

Volume 6, Issue 2 (III)
April - June 2019

ISSN 2394 - 7780



International Journal of
Advance and Innovative Research
(Conference Special)

Indian Academicians and Researchers Association
www.iaraedu.com



Journal - 63571

UGC Journal Details

Name of the Journal : International Journal of Advance & Innovative Research

ISSN Number :

e-ISSN Number : 23947780

Source: UNIV

Subject: Multidisciplinary

Publisher: Indian Academicians and Researchers Association

Country of Publication: India

Broad Subject Category: Multidisciplinary

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THE IMPACT OF PLASTIC BAGS ON THE ENVIRONMENT: A FIELD SURVEY OF THE THANE

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ABSTRACT

“Don't be drastic, Say ' No' to plastic.” It is easy to listen and read but difficult to implement. Since plastic bags are provided free of charge, people have a tendency to use these bags excessively. The effects of plastic bags on the environment are really quite harmful. Hence, the current study undertaken to understand the current usage plastic and its impact on the environment. With the sample of 100, the study covered the respondents like student, teachers and passerby.

The study reflected that even though State Government Ban on plastic use, nearly, approx 83% of people are still using it. Even their well known the harmful effects of plastic bags on the human lives, marine life and animals, they are still using plastic bags. Though they are ready to use biodegradable plastic bags, but due to lack of some awareness and facilities provided by the government, the implementation of a plastic bag ban is lacking somewhere. Because, now-a-day our life fully depends on plastic bags.

If the plastic bag ban is implemented properly, it will help's in environment, social and economic sustainability. Sustainability focuses on equal economic growth that generated health and wealth.

INTRODUCTION

The scenario of global environment is changing day by day and it's very difficult to survive or challenging to live life without any harm. Every nation is trying to develop their countries without taking into consideration of the environment impact of degradation and pollution of agricultural land.

The government alone cannot find ways to eradicate the problem of environmental hazard. However, it is the responsibility of both the business sector and the individual consumers in reducing the environment and agriculture pollution.

When it comes to problems related to the environment, and then every individual needs to be a part and parcel to think of way out. Being an education institution, it becomes a moral duty to sensitize the generation next regarding the grave issue so that these future policy makers, managers, implementers and consumers ultimately can work hand in hand to bring a positive change.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:

Plastics and their products are littering our, cities, oceans and water ways and contributing to health problems in humans, animals and marine lives. Plastic bag problems loom larger every day. Plastic bags tend to disrupt the environment in serious way. They get into soil and lowly release the toxic chemical, burning of plastic in the open air, leads to the environmental pollution due to the release of poisonous chemicals.

The polluted air, when inhaled by humans and animals affects their health and cause respiratory problems. The life under water, 100 million marine animals killed every year, due to the plastic debris in the ocean as they often mistake plastic bag for food such as a jellyfish and as plastic cannot be digested. Plastics are made by the use of petroleum and natural gas which are non-renewable resources and contribute to the climate change.

As Maharashtra contains of many developed cities, many peoples are migrating towards it. Due to this Maharashtra has become India's biggest generator of plastic waste which produces more than 4.6 lakhs tonnes of waste per year. Which lead into the blockage in sewage system and results in floods.

OBJECTIVES:

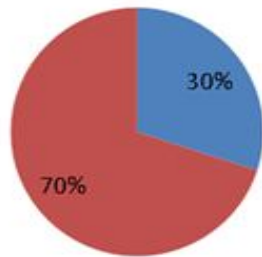
- To study the profile of respondents.
- To study the effects of plastic bags on the environment.
- To find out the reaction of respondents on plastic ban.
- To determine the usage of plastic bags
- To justify the plastic ban is solution for environmental sustainability.

FINDINGS:

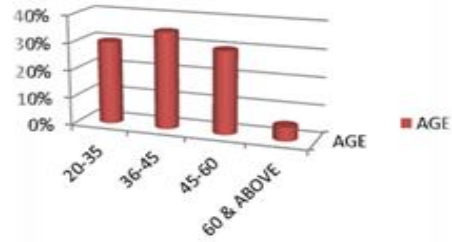
Under the study we have taken the sample of 100 people in which there are 70 females and 30 males under which there are 35% of people are students, 10% are teachers, and 55% are passersby.

