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AWARENESS OF THE BAN ON POLYTHENE COVER USAGE AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MYSORE DISTRICT

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ABSTRCT:

With the advent of the incongruous polythene bags for each and every use in the life of the common man, the disposal of these bags posed a hazard to the environment and public health of the citizens. Most cities in India faced this problem of waste management with regard to the polythene bags, and therefore the study was undertaken to find out the awareness of high school students regarding the ban of polythene bags in Mysore district. Results revealed that most high school students were aware regarding the ban of polythene cover usage in Mysore district.

Index Terms: Polythene, Hazard, Disposal, Awareness, Environment

INTRODUCTION:

Plastic waste was and always will be a silent threat to the environment and their disposal was a serious issue for waste managers. Nowadays, society does not have any alternative to plastic products like plastic bags, plastic bottles, and plastic sheets. In spite of all efforts made to limit its use, unfortunately its utility was increasing day by day. To circumvent this issue, many efforts were made in the past to reuse the plastic waste but no significant results were achieved. On contrary concrete being the widely used construction material is facing problem due to unavailability of construction material (Cement, sand and coarse aggregate). Various attempts were made through experimentation to check the feasibility of plastic waste to be use partially in concrete with respect to various properties of strength, workability, durability and ductility of concrete. This paper includes review of various studies conducted on utility of waste plastic material used in the concrete. Moreover, this paper drew the focus toward the impingement on the various properties of concrete when partially replacing with waste plastic. (**Muhammad Rafique, 2015).**

According to **Gupta et al. (2010),** in January 2009, the Government of Delhi introduced a wide-ranging ban on the use of plastic bags in market places. The results showed a dilution in the efficacy of the ban within a year, with widespread lack of enforcement. About 94% of the consumers continued to use plastic bags in blatant violation of rules, so this motivated the researchers to examine the effects of other possible price and non-price instruments possibly requiring less monitoring and enforcement in order to control/reduce the use of plastic bags. They tested the effectiveness of these policies through field experiments in the semi-organized retail sector. The results indicated that cumulatively these interventions increased the proportion of consumers who brought their own bags from 4.6% in the baseline to 17.7% post treatment. The number of consumers who only used plastic bags came down on average from 80.8% to 57.1%. Hence, the study concluded that in developing countries with little enforcement capacity, a blanket ban may not be the best possible solution. Instead, low cost information interventions, availability of substitutes to plastic bags, and subsidies (taxes) on the use of reusable bags (plastic bags) could constitute an important policy-mix.

Pandit (2016), with the advanced of technology and the rising 'throwaway culture' among the user, the electronic waste or e-waste were now becoming a major environmental problem for the urban world especially for the devel0ping countries like India if not handled properly. The purpose of this paper was to explore e-waste as a new urban environmental issue in India. Research into the quantum of e-waste generated in India metropolitan cities were analyzed. The role of recycling process of e-waste by informal sector in five major cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Bangalore was reviewed and the adverse effects of e-waste on urban environment were also analyzed. As per the ASSOCHAM study, 2014, India was likely to generate e-waste to an extent of 15 lakh metric tons (MT) per annum in 2015. As e-waste contains several hazardous constituents including the most toxic one 'mercury' and 'lead', they have an adverse effect on environment that pollute the air, soil and water. Informal workers use primitive methods to extract valuable material from the e-waste components, which bring great damages to their health and local environment.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Aim: To find out the awareness regarding the ban of polythene cover usage among high school students in Mysore district.

Objectives:

- To find out the awareness regarding the ban of polythene cover usage among high school students in Mysore district.
- To assess the effect of the ban of polythene cover usage among high school students in Mysore district.

Hypotheses:

- The high school students in Mysore district do not have adequate awareness about the ban of polythene cover usage.
- There is no effect of the ban of polythene cover usage among high school students in Mysore district.

