing processes, revenue collection efforts, and public awareness campaigns about efficient water usage.
- Financial Administration Department: Manages budgeting processes, financial reporting activities, resource allocation decisions, and compliance with accounting standards.
- Human Resources Department: Oversees recruitment processes as well as staff training programs aimed at enhancing workforce capabilities.

2.4 DEPARTMENTS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

Each department within Kwara State Water Corporation plays a critical role in achieving its overall objectives:

1. **Engineering/Technical Services Department**
    - Design new projects related to water supply infrastructure.
    - Conduct feasibility studies for proposed projects.
    - Ensure compliance with engineering standards during construction activities.
    - Provide technical support during emergencies such as pipeline bursts or equipment failures.
2. **Operations and Maintenance Department**
    - Oversee daily operations at all treatment plants.
    - Monitor system performance using advanced technologies such as SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition).
    - Conduct routine maintenance checks on pumps, valves, pipelines etc., ensuring optimal functionality.
    - Respond promptly during emergencies like contamination incidents or equipment breakdowns.
3. **Commercial Services Department**

- Develop customer service policies aimed at enhancing user satisfaction levels.
- Manage billing inquiries/disputes raised by customers efficiently.
- Implement outreach programs educating residents about conservation practices like fixing leaks promptly or using meters accurately.

4. **Financial Administration Department**

- Budgeting and Financial Planning: This department is responsible for preparing annual budgets that align with the corporation’s strategic goals. It analyzes past financial performance to forecast future revenues and expenditures, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to meet operational needs.
- Accounting and Financial Reporting: The department maintains accurate financial records in compliance with Nigerian accounting standards. It prepares periodic financial reports that provide insights into the corporation's financial health, enabling informed decision-making by the management and the Board of Directors.
- Revenue Collection: This unit manages the billing process for water services, ensuring timely invoicing and collection of payments from customers. It implements strategies to improve revenue collection rates, such as introducing online payment options and conducting awareness campaigns about tariff structures.
- Cost Control: The department monitors expenses to identify areas where cost savings can be achieved without compromising service quality. It conducts regular audits and reviews financial processes to enhance efficiency.

5. **Human Resources Department**

- Recruitment and Staffing: This department is responsible for attracting, hiring, and onboarding qualified personnel to fill various positions within KWWC. It ensures that the recruitment process is transparent and aligns with the corporation's diversity and inclusion policies.
- Training and Development: The Human Resources Department organizes training programs aimed at enhancing employees' skills and knowledge related to water management, customer service, safety protocols, and technology use. This ensures that staff are well-equipped to meet the challenges of their roles.

- Performance Management: The department implements performance appraisal systems to evaluate employee contributions and identify areas for improvement. It provides feedback mechanisms that encourage professional growth and development.
- Employee Welfare: This unit focuses on promoting a positive work environment by addressing employee concerns, providing support services, and ensuring compliance with labor laws.

CHAPTER THREE

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE

3.1 WORK DONE

During my Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) at the Kwara State Water Corporation (KWWC) in Ilorin, I was privileged to gain practical exposure to civil engineering tasks, especially those related to water supply systems and infrastructure development. My responsibilities and contributions during the program were diverse and covered various aspects of civil engineering, as outlined below:

1. **Site Inspections and Supervision**

One of my primary duties was participating in site inspections for ongoing water infrastructure projects. These inspections involved assessing construction work, ensuring compliance with approved designs, and monitoring progress to ensure that timelines were met. I worked alongside senior engineers to evaluate the quality of materials used, such as pipes, concrete, and fittings, to confirm adherence to engineering standards. I also assisted in supervising workers on-site to ensure they followed instructions and safety protocols.

2. **Water Supply System Maintenance**

I was actively involved in the maintenance of existing water supply systems. This included inspecting pipelines for leaks or damages, identifying areas requiring repairs, and assisting in the replacement of worn-out components. I also observed the cleaning and maintenance of reservoirs and storage tanks to prevent contamination.

3. **Data Collection and Analysis**

I contributed to data collection efforts by measuring flow rates, water pressure levels, and other parameters at different points within the distribution network. These measurements were essential for analyzing system performance and identifying inefficiencies or areas requiring improvement.

Additionally, I assisted in collecting samples from water treatment plants for laboratory analysis to ensure compliance with health standards.

4. **Design and Drafting**

Under the guidance of experienced engineers, I participated in designing small-scale water supply systems for rural areas. Using software like AutoCAD, I helped draft layouts for pipeline networks and reservoir placements. This process involved calculating pipe sizes, flow rates, and elevations to ensure efficient water distribution.

5. **Community Engagement**

Part of my role included engaging with local communities during public awareness campaigns organized by KWWC. These campaigns aimed to educate residents about water conservation practices, proper handling of water storage containers, and the importance of paying water bills promptly to sustain services. Through these interactions, I learned how civil engineers contribute to social development by addressing community needs.

6. **Project Documentation**

I assisted in documenting project activities by preparing reports on site visits, recording observations during inspections, and compiling data collected from fieldwork. These reports were submitted to supervisors for review and served as a reference for future planning.

