



# SINGLE USE PLASTIC AWARENESS AMONG MARGINALIZED WOMEN OF JAMBULINGAPURAM - OTTAPIDARAM TALUK

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## ABSTRACT

*This study made an attempt to find out the Single-use plastic awareness among marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk. Survey method was employed. Self-made tool on single-use plastic was administered on a sample of 76 marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk after a pilot study. The study revealed that there is no significant difference in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on their occupational status, age and monthly income of the family. But significant difference exists in the awareness of single-use plastics among the samples chosen based on their religion. The study also suggested a few measures to develop single-use plastic awareness among people to reduce its usage.*

## Key words

Single-use plastic, awareness, environment, pollution

## INTRODUCTION

Plastics are a wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic materials. Polymers are the main ingredient of plastics. The elasticity of plastics made it possible to be shaped, squeezed out or controlled into solid objects of different shapes. The adaptability of plastics, especially a wide range of other benefits, such as having the characteristics of lightweight, durable, flexible, and inexpensive to produce, has led to its omnipresent use. Plastics are artificially and chemically made in industries. Modern plastics are derived from fossil fuel-based chemicals like natural gas or petroleum. In the early 20th century plastics has its supremacy all over the world. Due to its deliberate decomposition system, it has started to create great environmental problems. Most of the plastic items are not in a condition to be reused or recycled and became like land fillers that pollute the natural eco-system.

According to the United Nation Organization, plastics which are made up from polymers of HDPE, LDPE, PET, PS, PP and EPS are single use plastics. Single use plastics are called disposable plastics that are meant to be used only once before they are thrown away. Following are the examples of single use plastics: plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda, water bottles and food packages. Report generated by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) states that plastics are harmful to the environment since they are non-biodegradable and take years and years to get collapsed. Notably, single-use plastics are worsened than normal plastics since because of not breaking down completely. They degrade very slowly and become micro-plastics and get into a mission to pollute the environment forever. It may take thousands of years to get decomposed; hence it contaminates earth and its prosperity. It also affects the life of all the living creatures like good microbes, plants, animals and humans. Rate of plastic waste generated by India per year falls on 9.46 million, among that 43 percent comprises single-use plastics. It considerably limits the prosperity of our nation and threatens the lives of present and future generation. Therefore, awareness about single-use plastic among the people needs to be noted and steps to create awareness have to be highlighted. So, the present study is an attempt to find out the single-use plastic awareness among marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Consumerization of single-use plastics is a major environmental problem. Single-use plastics are highly durable and hard to degrade. Thus, it accumulates in the environment and can pollute and harm wildlife. It also produces harmful chemicals into the environment when they start to decay. It has a devastating effect on the environment in numerous ways, including: entanglement, ingestion and habitat destruction. In addition to harming wildlife, it also pollutes waterways by blocking drains and waterways, causing flooding and pollution. It also threatens aquatic life. In the current scenario, awareness about single-use plastics is vital for knowing

about the crisis that the single-use plastics would cause by their excessive consumption and improper disposal. Thus, studying about single-use plastics awareness among the people becomes crucial. Hence, this study was conducted to find out the “Single use Plastic awareness among Marginalized Women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk”.

## POPULATION & SAMPLE

The population for the study was the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram village, Ottapidaram Taluk, Thoothukudi District, Tamil Nadu, India. A sample of 76 marginalized women was selected from the population using simple random sampling technique.

## METHODOLOGY

For the present study the investigator adopted survey method which is the most popular method which attempts to describe and interpret conditions, practices, processes, trends, effects, attributes, beliefs at present.

## TOOL USED

The tool used for the present study was a questionnaire constructed by the investigator and it was validated by pilot study and experts in the field of education. The content validity of the present study was established by systematically analyzing the area under study. On the basis of the opinion of experts it was ensured that the tool has sufficient coverage of its contents. It consisted of 32 statements.

## NULL HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on religion.
2. There is no significant difference in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on occupational status.
3. There is no significant association in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on age.
4. There is no significant association in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based monthly income of the family.

### Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on Religion.

**Table 1**

*Test of significant difference in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on Religion*

Category	N	Mean	SD	Calculated t-value	Table t-value	Remarks
Hindu	63	19.84	4.712	2.307	1.96	S
Christian	13	22.77	4.045			

It is inferred from the above table that the calculated t-value (2.307) is greater than the table t-value (1.96) at 5% level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

### Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on Occupational Status.

**Table 2**

*Test of significant difference in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on Occupational Status*

Variable	Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	Calculated 'F' Value	Remarks at 5% Level
Awareness of single-use plastics	Between	80.496	4	20.124	0.902	NS
	Within	1584.609	71	22.318		

(At 5% significance level, the table value of 'F' is 2.50.)

It is inferred from the above table that the calculated F-value (0.902) is lesser than the table F-value 2.50) at 5% level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

### Hypothesis 3

There is no significant association in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on Age.

**Table 3**

*Test of significant association in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on Age*

Variable	Calculated ' $\chi^2$ ' Value	df	Remarks at 5% Level
Awareness of single-use plastics	3.151	4	NS

(At 5% level of significance for four df, the table value of ' $\chi^2$ ' is 9.488)

It is inferred from the above table that the calculated  $\chi^2$ -value (3.151) is lesser than the table  $\chi^2$ -value (9.488) at 5% level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

#### Hypothesis 4

There is no significant association in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on Monthly Income of the family.

**Table 4**

*Test of significant association in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on Monthly Income of the family*

Variable	Calculated ' $\chi^2$ ' Value	df	Remarks at 5% Level
Awareness of single-use plastics	8.700	4	NS

(At 5% level of significance for four df, the table value of ' $\chi^2$ ' is 9.488)

It is inferred from the above table that the calculated  $\chi^2$ -value (8.700) is lesser than the table  $\chi^2$ -value (9.488) at 5% level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

#### INTERPRETATIONS

Significant difference exists in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on Religion. The mean scores reveal that Christian marginalized women have more awareness of single-use plastics than Hindu marginalized women. This may be due to that Christian women are more socialized than their counter parts. And they may get more awareness during their socialization process.

The awareness of single-use plastic isn't inherently tied to occupational status because environmental consciousness transcends professional roles. This awareness often stems from personal values, education, exposure to information, and individual commitment rather than the nature of one's job. People from various occupations, whether they're in leadership positions or not, can champion environmental causes, engage in advocacy, or adopt eco-friendly practices in their personal lives. Awareness of single-use plastic is more about a collective societal consciousness and individual dedication rather than being dictated by professional roles.

Significant association exists in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on age. This may be due to that all the age group women are more influenced through mass media. Mass media creates single use plastic awareness largely. Now a days we can see televisions at all the houses since the Tamil Nadu state government itself distributed televisions freely to all the houses that lie under below poverty line.

Significant association exists in the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk based on monthly income of the family. This may be due to that women came out from their comfort zone and they are interested in earning for their family to improve their economic status.

#### CONCLUSION

The present study was aimed at finding the awareness of single-use plastics among the marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk. From this study we can conclude that marginalized women of Jambulingapuram - Ottapidaram Taluk have more awareness of single-use plastics. Plastics are used widely irrespective of the domicile. The benefits of using plastics make us not to avoid or reduce its usage in our daily chores. They are the worst hazards which made our mother earth not to breathe peacefully. Its usage should be avoided. Women are the backbones of family. They should be oriented on the ill effects of using single use plastics in our life. Create awareness on the following three "R's" – reduce, reuse and recycle to conserve natural resources and landfill space. The critical need to address single-use plastic has become unmistakably clear. Our planet reels under the burden of plastic pollution, choking ecosystems, harming wildlife, and contaminating our waterways. Heightened awareness is crucial to drive change, urging individuals, industries, and governments to adopt sustainable alternatives and practices. Embracing reusable options, reducing plastic consumption, and advocating for responsible waste management are pivotal steps toward safeguarding our environment for generations to come.

#### Reference:

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