GENDER

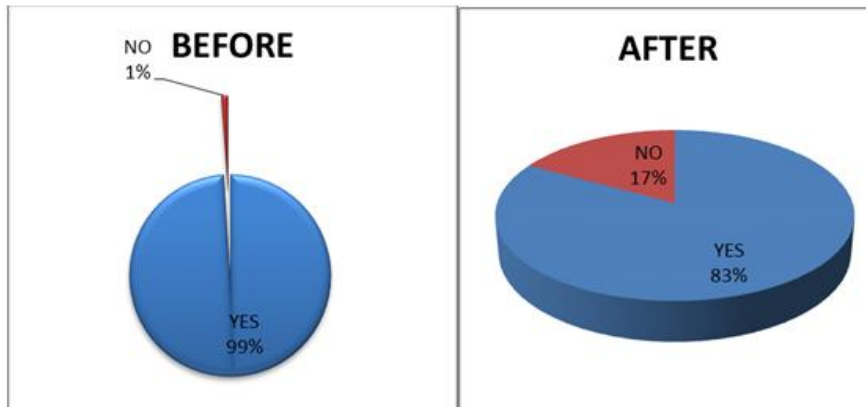
■ MALE ■ FEMALE



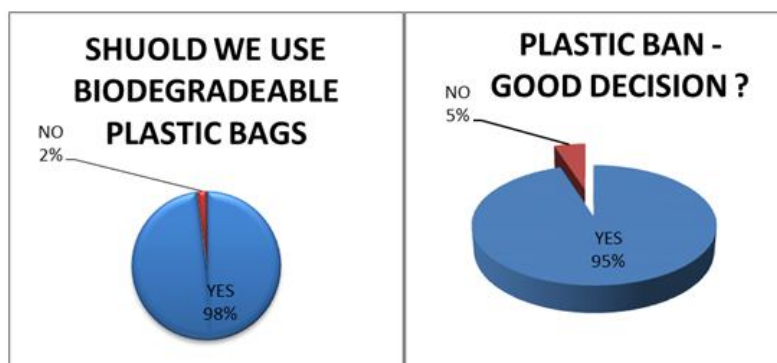
AGE



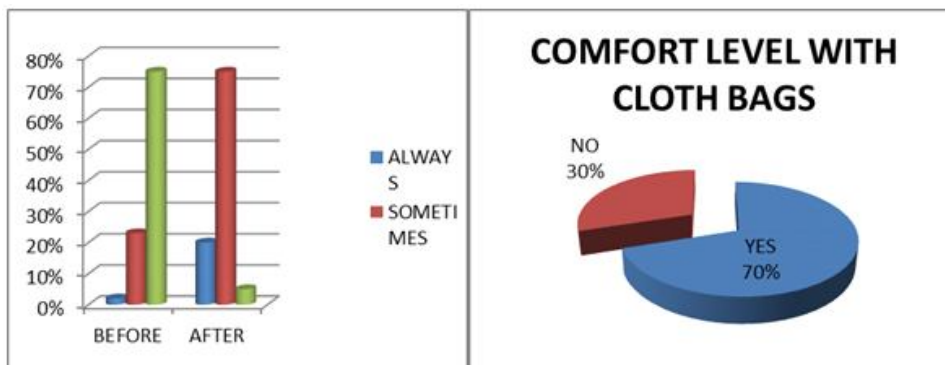
We came to know that before the ban there are 99% of people are using it and only 1% of them are not using. And after the ban 83% of people are still using the plastic bags and 17% of them are not using of plastic. They are using plastic bags of various purposes such as 35% are using for dust bin, 10% are using for shopping bags, 15% using for storing and carrying things and 40% of them throw away.



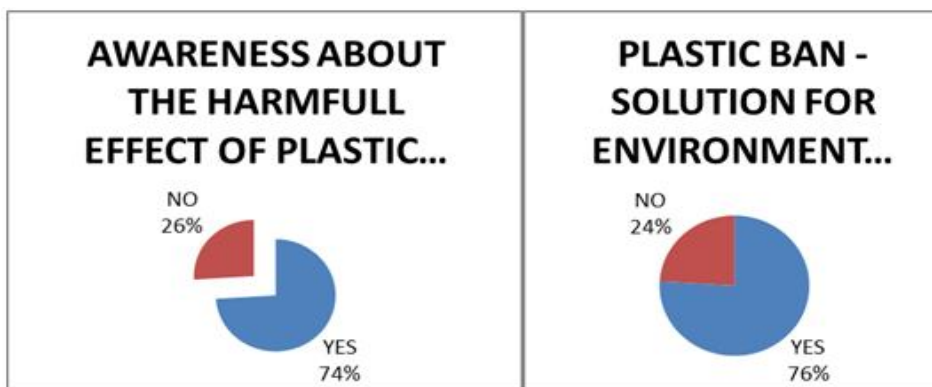
On further studies, there are 98% of public are agreed on, that they should use the biodegradable plastic bags and 2% are not. 95% of them thinks that the ban on plastic is the good decision from the govt. and 5% of them thinks that it is a retrograded step.



