

ABSTRACT

ABAD, A.J. C. and GUTIERREZ, R.J. F., Households' Willingness to Pay for a Better Environment Through Solid Waste Management in Bacoor, Cavite. Bachelor of Science in Business Administration major in Economics, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, Cavite, March 2007. Adviser: Dr. Felda Olimpia V. Peña.

A study was designed to determine the household's willingness to pay for a better environment through solid waste management in selected barangays in Bacoor, Cavite. This study specifically aimed to (1) present the socioeconomic status of households in selected barangays in Bacoor, Cavite; (2) determine the behavior of households toward solid waste management programs, particularly on recycling, segregation, and composting; (3) determine the willingness to pay of households in Bacoor; and (4) compare the willingness to pay of households in selected barangays in terms of some households' socioeconomic and environmental attitudinal variables for a better environment through solid waste management.

The households' behavior on solid waste management was limited to three solid waste management practices; namely, segregation, recycling, and composting which were based on RA 9003. Willingness to pay was the amount given for the improvement in the garbage collection system. The study used primary data through interviews with the households using an interview schedule.

The three barangays were chosen based on proximity or distance of the respective barangays to the location of the municipality proper. The three barangays chosen were Tabing Dagat, Molino I, and Molino IV. Descriptive statistics was used

to describe data and information regarding socioeconomic characteristics and behavior towards the environment of households. Furthermore, discussions on behaviors of household on practices of solid waste management were also presented as an aggregate of household's awareness and participation. On the other hand, contingent valuation method was used to determine the monthly willingness of households to pay for a better environment. Analysis of variance was utilized to determine the significant difference of willingness to pay when grouped in terms of socioeconomic variables such as household income, household size, educational attainment, age, and gender and other factors such as the household's environmental attitudinal variables.

The study found that households were more aware and active in practicing recycling rather than composting and segregation. On the other hand, composting had the least participation among the solid waste management program presented because it is time consuming, unavailability of space for a compost pit, and unsure methods. Majority of the households in the barangays are willing to pay for the improvement of the environment with an average of Php122 per month.

Among the variables, household income was seen to be the most important variable because of its direct relation with willingness to pay. Also, the willingness to pay of the households had significant differences when they were grouped in terms of gender, number of households working members, and value of environment.

Households value their environment, thus they are doing an effort to improve the environment through their willingness to pay. The number of members working

in a household had a significant difference in willingness to pay. It could increase or decrease the willingness to pay depending on the number of working members in a household. Gender was also significant with willingness to pay. The study revealed that women often stay at home, thus making her more aware of the value or amount in the willingness to pay for the improvement of the environment.

The study revealed that willingness to pay has no significant difference when grouped in terms of age, education, and waste minimization. This implies that households give low importance on waste minimization and just willing to pay for the disposal of their waste. Any solid waste management program such as trainings, programs, or seminars attended will not change the willingness to pay of households.

Finally, the study recommended that the government or private sector should initiate a concrete program regarding proper waste management through comprehensive municipal and barangay ordinances together with lectures, seminars, trainings, and instructional programs to communities to strengthen their awareness and participation. The municipality should also consider the community participation on the improvement of garbage collection system since the households are willing to pay for a better environment. In order to minimize waste production and to promote solid waste management, it is also recommended that the government installs a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in strategic communities and barangays in order to lessen wastes and promote better living environment.