

A STUDY ON SOLID WASTE DISPOSING HABITS AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to expect the Solid waste disposing habits of high school students. The sufficient comprised of 200 high school students (100 boys and 100 girls) from the urban and rural high schools of Kanyakumari district. The data were obtained by using Solid waste disposing habits check list developed by the investigator. The results revealed that there is no significant difference between boys and girls in terms of solid waste disposing habits. The results also revealed that there is no significant difference between urban and rural high school students in terms of solid waste disposing habits.

KEYWORDS: Solid waste, Disposing, Habits and High School Students.

INTRODUCTION

In natural systems, there is no such thing as waste. Everything flows in a natural cycle of use and reuse. Living organisms consume materials and return them to environment in a different form. Solid waste refers to a variety of discarded materials, not liquid or gas, that are deemed useless (or) worthless. But according to natural cycle what is worthless to one person may be of value to someone else. It is also considered to be misplaced resources. The term 'waste' also denotes useless discharged materials.

The collected wastes were thrown into municipal waste collection centers and it further thrown into the landfills and dumps. The waste management and disposal have to be done in a proper way. If the management and disposal is improperly done, it can cause serious impacts on health conditions. It will cause infectious diseases. The unattended waste lying around, attracts flies, rats and other creatures that in turn spread diseases. This also leads to unhygienic conditions. The plague outbreak in Surat is a relevant example of a city suffering due to the callous attitude of the local body in maintaining cleanliness in the city.

Plastics too pose a problem in disposal as they are not easily decomposed. Many of the plastics cannot be melted and recasted. The increasing disposal of throwaway plastics has become the nightmare of the environmental agencies. Solid waste disposal has been an issue facing human beings since they began living together in large permanent settlements. With the migration of people to urban settings, the volume of solid waste greatly increased. Ancient cultures dealt with waste disposal in various ways. They dumped it outside their settlements, incorporated some of it into flooring and building materials, and some of it were recycled. Dumping or burning solid waste has been a standard practice over the centuries. Most communities in the United States dumped (or) burned their trash until 1960s. But later, when the solid waste Act of 1965 came into effect, the waste management and disposal in a proper way became the prior process.

There are two basic sources of solid wastes, non-municipal and municipal. Non-municipal solid waste is the discarded solid materials from industry, agriculture, mining and oil and gas production. Municipal solid waste is made up of discarded solid materials from residents, businesses and city buildings. The composition of the municipal wastes can vary from region to region and from season to season. Some solid wastes are detrimental to the health and well-being of humans. These materials are classified as hazardous wastes.

Ocean dumping has also been a popular way for coastal communities to dispose of their solid wastes. Now this practice is banned in most of the countries. Conservation of nature and waste disposal, particularly the disposal of plastics, chemicals and atomic waste, are the two main factors which influence the economical growth. Modernization has the adverse effect on human environment and solid waste management.

Creating solid waste disposing habits in school children is a very essential thing every governmental and non-governmental organization needs to implement. This solid waste disposing habits can strongly build the future economy of the world. Children throw food wastes everywhere in the home and school environment. This little habit in the future also the children throw papers and plastic covers on the road. They are not paying much attention to put it in the waste box. It makes health hazards in the environment.

Our present world is in the compulsion to create awareness among the students about the solid waste disposal habits. Because our future depends upon our present world-our government has taken a lot of initiatives at legislative level to popularise solid waste management habits among school students. But it did not make any impact on the students. Because the school curriculum did not focus on solid waste disposing habits.

Need of the Study

Solid wastes are unwanted materials disposal by man. These materials cause pollution in water, soil and air. Because of the unawareness about solid waste management and disposal habits children are failed to use waste disposal boxes in a proper way. Students should be well educated about pollution and waste disposing habits. Environmental education provides knowledge about waste disposing habits and waste management, which includes the education 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) of resources. Students should be educated in such a way that to use eco friendly products, reduce generation of hazardous wastes and so on. By over viewing the current situation of our society, we can know that there is no awareness solid waste disposing habits among students. This can be improved only through proper education at school level.

In olden days there was no problem in disposing domestic waste, because they were organic in nature. But in today's world the quantity and complexity of the wastes were increased. So it created an emergence in developing appropriate waste disposal habits to ensure the healthy environment. It is very important to impart positive attitude towards environment and waste disposing habits on the young minds.

