

# Environmental Awareness and Waste Disposal Practices of Homemakers of Jyotivihar Campus of Sambalpur University, Odisha, India

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**Abstract:** Environment constitutes a very important part of our life. To understand life without studying the impact of environment is almost impossible. We use renewable and non-renewable resources in our day to day life. We have to be more careful in using resources especially non-renewable which will vanish as we use them. All human activities have impact on environment. This impact is increasing day by day as the population in the recent time has increased rapidly. Thus there is need for the awareness about the environmental issues. Household wastes also create environmental pollution if they are not disposed properly. In the present study the status of environmental awareness and waste disposal practices of homemakers of Sambalpur university campus, Burla, Odisha was studied. A total of fifty (n=50) homemakers were selected as sample. An Environment attitude scale was used to assess the environmental awareness level and a self formulated questionnaire was used to determine their household waste disposal practices. Purposive sampling method was used for data collection. The major findings of the study were most of the respondents have moderately favorable attitude and some have neutral attitude and none of them have extremely favorable and extremely unfavorable attitude towards the environmental pollution. An analysis of waste disposal practices showed that most of them give paper, plastic bags, bottles, hard plastics, glass bottles to the waste collector. Some of the respondents sorted out their waste before disposal, composting their organic waste and using it for their kitchen garden and household plants, recycle and reuse their waste into decoration items.

**Keywords:** Environmental awareness, pollution, homemaker, domestic waste.

## I-INTRODUCTION

Environment is the fertile part of the earth where organisms exist and interact with each other. The natural environment provides all facilities to organisms including humans for happy living. Every organism makes use of the natural environment for its survival. All creatures including human get their food and other comforts from the natural environment.

Man when progress in his scientific and modern attitude, he started to be unkind to natural environment. He mercilessly cut the trees and destroys the green forests for constructions, for agriculture, and other forms of constructions. These destructions of green trees, rapid growth in industrialization, population growth and urbanization create environmental issues like global warming, depletion of ozone layer, dwindling forest, loss in energy resources, loss of global diversity etc. which leads to environmental pollution, like water pollution, air pollution, land pollution, soil pollution, noise pollution, acid rain, etc. (pattnaik, 1999).

One of the main causes of environmental pollution is improper waste management. Some of the waste is produced from the house. The domestic waste includes: packing items garden waste, old containers, vegetables, metals, old cloths, etc. The consequence of indiscriminate dumping of household solid wastes is various environmental and health problems. This includes inter-alia; blockage of drains, flood hazards, air, water and land pollution, provision of breeding places for pests, spread of diseases such as malaria from mosquitoes, cholera, dysentery, diarrhea and offensive odor. (Komolafe A. Olajide, 2014)

The problem of waste management practices may be as a result of poverty, homemaker's environmental illiteracy and the lack of legislation and enforcement (Akpan and Usoro, 2005).

Women are more responsible for the pollution as they are responsible for domestic and household management; interact more intensively with the natural environment (Akwa, 2009). It is responsibility of the women to dispose the household waste properly. So it is necessary to create environmental awareness among the homemakers. Environmental awareness implies information and understanding of the environment, its creatures and simultaneously to solve the related environmental problems. In recent days environmental awareness is very important issue. Lack of awareness towards environment will lead to destruction of the earth and living beings. (Nityananda Barman, 2015)

## II- OBJECTIVES

- To find out the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents;
- To elicit the environmental awareness level of the home makers;
- To elicit information on the knowledge of waste disposal practices.

## III- METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Jyotivihar campus of Sambalpur University, Burla, Sambalpur, Odisha to assess the environmental awareness and domestic waste disposal practices of homemakers. This was a descriptive cross sectional survey. Fifty willing homemakers were selected for survey work. Purposive sampling method was followed for data collection. For data collection a self formulated questionnaire and an Environmental Pollution Attitude scale was used. The questionnaire consists of questions on General information, Domestic waste disposal practices.

Environmental Pollution Attitude scale was used to assess the environmental awareness level among the homemakers. The scale designed on the basis of Helson's adaption level theory in 1964. It consists of thirty statements out of which fifteen were positive statements and fifteen were negative statements against environmental pollution. Under each statement five responses such as strongly agree, agree, unable to decide, disagree, and strongly disagree are provided. The respondents express their opinion about the statement any one of five responses with which she agree. The responses were assigned with scores according to the procedure as given in the key. The total scores of the statements constitute the individuals score. The high score indicates the favorable attitude and low score indicates the unfavorable attitude towards environmental pollution. Each completed questionnaire was reviewed for completeness prior to analysis. The data collected was sorted and analyzed with MS Excel. Tables, frequencies and percentages were generated where necessary. The environmental awareness level and waste disposal practices were cross examined with independent variables like education, occupation, income, etc.

## IV- RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After analysing the data the results discussed below.

**Table-1 General information of the respondents**

Variables		No	%
Age	25-45 years	32	64
	45-65 years	18	36
Education	Up to graduation	18	36
	Above graduation	32	64
Occupation	Non- working	26	52
	Working	24	48
Income	Up to Rs. 50,000	25	50
	Above Rs. 50,000	25	50

By analyzing the data it was found that the age of respondents were in between 25-65 years, out of which 64% were in the group of 25-45 years and 36% were in the group of 45-65 years, out of them 36% were qualified up to graduation and 64% were above graduation; 52% were Non- working and 48% were working; 50% of them had monthly income up-to 50000 and 50% had above 50000.

**Table-2 Waste disposal practices of the respondents**

Disposal practices	Burn		Reuse		Composting		Throw outside		Give to Waste collector	
	No	%	No	%	No	%		%	No	%
Paper	13	26	12	24	0	0	3	6	22	44
Plastic container	6	12	12	24	0	0	9	12	23	46
Glass bottles	0	0	14	28	0	0	9	18	27	54
Vegetable peals	4	8	9	18	23	46	14	28	0	0
Leftover food	0	0	15	30	20	40	15	30	0	0

On the basis of sample survey it was found that up to 50% of the respondents gave their wastes like paper, plastic container, and glass bottles to the waste collectors and approximately 25% of them reused. 46% and 40% of respondents compost their vegetable peels and leftover food and 18% and 30% of them reused vegetable peels and leftover food material.

**Table-3 Environmental awareness level of the respondents**

Nature of attitude	No	%	Weight
Extremely favorable	0	0	5
Moderately favorable	32	64	4
Neutral	18	36	3
Moderately unfavorable	0	0	2
Extremely unfavorable	0	0	1

64% of homemakers had moderately favorable attitude and 36% of respondents had neutral attitude towards environment. It was also found that respondents having higher education level had better attitude towards environment and employed respondents were more aware about environment than the non-employed respondents.

## V- CONCLUSION

We are born from the earth, we return to the earth and we sustain by the earth. Hence the environment in which we live is very important and it directly affects our lives. It is said that man is the product of his environment. Environmental problem is a global concern. It has no boundary. Around the world efforts are being made to make people aware about environmental protection. One of the main causes of environmental degradation is improper management in the disposal of solid waste. It is a major cause of Pollution and outbreak of diseases in many parts of the world. There is no permanent solution for environmental problems, only thing we can reduce and control waste generation by proper awareness and practice. Proper management of the waste generated is most important in this matter (C.D. Licy, 2013).

## VI- ACNOLODGEEMENT

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