



## PERCEPTION TOWARDS BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS

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## ABSTRACT

## INTRODUCTION

The word plastic is derived from the Greek (*plastikos*) meaning capable of being shaped or molded. Plastics are widely used in making electrical instruments, telephones, paneling for walls, instrument boards, automobile parts, lamps, goggles, optical instruments, household appliances, etc. Its persistence in the environment can do great harm. It causes immune and enzyme disorders, hormonal disruption leading to endocrinal disorders and even infertility and is also considered as carcinogenic (cancer). Not only human health, it dangerously affects other animal life and alters the environment (air, water and soil) sustainability causing hazardous pollution. Plastic pollution, caused due to plastic waste, has reached alarming heights and is increasing rapidly with every passing day. It has become a cause of global concern as it is destroying our beautiful planet and having negative repercussions on all kinds of living beings. Plastic pollution is increasing by the day. Research shows that the use of plastic has increased drastically in the last two decades. Plastic is convenient to use and costs less. This is the reason why people are more inclined towards purchasing various products made of plastic. To meet the growing demands of the people, the number of factories manufacturing plastic products has increased rapidly. The more plastic is used, the more plastic waste gets accumulated on our planet and causes the hazardous plastic pollution. This is becoming a threat to life as it is giving way to various illnesses. (<https://www.toppr.com/guides/essays/plastic-pollution-essay/>)

**Keywords :** Perception on Plastic ban, effectiveness of plastic ban, plastic bag production

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mr. Dilasha Mahat has identified that the use of plastic bags can be reduced more easily by using financial incentives and encouraging people to bring reusable tote bags. Last, but not least, he concluded that educating people on this matter is very important in order to reduce plastic uses and wastes. Dr. B. Arunkumar indicated in his study that in the plastic usage the people are in satisfactory in the dimension of knowledge and practices but only good in the aspect of

attitude but not satisfactory. Dr. Tanusree Chaudhuri in his survey indicates that irrespective of sex, age, educational qualification and profession majority of the respondents use plastic bags in their daily life activities and all are aware about the usage of plastic bag and its negative impact on environment. Mr. Bishal Bharadwaj concluded that the partial ban does not economic sense since it is ineffective in reducing the use of plastic bags. Thus, it is clear that effectiveness of plastic bags ban policy depend on the choice of ban

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enforcement. If a municipality creates subjective expected fine of a complete ban then they use of plastic bags will come down significantly while simultaneously increasing the use of reusable bags. When compared with poorly enforced partial bans and no bans, strictly enforced complete bans reduce plastic bags use by retailers by almost 100% and by consumers 95%. Mr. Johnny Mugisha the revealed that the households that lived in own residential premises were less likely to pay for alternative carrier bags compared to those who rented the premises. The possible explanation is that households that own residential property may have no incentive to undertake interventions that minimize the use of polythene since they illicitly dispose garbage in their land.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main aim of the study is

- To assess the level of effectiveness on plastic carry bag ban.
- To assess the determinants of level of plastic ban effectiveness.
- To suggest suitable measures.

### METHODOLOGY

The main aim of the study is to assess the level of perception on effectiveness of plastic carry bag ban. The study is based on the primary data which is collected through a well structures questionnaire. To know the level of impact, questionnaire is issued to respondent on random sampling basis which contains the questions related to the ban of plastics carry bags. Statistical tools such as Simple percentage and Chi-square test are implemented.

### FINDINGS

Out of 113(100%) respondents; Maximum 55(48.7%) respondents are in the age group of 21-25 years of age. Majority 68(60.2%) respondents are female. Majority 58(51.3%) respondents are from village. majority 57(50.4%) respondents are married. Maximum 37(32.7%) respondents are Post graduates. Maximum 43(38.1%) respondents are Private sector

employees. Maximum 45(39.8%) respondents personal income ranges between Rs.10000-Rs.15000. Maximum 45(39.8%) respondents personal income ranges between Rs.10000-Rs.15000. Majority 76(67.3%) respondents has 2-4 members in their family. Majority 85(75.2%) respondents have 1-2 earning members in their family. Maximum 43(38.1%) respondents have Above Rs.20000 of family income per month. Majority 62(54.9%) respondents have got information about ban on plastic bags through News. Majority 82(72.6%) respondents have immediately thought that ban on plastic bags is a Good measure. Majority 55(48.7%) respondent's reason for use of plastic in packaging was easy to carry. Majority 81(71.7%) have used other than plastic bags for shopping. Majority 54(48.6%) of the respondents have used cloth bags for shopping. Majority 79(69.9%) have seen retailers using plastic bags even after ban.