7. **Rehabilitation Projects**

I was involved in rehabilitation projects aimed at restoring old or damaged infrastructure. These projects included replacing corroded pipelines, repairing damaged valves, and upgrading outdated equipment at treatment plants. Working on these projects gave me hands-on experience in troubleshooting technical issues.

8. **Participation in Construction Activities**

During my internship, I had the opportunity to assist with minor construction tasks such as mixing concrete for pipeline supports, laying pipes along designated routes, and backfilling trenches after pipe installation. These activities enhanced my understanding of construction techniques specific to water supply systems.

9. **Learning from Professionals**

Throughout my time at KWWC, I worked closely with professional civil engineers who mentored me on various aspects of engineering practice. They provided guidance on problem-solving approaches, decision-making processes, and project management techniques.

3.2 TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED

During my SIWES program at KWWC, I was exposed to a variety of tools and equipment commonly used in civil engineering projects related to water supply infrastructure. Some of these tools include:

1. **Surveying Instruments**
    - Total Stations: Used for accurate measurement of distances and angles during site surveys.
    - Theodolites: Employed for measuring horizontal and vertical angles during pipeline alignment.
    - Levels: Used for determining elevations when designing reservoirs or laying pipelines.
    - Measuring Tapes: Utilized for taking measurements on-site during construction activities.
2. **Water Quality Testing Kits**

    Testing kits were used to measure parameters such as:
    - pH levels
    - Turbidity
    - Chlorine concentration

- Microbial contamination

These tests ensured that treated water met health standards before distribution.

3. **Construction Tools**
    - Concrete Mixers: Used for preparing concrete required for constructing pipeline supports or reservoir foundations.
    - Shovels: Utilized for digging trenches during pipeline installation.
    - Trowels: Used for finishing concrete surfaces.
    - Pipe Cutters: Employed for cutting pipes to desired lengths during installation or repairs.
    - Wrenches: Used for tightening bolts on valves or fittings.
4. **Computer Software**
    - AutoCAD: Utilized for drafting designs of pipeline layouts and reservoir placements.
    - Microsoft Excel: Used for analyzing data collected from fieldwork.
    - EPANET: A hydraulic modeling software used by engineers at KWWC to simulate water distribution systems.
5. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Safety gear was an essential part of daily operations at KWWC:

- Hard hats
- Safety goggles
- Reflective vests
- Steel-toed boots
- Gloves

3.3 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Safety was a top priority during my industrial training at KWWC due to the nature of civil engineering work involving heavy equipment, hazardous materials, and construction sites. The following safety precautions were strictly adhered to:

1. **Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

All personnel were required to wear appropriate PPE at all times while on-site or working near machinery.

2. **Adherence to Safety Guidelines**

Before commencing any task, safety guidelines specific to that activity were reviewed thoroughly with team members.

3. **Site Safety Briefings**

Daily safety briefings were conducted before work began on-site. These briefings covered potential hazards associated with ongoing activities as well as emergency response procedures.

4. **Proper Handling of Tools**

Training sessions were held on the proper use of tools and equipment to minimize risks associated with misuse.

5. **Emergency Preparedness**

Emergency response plans were established for scenarios such as fires or chemical spills at treatment plants.

3.4 CHALLENGES FACED DURING MY SIWES PROGRAMME

Despite the valuable experience gained during my internship at KWWC, several challenges arose that tested my adaptability:

1. **Limited Resources**

Budget constraints sometimes delayed project timelines due to insufficient materials or equipment availability.

2. **Harsh Weather Conditions**

Adverse weather conditions such as heavy rainfall disrupted outdoor activities like trench digging or pipeline installation.

3. **Aging Infrastructure**

Working with outdated infrastructure posed challenges in maintenance tasks due to frequent breakdowns or lack of compatible replacement parts.

4. **Communication Barriers**

Engaging with local communities during public awareness campaigns was occasionally difficult due to language differences or resistance from residents unfamiliar with conservation practices.

5. **Technical Issues**

Encountering technical problems such as leaks in pipelines required quick thinking under pressure while ensuring minimal disruption to service delivery.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION

4.1 SUMMARY

The Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) at the Kwara State Water Corporation (KWWC) provided a unique and invaluable opportunity for me as a civil engineering student to gain hands-on experience in water supply management and infrastructure development. Over the course of my internship, I was exposed to a variety of tasks that bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge acquired in the classroom and practical applications in the field.

My responsibilities included participating in site inspections, where I assessed construction quality, monitored progress, and ensured compliance with engineering standards. I was actively involved in the maintenance of water supply systems, including inspecting pipelines, identifying leaks or damages, and assisting in repairs. Additionally, I contributed to data collection and analysis, measuring flow rates, water pressure levels, and other parameters critical for system performance evaluation. These activities enhanced my technical skills and deepened my understanding of the complexities involved in water supply systems.

