

Perception of Rural and Urban Homemakers Regarding Ban on Polythene Use in the State of Himachal Pradesh

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ABSTRACT Polythene once considered as a boon by the people is turning out to be a big nuisance and threatening the environment due to its non-biodegradable nature. In the state of Himachal Pradesh, the use of polythene bags was banned in June'2004 .In the present study, perception of rural and urban masses regarding the ban on polythene bags was studied in the district Kangra of Himachal Pradesh. Information was collected from rural and urban homemakers to know their views after a period of one year of ban on polythene bags. The tools applied for this purpose included interview schedule, observations and discussion with the users. It was noticed that a large proportion of the respondents preferred to carry polythene bags before ban .The urban people experienced its effect on their day-to-day activities and they took a long time to acclimatize to this ban. On the contrary, rural people were less affected and more conscious about the use of polythene bags. Majority of the users were ignorant about ill-effects of polythene bags (especially recycled and coloured ones) on the health.