Population and Sample:

The present study was structured on eliciting information on the awareness find out the awareness of high school students regarding the ban of polythene bags in Mysore district. A questionnaire was formulated to elicit information on the adolescents' perception of water pollution. The pilot study was conducted on 10 percent of the sample to test the reliability and the validity of tool selected for the study and feasibility of the present study. Based on the results of pilot study, necessary modifications were made. The main study comprised of100 high school students selected through random sampling technique. The data collected through survey method was tabulated and analyzed, and appropriate statistical tests were applied wherever necessary.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The analyzed data and corresponding discussions are presented below:

Most of the respondents (51%) belonged to the age group of 13-14 years; whereas 49 percent of the respondents were 15-16 years, Regarding gender of students, 51 percent of respondents were girls, and 49 percent of the respondents were boys. Most (42%) of the respondents were studying in 10th standard, 30 percent of the respondents were studying in 9th standard, whereas 28 percent of respondents were from 8th standard. Majority (69%) of the respondents have 4-5 family members. Majority (65%) of the respondents' families earned below Rs. 8000 per month, whereas 35 percent of the respondents' families earned above Rs.8000 per month.

TABLE – 1: Use and Purpose of Using Plastic bags

N=100

Characteristics	**Category**	**Respondents**	
		Number	**Percent**
Use plastic bags	Yes	84	84.0
	No	16	16.0
Purpose /use of plastic bags	Shopping groceries	79	79.0
	Carrying books/Stationary to school	14	14.0
	Carrying Tiffin box	7	7.0

@multiple response

Table 1 depicts that majority (84%) of the respondents used plastic bags, whereas 16 percent of the respondents did not use plastic bags. The reasons for using plastic bags were given as shopping for groceries by 79 percent of the respondents, while14 percent and 7 percent of the respondents used plastic bags to carry books/stationary to school and carry lunch box respectively.

TABLE – 2: Awareness on Dangers of Plastic bags and Source of information

N=100

Characteristics	**Category**	**Respondents**	
		Number	**Percent**
Awareness on dangers of plastic bag	Yes	94	94.0
	No	6	6.0
Aspect of dangers of plastic bags@	Health	17	17.0
	Environment	85	85.0
	Marine life	10	10s.0
	Animals	6	6.0
Source of information about the dangerous of plastic bag	Print media	23	23.0
	Electronic media	32	32.0
	Family members / Relatives	17	17.0
	Friends	16	16.0
	School curriculum	70	70.0

@ multiple response

Table 2 depicts that almost all of the respondents (94%) were aware of the dangers of plastic bags. Majority (85%) of the respondents remarked that plastic bags caused dangers to the environment, 17 percent said that plastic bags posed dangers to health, while 10 and 6 percent stated that marine life and animals also were affected by plastic bags. It is also seen that majority (70%) of the respondents' sources of information about the dangers of plastic bags were from school curriculum, whereas 32 percent learnt from electronic media followed by 23 percent from print media, 17 percent from family members/relatives and 11 percent from friends.

TABLE – 3: Use and Reuse of Plastic Bags

N=100

Characteristics	Category	Respondents	
		Number	Percent
Number of plastic bags use per week	10-15	77	77.0
	15-20	23	23.0
Reuse plastic bags	Yes	60	60.0
	No	40	40.0
Total		100	100.0

Table 3 and Fig. 1 shows that majority (77%) of the respondents used 10 -15 plastic bags per week, whereas 23 of respondents used 15- 20 plastic bags per week. Majority (60%) of the respondents re-used plastic bags, whereas 40 percent of the respondents did not re-use of plastic bags.