Paper, glass, metals, tires, plastics, vegetable wastes, rubber, food waste, textile, aluminum metals, leather, wood etc. are come under solid wastes. There are many reasons behind the increased solid wastes. They are, low products durability, large population, abundance of disposable items, lack recycling process, low product reuse rate and carelessness of human beings. In most of the countries, the most important threat to the environment is solid waste from domestic and non-domestic activities. Domestic activities are housekeeping activities include the industrial activities, that are curing the manufacturing processes.

The most common waste disposing habit among high school students, is dumping the wastes at open plots i.e., wastes are disposed into the nearest open space, on land or surface water. Instead of disposing the habit in a proper way, they pass the wastes from one place to another place. They only want to make it out of sight. According to World Bank (2019), there will be increase in waste generation annually all over the globe by 70% from 2.01 billion tons in 2016 to

3.40 billion tons by 2050. The presence of overloaded bins and uncollected waste bins create not only the foul aroma, but also the unpleasant sight. Solid waste management students only can effectively contribute. They can help local people in collection of wastes. In today's scenario it is very important than ever to understand solid waste management. This can only be possible by educational sectors.

The first awareness on solid waste management should be given to students and teachers there should be more advancement in waste bins and recycling methods. This management habits should be in easiest form government should take actions for supporting solid waste management habits among high school students solid waste management is a pressing global issue India, with its burgeoning population faces unique challenges in this regard. High school students who represent our nation's future play an important role in shaping sustainable waste disposal practices.

The exponential growth of India's population coupled with rapid urbanization has led to an unprecedented increase in solid waste generation among the diverse demographic segments, high school students exhibit distinctive consumption patterns and disposal habits, influenced by socio-cultural factors, educational backgrounds, and access to resources understanding these dynamics is essential for devising effective waste management strategies tailored to this demographic group.

Educational interventions targeting youth can significantly impact waste disposal habits. Leveraging digital platforms, gamification and peer-to-peer learning approaches can enhance the effectiveness of educational campaigns targeting youths on solid waste disposing into the school curriculum and incentivizing sustainable practices can institutionalize behavioral change.

By elucidating the factors driving high school students, waste disposal habits, it can inform the development of targeted interventions and educational initiatives to promote responsible waste management and disposing habits.

Through this study we can understand the impact of high school students on solid waste disposing and contributing to broader waste management strategies we can evaluate the effectiveness of existing waste management programs targeting high school students. The solid waste disposing habits of students vary based on different factors such as gender, year of study and contextual influences. The increase of solid waste generation causes its management more challenging.

Poor solid waste management will lead to various problems. Students have low knowledge on solid waste disposing. Parents, society and social media are the sources for increasing awareness in solid waste management.

REVIEWS OF RELATED LITERATURE

Talita Ima Panzo et al (2021) conducted an investigation on "Environmental awareness on solid waste management practices: A case study in Angolan secondary schools". The study was carried out in the four largest provinces of Angola and the results were obtained from questionnaires to the students and interviews with the school coordinators and the waste management officers in the region. The results show that the students have moderate consumption habits of electricity and water, demonstrated by 40% of students following the appropriate attitude, and have

reasonable knowledge about the scenarios that produce large environmental impact, marking 3 out of 9 options: river pollution, toxic waste in the soil and sewage discharge on the beach as the most relevant, together reaching almost 50% of the responses. However, they have a gap in knowledge about the health impact of solid waste disposal in dumps site close to urban areas, as evidenced by the high number of children and adolescents living near these areas and with some of them helping their families as waste pickers. The poor environmental education program and the nonexistence of school activities on these issues contribute for disassociate the linkage of waste disposal in dumps with diseases. As waste disposal in dumps is current in almost all provinces in Angola, except Luanda, environmental education in schools plays an important role in preparing children and adolescents to adopt practices in the future that protect the environment and contribute to the reduction of public health problems. In addition, children and adolescents can indirectly influence their parents on these issues.

