

A Study on Mode of Garbage Disposal by Urban Families

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ABSTRACT A study in Haryana Agricultural University Campus of Hisar City was conducted by taking 100 respondents to study the mode of garbage disposal by urban families. Results revealed that majority of the respondents were not satisfied by their existing mode of garbage disposal outside the home and were interested in effective management of garbage at household level.

INTRODUCTION

The condition of environment is of vital concern for mankind, since it is directly linked with human welfare. The sheer size of many cities and their runaway growth rates makes the growth rate alarming of wastes. A sample survey indicated that about 350-400 grams of per capita per day solid waste is generated in an average Indian town. Collection and disposal of solid waste alone already consumes upto 50 per cent of some municipal operating budgets and only 50-70 per cent of urban trash is usually collected (Kala and Khan, 1994). Organic waste is the component of solid waste which when left uncleared causes various infectious diseases (Jensen, 1990).

Like any problem, human beings can maximize or minimize the problem of solid waste to a longer extent. It is out of the personal habits that our living environments can be made better or worst. Generally, people use to throw garbage all around the Municipal committee bins and not inside the bin. Some don't even bother to come near the bin and throw garbage in open spaces or parks. Most people feel that the job of keeping neighbourhood clean is that of Municipal corporation. Generally people don't dispose the garbage properly and dump it almost anywhere outside the house. The present study was thus planned to study the mode of garbage disposal by urban families.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Haryana state by selecting Hisar city from Hisar district purposively. Haryana Agricultural University Campus was selected purposively to draw a

sample of 100 respondents, 50 from multistoried building and 50 from independent ground floor houses randomly. The mode of garbage disposal by urban families was studied with the help of pretested interview schedule and participatory approach. The data collected were transformed into master tables along with frequency distribution and percentages were worked out.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Placement and Type of Bin: Data in Table 1 revealed the information regarding placement and type of bin. It was found that bins were placed in kitchen by all the respondents followed by those who also had bins in bedroom (60.0%) and courtyard (40.0%). Plastic material bins were used by the respondents in kitchen (100%), bedroom (100%) and courtyard (75%). Only 25.0 per cent bins placed in courtyard were of iron material. One third of the respondents (33.3%) had covered bins in the bedroom while rest were uncovered. In kitchen the corresponding figures were 25.0 per cent and 75.0 per cent. All the bins placed in courtyard were uncovered.

It may be concluded that kitchen bins were available to all the respondents followed by

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to placement and type of bins.

| Place- ment | Bin's material | | | Type | |
|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| | Fre- quency | Plastic | Iron | Covered | Un- covered |
| Bedroom | 60(60.0) | 60(100) | 0(0.0) | 20(33.3) | 40(66.6) |
| Kitchen | 100(100) | 100(100) | 0(0.0) | 25(25.0) | 75(75.0) |
| Court- yard | 40(40.0) | 30(75.0) | 10(25.0) | 0(0.0) | 40(100) |

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage.

bedroom and courtyard which were of plastic and uncovered. Frequency of activities, type of waste, requirement and consciousness about placement and type of bins might be probable results for the present findings.

Person Responsible for Garbage Disposal:

Data presented in Table 2 picturised that in 80.0 per cent cases, any family member could perform the job of garbage disposal inside home followed by home maker (20.0%), while in majority of the cases (70.0%) paid servant were responsible for garbage disposal outside the home followed

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to responsibility for garbage disposal.

| Person responsible for garbage disposal | Inside home | Outside home |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| Homemaker | 20(20.0) | 15(15.0) |
| Any family member | 80(80.0) | 15(15.0) |
| Paid servant | 0(0.0) | 70(70.0) |

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage.

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to mode of garbage disposal outside the home.

| Mode of garbage disposal | Place of garbage disposal | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| | Frequency | Inside community bin | Outside community bin |
| Bin | 60(60.0) | 40(40.0) | 20(20.0) |
| Polythene | 40(40.0) | 0(0.0) | 40(40.0) |

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage.

