

STUDY ON THE USAGE OF PLASTIC BAGS, THEIR DISPOSAL AND ADVERSE IMPACTS ON ENVIRONMENT OF RABWAH CITY, DISTRICT CHINIOT

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Abstract

A changing life style, alongside the advancement of technology has led to a large number of environmental problems. One of the major problem is the use of Plastic bags that jeopardize our environment. Disposal of plastic bags poses serious environmental problems especially for human health. The purpose of current study is to assess the usage of Plastic bags and their environmental impacts in Rabwah city, District Chiniot. A questionnaire was prepared to collect data from 180 randomly selected respondents of different areas of Rabwah city. Data were also collected from the retailer and shopkeepers of the City. The result of the study indicate that more than 90% (91.6%) of respondent frequently used plastic bags as compared to other plastic products regardless of their age, occupation and educational status. The result of the survey revealed that low price /without cost (86.10%), easy availability (80.5%) and the lack of alternative material are the main reasons for the utilization of plastic bags. The practice being used for the disposal of plastic bag wastes is open dumping (72.27%) that was almost common among the respondents. One of the problems was blockage of sewage/drainage lines (61.1%) in addition to deterioration of natural beauty of an environment (57.2%). The results of the study also indicated that the utilization of plastic bags is increasing from time to time. The data collected from shopkeepers revealed that the usage of plastic bags in Rabwah city is 170 kg/ per day which is approximately equal to 72000 plastic bags. In order to reduce the impact of plastic bags on the environment it is recommended that local community be educated about the hazards of plastic bags and help them to use either biodegradable plastic bags or bags made by paper or clothes. Effective legislation is also recommended against the indiscriminate free distribution/use of plastic bags by retailers and their disposal by users.