Majority 98(86.7%) % carries cloth bags to shopping from home. majority 08(53.3%) purchase carry bags from the shop keeper. Majority 60(53.1%) have an opinion that charge on bags are reasonable. Majority 76(67.3%) spent up to Rs.10 for purchasing carry bags. majority 103(91.2%) reuses the bags provided by shopkeepers. Majority 56(54.4%) reuse the bags provided by shopkeepers for 2-5 times. Maximum 05(50.0%) dispose bags by throwing into garbage. Maximum 29(25.7%) dispose their plastic bags by firing them. Majority 92(81.4%) think that using reusable bags helps to reduce plastic bags in roadsides. Maximum 8(38.1%) is of the opinion that Government should completely ban plastics. Maximum 36(31.9%) neither agreed nor disagreed to the statement that, Plastics is unavoidable in certain circumstances. Majority 75 (66.4%) have attended awareness programmes given by Government. Majority 89(78.8%) think many job opportunities are created due to ban of plastic bags through SHG's. Majority 91(80.5%) don't need plastic bags even after ban. Maximum 05(22.7%) wants to use plastic bags even after ban of their convenience and they couldn't carry own bags all time to shopping.

Some of these variables are selected to know their association with perception index.

**TABLE 2 : VARIABLES ASSOCIATED WITH PERCEPTION INDEX**

Variables	Calculated $\chi^2$ value
Educational qualification	27.263**
Source of information	11.003**
Usage of alternative before ban	6.557**
Retailers using plastic bags after ban	6.557**
Alternatives of plastic bags	17.829**
Plastics are unavoidable	20.300**
Job opportunities	8.384**

\*\* Associated at five percent level

Table 2 exhibits the result of variables associated perception index. Chi-square is implemented to know their association. Variables like Educational qualification, Source of information, Usage of alternative before ban, Retailers using plastic bags after ban, Alternatives of plastic bags, Plastics are unavoidable and Job opportunities are associated with perception index.

## SUGGESTIONS

### i) TO THE MANUFACTURER

The plastic producing companies can produce plastic bags with high microns, bio-degradable, more durable so that it can be reused and there would be a chance for recycling. They can go for alternative production of paper bags, cloth bags etc.

### ii) TO THE CUSTOMERS

People should not buy or use plastic cups, plastic plates or spoons, especially the "Use and Throw" ones because mostly they are non-recyclable and highly affects the health. People even after ban should come forward to register complaints regarding shopkeepers

using plastic bags. Peoples should think about our environmental hazards and should stop spoiling it to prevent for our future generations.

### iii) TO THE GOVERNMENT

Various campaigns and awareness programmes should be conducted by the government to create awareness on evils of plastic bag usage. Government should impose heavy tax on plastic producers especially with less microns and non-recyclable plastic products so that the production of those can be reduced. The government should support and encourage the production of environmental friendly alternative bags like jute bags, cloth bags, paper bags etc. Throwing of plastic bags waste in public places should be fined. Government as well as non-governmental organizations should arrange national and international conferences to highlight and seek solutions to the negative impacts of plastic bags and can also announce through radio, televisions and print media on the short term and the long term harmful effects of plastic bags. The government can also encourage people to use environment friendly bags which are not detrimental to the agriculture and the environment. Government should ban it from root and give subsidies and concessions to eco bag producers and users.

## CONCLUSION

Plastic is convenient to use and costs less. This is the reason why people are more inclined towards purchasing various products made of plastic. To meet the growing demands of the people, the number of factories manufacturing plastic products has increased rapidly. The more plastic is used, the more plastic waste gets accumulated on our planet and causes the hazardous plastic pollution. This is becoming a threat to life as it is giving way to various illnesses. Therefore, if usage of plastics is completely stopped, the lingering issue of plastic wastes and threats they seem to pose will be resolved. Also, as much as the use of plastics is reduced by introducing papers or other less harmful alternatives, the better our environment will be in the coming years. So its duty of every Citizens to stop conserving plastics and save this beautiful earth for our future generations.

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