

A Study on Perception of Teachers towards Solid Waste Management Programmes in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

The disposal of solid waste has, in recent years, become a burning issue in the world. Many countries have taken several tangible measures to address this issue locally and internationally. In this backdrop, Sri Lankan government has taken several steps at local level to solve the solid waste management and the perception of teachers is important for the success of the programmes. The objectives of the study were to find out the level of perception teachers and to identify any significant difference in perception of teachers towards solid waste management programmes based on gender and locality. In this study, a normative survey method was adopted. A sample of 200 teachers working in Akkaraipattu Education Zone was selected by using stratified random sampling technique. Solid Waste Management Programmes Perception Assessment Scale and Personal Information Schedule were used as tools for the study to collect necessary data. The findings of the study reveal that the level of perception of the teachers is average and there are difference in perception based on gender and locality. It is emphasized that the teachers have to be educated to get high perception about Solid Waste Management Programmes in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Perceptions; Waste; Management; Programmes.

Introduction

The impact of improper human waste disposal practices is hazardous and threatening to the life of the people, plants and animals. This results in total environment emerging dangerous to the life in the earth. The disposal of solid waste has, in recent years, become a burning issue in the world. Many countries have taken several tangible measures to address this issue locally and internationally. In this backdrop, Sri Lankan government has taken several steps at local level to solve the solid waste management. It has introduced many educational programmes to make the public aware the mechanism of solid waste management with the support of local bodies. The zonal education offices too have implemented some programmes

to educate how to dispose waste accumulated in the schools. In implementing any programmes, the role of teachers is important for the success of the programme. Interest and perception of the teachers are instrumental in gaining co-operation for implementing such programmes.

Taking into view of the significance of the study, it will through a light on the review of the programmes implemented in and out of schools regarding solid waste management. Similarly, it will assist in making awareness among parents and students regarding the programmes conducted with regard to solid waste management. A review of literature found in Sri Lanka revealed that there is little studies conducted and the studies did not focus the perception of the teachers regarding solid waste management. Therefore, Hence this study is planned to bridge this gap.

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Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the level of perception teachers towards solid waste management programmes.
2. To find out whether there is any significant difference in perception of teachers towards solid waste management programmes based on gender and locality.

Methodology

In this study, a normative survey method was adopted.

Population of the Study

The population of the study constitutes all the teachers working in Akkaraipattu Education Zone.

Sample of the Study

A sample of 200 teachers working in Akkaraipattu Education Zone was selected by using stratified random sampling technique. The strata for the selection were gender, locality, etc.

Tools for the Study

The following tools were used for collecting the necessary data for the study

1. *Solid Waste Management Programmes Perception Assessment Scale:* To measure the perception of the sample, this tool was developed by the investigator and validated

through field and expert validations. This Scale consists of 25 items in a five point Likert Scale. For establishing the reliability of the tool, test - retest method was used. The co-relation coefficient was 0.88. The pilot run was done among 10 teachers working Batticaloa Education Zone and moderated considering the opinions of the experts. The tool contained both content validity and face validity.

2. *Personal Information Schedule:* The demographic data such as gender, locality, etc. of the participants were collected using Personal Information Schedule. This tool was also validated by experts.

Procedure

After obtaining the participants informed consent, the research tools were distributed among them and collected back after completing the tools. Then the instruments were scored as per the scoring scheme and entered in to a spread sheet for statistical analysis.

Results

The data collected by using the tools were calculated and tabulated in the following tables. Mean, Standard Deviation, and t value were calculated and the results are presented in table 1.

From the Table 1, it can be seen that 16 per cent of teachers have low level of perception, 90 per cent of teachers have average level of perception and 02 per cent of teachers have high level of perception

Table 1: Level of Perception of Caller ID Spoofing among Teacher Trainees

Level of Perception of Solid Waste Management Programmes	Range of Scores	Number of Teachers	Percentage
Low	25-41	16	8
Average	42-58	180	90
High	59-75	04	2

Table 2: Differences in Perception of Teachers towards Solid Waste Management Programmes in terms of Gender, and Locality

Variable	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Gender	Male	80	23.23	5.34	Significant at 0.01
	Female	120	18.39	5.63	
Locality	Rural	142	18.80	.89	Significant at 0.01
	Urban	58	23.85	5.43	

Differences in Perception of Teachers towards Caller Solid Waste Management Programmes in terms of Gender

It is found from the table 2 that the 't' value calculated for the sample with respect to their gender is 3.3. It is found to be more than the table value obtained. This shows there exists significant difference in respect to gender in perception of teachers towards solid waste management programmes. The mean score of male teacher trainees is higher than the female teachers. Hence, it is inferred that perception of male teachers more than that of female teachers towards solid waste management programmes.

Differences in Perception of Teachers towards Solid Waste Management Programmes in terms of Locality

It is also found from the table 2 that the 't' value calculated for the sample with respect to their locality is 3.2. This value is found to be more than the table value obtained. This shows there exists significant difference in respect to locality in perception of teachers towards solid waste management programmes. The mean score of urban teacher trainees is higher than the rural teachers. Hence, it is inferred that the perception of urban teachers more than that of rural teachers towards solid waste management programmes.

Discussion

The present study reveals that there exist gender differences regarding the perception of teachers solid waste management programmes.

It was found the perception of male teachers is better than that of female teachers. This result establishes a finding of a previous study, the awareness of teacher trainees towards waste management programmes in India (Shobeiri, Omidvar, and Prahallada, 2007). In that study, it was found that the male teachers have positive perceptions towards waste management. This can be due to the fact that male teachers have more access to information such as newspapers, television news and other advanced media (Jazeel, 2017).

In a similar study done by Liu, Tanaka, and Matsui, (2006) suggest that the level of consistency between perception towards environment and behavior is affected by his/ her knowledge and verbal commitment. The transfer from perception to behavior can also be affected by lifestyle and attitudes to the environment. The other study has also found a weak and inconsistent relationship between attitude towards waste management and

their behavior to give up the comforts of modern (Astalin, P.K. 2011). This study endorses the fact there is no link between the perception and their life style when it comes to implementing programs related environment and waste management.

Conclusion

It is concluded from the analysis of results that the perception of most of the teachers is moderate. This show there needs urgent workshops arranged in the for teachers to improve the awareness of teachers towards solid waste management programmes. From the analyses, it was also concluded there are significant differences in the perception of teachers. As in the case of rural teachers, the awareness towards solid waste management programmes is very important since they want to educate their students about solid waste management methods and programmes now implemented in schools and outside.

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