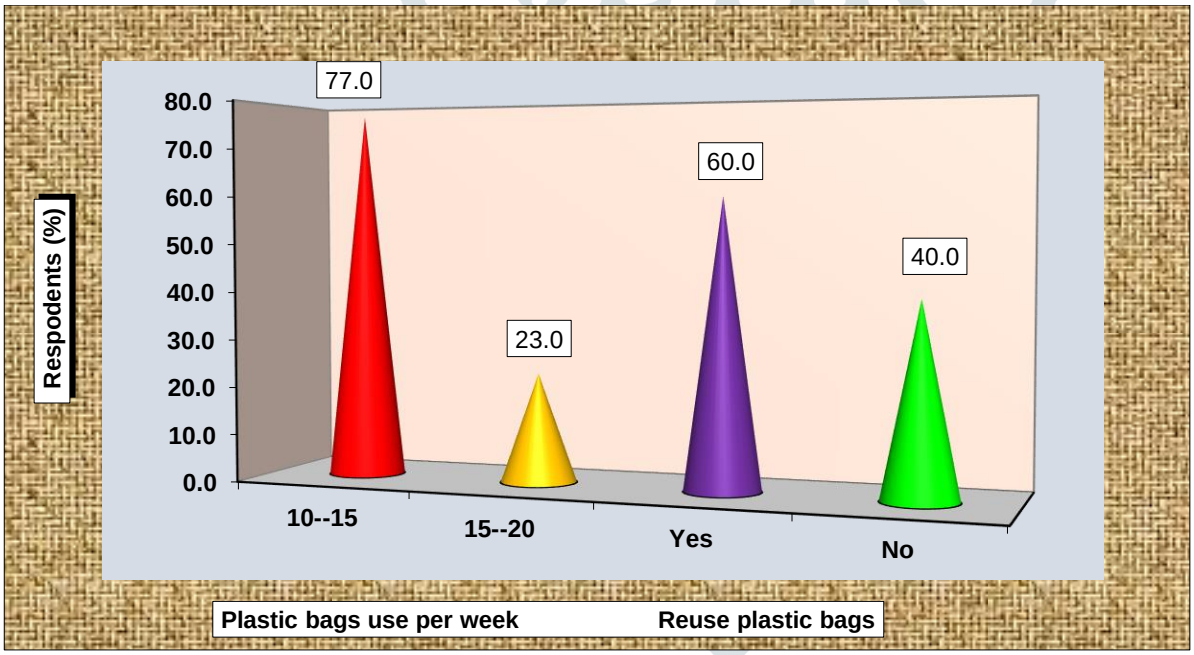

Fig. 1: Classification of Respondents by Use and Re-use of Plastic bags

TABLE – 4: Respondents Awareness Of Alternatives For Plastic Bags

N=100

Characteristics	Category	Respondents	
		Number	Percent
Aware of alternatives	Yes	92	92.0
	No	8	8.0
	Paper bags	30	30.0

Alternatives for plastic bags @	Jute bags	22	22.0
	Cotton bags	16	16.0
	Cloth bags	37	37.0
	Wire bags	74	74.0
Total		100	100.0

@ multiple responses

Table 4 reveals that almost all (92%) of the respondents were aware of the alternatives for plastic bags, only 8 percent of the respondents were not aware of the alternatives of plastic bags. Majority (74%) of the respondents were aware of wire bags, whereas 37 percent of the respondents used cloth bags, followed by 30 percent of the respondents used paper bags, 22 percent of the respondents aware of jute bag, 16 percent of the respondents were aware of cotton bag.

TABLE – 5: Agree to Ban On Polythene Cover and Awareness on Dangers of Polythene Usage

N=100

Characteristics	**Category**	**Respondents**	
		Number	**Percent**
Agree to ban on usage of plastic bags	Strongly agree	12	12.0
	Agree	15	15.0
	Neutral	73	73.0
Rate the awareness regarding dangers of polythene bag use	Adequate	24	24.0
	Moderate	76	76.0
Total		100	100.0

Table 5 shows that majority (73%) of the respondents were neutral to the ban on usage of polythene bags, whereas 15 percent of the respondents agree to the ban on usage of polythene bags,12 percent of the respondents strongly agreed to the ban. Majority (76%) of the respondents were moderately aware regarding dangers of polythene bag used, where as 24 percent of the respondents had adequate awareness regarding dangers of polythene bag usage in general.

CONCLUSION:

The major findings of this study were:

- ❖ The high school students in Mysore district had adequate awareness about the ban of polythene cover usage.
- ❖ Majority of the respondents were aware that plastic bags caused dangers to the environment, health, marine life and animals.
- ❖ The school curriculum, print media, electronic media, family and friends were the sources of information regarding dangers of plastic bag use.
- ❖ Almost all of the respondents were fully satisfied with the ban on polythene bag usage.

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