Christiana Okorie and Glory N Amadi (2017) conducted an investigation on “Awareness and attitude towards proper solid waste disposal among residents of Port Harcourt Metropolis in Rivers State”. The study explores the awareness and attitude of residents of Port Harcourt Metropolis towards proper solid waste disposal. The study considers the role of adult education programme in boosting the awareness of the people about the means of solid waste disposal. A major concern of the work is to arouse positive attitude of relevant agencies and the general public on the sustainability of the healthy physical environment. There is a global outcry on the challenges of environmental degradation all over the world and mostly in less developed nations like Nigeria. Proactive measures are sought to combat this menace. The first step, however, must be the reorientation of the people who indulge in the unwholesome practices of indiscriminate waste disposal. Although there had been strong speculations of the lack of positive attitude towards proper solid waste disposal throughout Nigerian cities, there is need to develop empirical proof to the claims. Findings of this study have justified the existing claims. The study has preferred the institutionalization of environmental adult education option programmes for a positive attitude towards solid waste disposal in Port Harcourt metropolis.

Statement of the problem

A STUDY ON SOLID WASTE DISPOSING HABITS AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

Objectives

1. To find out the level of Solid waste disposing habits among high school students with respect to gender.
2. To find out the level of Solid waste disposing habits among high school students with respect to locality of school

Objective of the Study Hypotheses of the Study

1. There is no significant difference between boys and girls high school students on solid waste disposing habits
2. There is no significant difference between urban and rural high school students on Solid waste disposing habits

METHODOLOGY

Methodology makes the most important contribution towards the environment of any study. Survey method of research was employed by the investigator.

Statistical Technique

In the present study to compare the high school students on the Solid waste disposing habits Mean, S.D, t-test of a range of was used. For the purpose of the analysis, differential analysis techniques were used. The level of significance was set at 0.05 levels

Sample for the Study

In the present study sample of 200 students (100 boys and 100 girls) were taken using proportionate simple random sampling technique.

Tools for the Study

A check list on Solid waste disposing habits prepared by the investigator.

Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The essential step in the process of research, after the collection of data, is the organization, analysis and interpretation of the data and formulation of conclusions and generalization to get a meaningful picture out of the raw information thus collected. Analysis is the statistical method of interpretation, which describes the characteristics of the data and will give the investigator an insight into the problem. The mass of data collected needs to be systemized and organized, i.e., edited, classified and tabulated before it can serve the purpose. Data are

meaningless heaps of material without analysis and interpretation. The purpose of the analysis is to find out the difference between the variables, which lead to the verification of hypothesis. This is achieved with the logical organization of data and use of relevant statistical techniques. After analysis, interpretation has to be done carefully, logically and critically by examining the results obtained, keeping in view limitation of the sample chosen, tools selected and used in the study.

Table: 1 Significance of difference between the boys and girls level solid waste disposing habits scores

Gender	N	Mean	S.D	't' Value	LS
Boys	100	53.12	18.23	0.78	NS
Girls	100	53.88	19.20		

*LS- Level of Not Significance

It could be observed from table:1 the computed 't' value 0.78 is Not Significant at 0.05 level. It suggests that the high school boys and girls Not Significantly differ in their level of Solid waste disposing habits hence the null hypothesis 1 is accepted.

Table:2 Significance of difference between the urban and rural level Solid waste disposing habits scores

Locality of the School	N	Mean	S.D	't' Value	LS
Urban	100	53.08	16.86	0.15	NS
Rural	100	55.29	18.37		

*LS-Level of Not Significance

It could be observed from table: 2 the computed 't' value 0.15 is Not Significant at 0.05 level. It suggests that the high school urban and rural Not Significantly differ in their level of Solid waste disposing habits hence the null hypothesis 2 is accepted.

CONCLUSIONS

From the above said findings, we can conclude that the boys students are different on solid waste disposing habits as compared to girls students. The rural school students high level of habits in solid waste disposal as compared to urban school students. Based on the finding and discussions, it could be concluded that we must develop awareness among school students. Based on the finding and discussions, it could be concluded that we must enlarge positive attitude, awareness among high school students. The students must be well informed about the implications of health problems arise out of improper disposal of solid waste. The teachers should teach the topics related to proper disposal of waste day to day affairs. The young generation should be awareness of proper disposal of solid waste then only they can protect the environment from pollution.

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