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to level of satisfaction and reasons of unsatisfaction in waste disposal.

| Satisfaction | Inside home | Outside home |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| a) Yes | 70(70.0) | 10(10.0) |
| b) No | 30(30.0) | 90(90.0) |
| <i>Reasons for unsatisfaction</i> | | |
| - Family members throw garbage here and there | 30 (30.0) | - Accumulation of garbage in the street |
| - Foul smell of garbage | | Spreads foul smell |
| - Bins are not regularly cleaned | 10 (10.0) 10(10.0) | Gathering of animal around garbage |
| | | Trouble due to blockage during rainy reason |
| | | 60(60.0) |
| | | Far location of bins |
| | | Less number of bins than required |
| | | 70(70.0) |
| | | Irregularity in cleaning bins |
| | | 5 (40.0) |

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage.

by home maker and any family member on equal basis (15.0%). Reasons like distance of community bins from home, time available to the homemaker and status consciousness might have resulted such trends in results.

Mode of Garbage Disposal Outside the Home:

Data presented in Table 3 revealed that most of the respondents (60.0%) disposed off garbage directly through household bin outside the home while 40.0 per cent respondents reported to dispose off garbage in polythene bags. It was found that those who disposed off garbage through bins outside home, dropped the garbage outside the community bin except 20.0 per cent respondents who reported proper disposal of the garbage. The respondents who packed the garbage in polythene, none could drop the garbage inside the community bin.

Solid Waste Disposal Facilities:

The reactions of respondents in term of their satisfaction and reasons of unsatisfaction regarding garbage disposal have been presented in Table 4. Data in the table illustrated that most of the respondents (70.0%) were satisfied with existed waste disposal practices inside home, while regarding the outside waste disposal facilities majority of the respondents (90.0%) were unsatisfied.

Habit of throwing waste here and there by family members was reported as perceived problem by 30.0 per cent of the respondents. Foul smell and inadequate cleaning of bin were perceived as problem in disposal of waste inside

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents according to suggestions for clean environment.

| | <i>Suggestions</i> | <i>Frequency</i> |
|----|--|------------------|
| a) | Proper and adequate placement of bins | 75(75.0) |
| b) | Regular and proper disposal of garbage by municipal committee | 85(85.0) |
| c) | Proper disposal of garbage in bins by people | 80(80.0) |
| d) | Effective management of garbage at community level | 55(55.0) |
| e) | Effective management of garbage at household level | 100(100.0) |
| f) | Impartation of education to people to aware them regarding environmental problems of garbage | 60(60.0) |

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage.
Multi-response table.

home by the respondents on equal basis.

Spread of foul smell (90.0%) nuisance by animals near the garbage (90.0%), irregularity in cleaning community bins (85.0%) and far location of bins (70.0%) were some of the major problems reported by the respondents. Accumulation of garbage in street (65.0%), trouble due to blockage during rainy season (60.0%) and inadequate number of bins (40.0%) were some of the other problems reported by the respondents. The earlier reports (Gandhi,1996; El-Fadel, 1997; Dhingra, 2000) supported the present study.

Suggestions for Effective Waste Disposal System: A few suggestions were sought from the respondents after studying the solid waste disposal system. Data from Table 5 showed that information regarding remedial aspects revealed that all the respondents showed agreement for effective management of garbage at household level followed by 85.0 per cent respondents who reported that regular and proper disposal of garbage by municipal committee can minimize the problem. Respondents to the extent of 80.0 per cent agreed that people should dispose off garbage properly in bins while three fourth of respondents advocated for proper and adequate placement of community bins to minimize the problem. About half of the respondents (55.0%) agreed that the problem of garbage disposal can be minimized if effective steps are taken to manage the garbage at community level. Imparting of education to people to create

awareness about causes and consequences of garbage disposal problem was advocated by 60.0 per cent of the respondents. This study is also supported by the results of Ali (1991, 1992) who reported to impart proper training programmes for proper disposal of garbage.

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded from the above results that irrespective of location, respondents had problems of varying nature in waste material disposal. Spread of foul smell, nuisance by animals and not cleaning of bins seen to be the major problem outside the home while habitual practice of family members was identified as major problem inside home. This revealed that the problem should be minimized at the household level, actions at individual level and community level in terms of consciousness about the problem and its serious consequences should be made common to all concerned. Motivation improvement is required at individual as well as community level to have clean and healthy environment which will prove a good sign to minimize the problem of garbage disposal at community level. Thus, it is imperative to organize community level educational and training programmes for various section of the society which can be undertaken by health education and other related institutions on frequent basis for proper garbage management.

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