A Study on Effects and Awareness of Complete Ban of Plastic Carry Bags with Special Reference to Perundurai Block

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Abstract – There has been on-going debate on the use of plastic/polythene bags across the world and many cities have banned or considered banning the use of this product. Polythene bags have today become the most visible indicator of environmental degradation as citizens' associate polythene to environmental pollution on account of its prominence in the municipal waste stream. Polythene as a material is highly versatile, economical and convenient hence more acceptable to consumers resulting in increased consumption patterns over many years. While the consumption patterns have continued to grow the bags are also seen as one of the major sources of littering in cities and even rural areas. Most civic agencies in India have struggled hard to set up systems for collection and disposal of these bags but have found it extremely difficult to come up with any substantive solution towards managing this waste hence the conversation and debate on the use of polythene bags.

Index Terms – Plastic bags, Polythene, Ban, Awareness.

1. INTRODUCTION

In 1754, when Horace Walpole suggested the word 'serendipity', no one knew that it would come to be associated with some of the greatest scientists and discoveries in history. In 1898, Hans von Pitchman discovered, by accident or serendipity, a waxy substance at the bottom of the test tube, giving birth to one of the most controversial as well as most widely used substances of modern time polythene. However, its main ingredient, diazomethane, was highly unstable, and it was Eric Fawcett and Reginald Gibson at Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) who, again by serendipity, discovered its industrially practical version in 1933. This version too could not be mass-produced, and it was only in 1935, that Michael Perrin, again an ICI chemist, developed this accident into reproducible polythene, leading to its viable mass production in 1939.The word 'plastic' comes from the Greek word 'plasticos', which means to be able to be shaped or moulded by heat.

2. PLASTIC BAG BAN IN INDIA

The central government has recently passed a ruling under the provisions of the Environment Protection Act 1986, restricting the sale of some products in plastic carry bags. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has banned the manufacture and use of plastic carry bags less than 8 inches x 12 inches in size and 40 micron[7] in width. The ministry has also directed state governments to register all plastic manufacturing units.

3. PROPOSED MODELING

- To examine the level of awareness among people about the ban of plastic carry bags.
- To rank the problems faced by the public using carry bags.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- The study is descriptive in nature because it is used to find out the facts and figures.
- Sampling Size:100.
- Convenient Sampling is used in this study.
- Both primary and secondary data is incorporated in the study.

5. CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS

H_0: There is no significant relationship between gender and aware of ban of carry bags.

H_1: There is significant relationship between gender and aware of ban of carry bags.

GENDER	Aware of ban of carry bags			
	Few months ago	1-2	3-4	Total
Male	34	10	8	52
Female	32	10	6	48
Total	**66**	**20**	**14**	**100**

Calculation of chi-square test

(O)	(E)	(O – E)	$(O - E)^2$	$\frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$
34	34.32	-0.32	0.1024	0.032
10	31.68	-21.68	470.0224	14.836
8	10.4	-2.4	5.76	0.55
32	9.6	22.4	501.76	52.266
10	7.28	2.72	7.3984	1.016
6	6.72	-0.72	0.5184	0.0771
100				**68.7771**

Degrees of Freedom
= (r-1) (c-1)
= (2-1) (3-1)
= 2

Interpretation

As calculated value (68.771) is greater than the tabulated value (5.991) $\mathbf{H_1}$ is accepted and $\mathbf{H_0}$ is rejected.

Result

It is clear from the above table that $\mathbf{H_1}$ is accepted and it is concluded that there is significant difference between gender and aware of ban of carry bags.

6. PROBLEMS FACED BY THE RESPONDENTS

S.NO	PROBLEMS	MEAN SCORE	TOTAL SCORE	RANK
1	SOIL POLLUTION	521	2084	1
2	DRAINAGES DUMPED	413	2064	2
3	AIR POLLUTION	301	1806	3
4	WATER POLLUTION	722	722	8
5	ENVIRONTMENTAL PROBLEMS	659	1318	7
6	HEALTH ISSUES	531	1593	6
7	HYGIENIC PROBLEMS	252	1784	4
8	SAFETY ISSUES	201	1608	5

7. DUE TO CARRY BAGS

It is revealed that "soil pollution" is ranked as no.1 with a total score of 2084. "Drainages dumped" is ranked as no.2 with a total score of 2064. "Air pollution" is ranked as No.3 with a total score of 1806 "hygienic problems", "safety problems" and "health issue" , "environmental problems" and "water pollution" was ranked as no. 4, 5, 6,7 and 8th problems.

8. SUGGESTION

- Soil pollution was ranked as no.1 so the government and the people has support to avoid the usage of carry bags.
- There was an alternative hypothesis. The awareness level of people are to be improved.

9. CONCLUSION

The findings of this study indicate that the plastic bags ban was found to be quite effective in the smaller towns and villages, and in some cases in the more remote big towns and in weekly hats, the use of plastic bags is quite rampant. This can be largely attributed to a relaxation in the strict monitoring system prevalent in the early years of the ban. Generally vendors are more aware than customers about the ban and there is still a residual fear that prevents plastic bags being openly sold.

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