I also had the opportunity to work on design and drafting projects, where I used software like AutoCAD to create pipeline layouts and reservoir designs under the guidance of experienced engineers. Furthermore, I participated in public awareness campaigns, educating local communities about water conservation practices and the importance of maintaining clean water sources. This aspect of my training underscored the importance of community engagement in achieving sustainable development goals.

Throughout my internship, I became familiar with a wide range of tools and equipment, including surveying instruments such as total stations and levels, as well as water quality testing kits used to ensure that treated water met health standards. Safety was a top priority during my time at KWWC,

and I adhered strictly to safety precautions such as wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), attending daily safety briefings, and following proper handling procedures for tools and equipment.

Despite the enriching experience, I encountered several challenges during my internship. These included limited resources for certain projects due to budget constraints, adverse weather conditions that disrupted construction activities, aging infrastructure that required frequent repairs, and communication barriers during community engagement initiatives. These challenges tested my adaptability and problem-solving skills while providing valuable learning opportunities.

In summary, my industrial training at KWWC was a transformative experience that allowed me to apply theoretical concepts in real-world scenarios while gaining practical skills essential for my future career as a civil engineer. The mentorship provided by experienced professionals further enriched my learning experience by offering insights into industry practices and fostering a deeper appreciation for teamwork and collaboration.

4.2 CONCLUSION

The SIWES program at Kwara State Water Corporation served as a crucial stepping stone in my journey toward becoming a professional civil engineer. The training provided me with hands-on experience in various aspects of civil engineering related to water supply systems, including design, construction supervision, maintenance, data analysis, and community engagement.

Through active participation in site inspections, maintenance tasks, rehabilitation projects, and public awareness campaigns, I gained practical knowledge that complemented my academic studies. The exposure to tools such as surveying instruments and software like AutoCAD enhanced my technical proficiency, while adherence to safety precautions instilled a strong sense of responsibility toward workplace safety standards.

The program also highlighted the critical role that civil engineers play in addressing societal needs by ensuring access to clean water—a fundamental resource for human survival. My time at KWWC reinforced the importance of sustainable practices in water resource management and emphasized the

need for collaboration between engineers, government agencies, private sector organizations, and local communities to achieve long-term development goals.

Although challenges such as limited resources and aging infrastructure posed difficulties during my internship, they also provided opportunities for growth by encouraging innovative thinking and problem-solving under real-world conditions. These experiences have equipped me with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to tackle complex engineering problems in the future.

In conclusion, my industrial training at KWWC was an invaluable experience that not only prepared me for professional practice but also deepened my commitment to pursuing a career focused on sustainable development through civil engineering.

4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on my experiences during the SIWES program at Kwara State Water Corporation (KWWC), I propose several recommendations aimed at enhancing future internship experiences for students as well as improving the overall operations of KWWC:

1. **Enhanced Training Programs**

KWWC should implement structured training programs tailored specifically for interns. These programs should include both technical training (e.g., use of engineering software like AutoCAD or EPANET) and soft skills development (e.g., communication skills, teamwork). A detailed orientation program at the beginning of the internship would help students understand their roles better and align their expectations with organizational goals.

2. **Improved Resource Allocation**

To address challenges related to limited resources, KWWC should explore alternative funding sources such as partnerships with international development agencies (e.g., UNICEF or World Bank) or private sector organizations through public-private partnerships (PPPs). Securing additional funding would enable the corporation to invest in modern equipment, upgrade aging infrastructure, and expand its service coverage.

3. **Community Engagement Initiatives**

Effective community engagement is essential for promoting sustainable water management practices. KWWC should strengthen its outreach programs by organizing regular workshops or town hall meetings where residents can voice their concerns and learn about water conservation techniques. Collaborating with local leaders or influencers can help build trust within communities.

4. **Adoption of Modern Technologies**

KWWC should invest in modern technologies to improve operational efficiency:

- Implementing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for mapping pipeline networks.
- Introducing smart metering systems for accurate billing.
- Utilizing hydraulic modeling software like EPANET to optimize water distribution systems.

These technologies would enhance service delivery while reducing operational costs.

5. **Regular Maintenance Schedules**

Preventive maintenance is crucial for ensuring the reliability of water supply systems. KWWC should establish regular maintenance schedules for pipelines, treatment plants, reservoirs, and other infrastructure components. Proactive maintenance would minimize disruptions caused by equipment failures or leaks.

6. **Capacity Building for Staff**

Continuous professional development is essential for maintaining high service standards. KWWC should invest in capacity-building programs for its staff by organizing workshops on emerging trends in water management or sponsoring employees to attend industry conferences.

7. **Feedback Mechanisms**

Establishing feedback mechanisms would allow interns, staff members, and community members to share their experiences or suggestions for improvement. Regular evaluations based on this feedback could help identify areas requiring attention while fostering a culture of continuous improvement within KWWC.

8. Collaboration with Academic Institutions

KWWC should strengthen its collaboration with tertiary institutions by offering research opportunities or joint projects focused on solving real-world challenges related to water supply management. This partnership could also involve knowledge-sharing sessions where students present innovative ideas or solutions developed during their internships.

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