On asking that do they bring their own bags for shopping the scenario before the ban 2% carries always, 23% carries sometimes, and 75% never. But after the ban 20% bring always, 75% brings sometimes and 5% brings never. On asking that if they are comfort by using cloths bags, instead of plastic bags, 70% of them answered yes and 30% are not.



On the further study we came to know 74% of people are well aware of the negative impact of plastic bags on our environment, human life, marine life and wild life. And 26% of people are not.



After the whole study of research we came to know that only 76% of public beliefs that YES plastic ban is the solution for environment sustainability, and 24% of public says NO on this.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- 1) Nitin Joseph, Aswin Kumar - The aim of study was to find out the status of awareness of the health hazards associated with the usage of plastic bags among people and their perceptive towards the legislations prohibiting the usage of plastic bags. Interview methodology used for the present study. Data was collected interviewing any adult members. The sample size was 250. Data was entered and analyzed using version 16.0 of the statistical package for social science software package. It is found that most of the participants in the settings had the awareness of hazards of plastic bag usage.
- 2) Bella Jaisinghani (2018) - With the enforcement of the state wide plastic ban, commercial establishment and citizen alike have started to shun single use plastic items. The article given the analysis of plastic bag seized and how much amount collected in terms of fine by Municipal Corporation. The article also revealed the negative opinion of merchants on plastic ban. Merchant demands that the administration should give them time to implement their norms. The article also emphasized that how the merchant shopkeepers were cheated through fine by officers of the Municipal Corporation.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- a) **Primary Data:** A structured questionnaire used to collect primary data from the respondents. The sample size was 100. The chi square test used to analyse and the interpretation of data.
- b) **Secondary Data:** The research articles published in journals, Published article in Newspaper referred for the study.

Hypothesis testing

H₀ - Plastic Bag Ban effects does not effects more females than males

H₁ - Plastic Bag Ban effects more females than males

	USer	Non user	Total
Male	18	12	30
Female	40	30	71
Total	58	42	100

O _i	E _i	(O _i -E _i) ² /E ²
18	17.4	0.02
12	12.6	0.02
40	40.6	0.00
30	29.4	0.01
Critical value 0.05		

Degree of Significance -(R-1) (C-1)= 2-1*2-1

1*1 =1

$$\chi^2_c = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

Interpretation: Looking up the value 2.0 in the χ^2 table for 1 degree of freedom, the probability of this result is 3.811. Hence, H₀ is rejected, i.e. plastic bag ban does not effects more females than males. (The chi square value is more than critical value).

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study helps to environmental conservation. It promote majors of sustainable development alternative degradable resources.

LIMITATIONS AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

A very limited sample size selected for the study and foused on only one city i.e. Thane. The study can extend in the future by focusing on the number of cities and also sample size can be increased to drawn the conclusion.

RECOMMENDATION & SUGGESTIONS

- Spread awareness as negative effects on environment.
- Replace plastic bag with paper and cloth bags
- The price of cloth bags should be reducing.
- A toll free number should be provided to the public, so that if they saw anyone using plastic bags, they can complain. And imidiata can take action against the offender.
- Alternative solution should b provides, specially in Rainey season.
- As total plastic ban is not possible, but recycled plastic bags is one option that should be considered.
- The educational institutions should conduct seminars/ workshop on Plastic ban. Under entrepreneurship student having knowledge like stich cloth bags and distribute the Society to create awareness.
- Society chairman should take initiative, under the plastic bags gathered it should be keep together and then call to BMC to collect it.

CONCLUSION

Through field survey of plastic bags, which done in thane city and found that the city containing a very large amount of plastic bags where there are on the streets, roads, the trees, vegetables and so on which leads to contamination and distortion environment and reduces the aesthetic view of the thane city which refers to the environmental disaster in the city. It is found that plastic bags waste material cause serious environment problems, so it is essential that the waste materials must remove by using the microorganism which associated with plastic bags.

The government cannot do alone there is required hand to hand support of each individuals of the society. The NGO's should take initiatives to create awareness among the society. The education institution can also contribute in creating awareness with the support of students who are the future nation builders. The vendors of

vegetables should also restrict to giving vegetables in plastic bags. Each of us should take oath not use of plastic bag and protect the environment.

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- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>
- Bella Jaisinghani ‘ On day 2, banned plastics found in only 9% of shops’ published article in Times of India, Monday, June 25, 2018.