



THE PROBLEMS AND PERCEPTIONS ON THE USAGE OF ECO-FRIENDLY PLASTICS AMONG LOCAL VENDORS OF ABUCAY, BATAAN

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ABSTRACT

Eco-friendly plastics, also referred to as bioplastics, have been recently produced and developed as viable alternatives to address the growing environmental concerns posed by plastic pollution. Unlike its traditional equivalent, this type of plastic is manufactured from renewable resources such as sugarcane, starch, and corn, which are biodegradable and emit less carbon. Local vendors are among the few who fully utilize plastics in the majority of their work, and the researchers recognize that their perceptions are necessary to validate and justify this innovation. This study aimed to determine the feasibility of implementation of eco-friendly plastics by identifying the observed problems of local vendors with conventional plastics, learning about their perspectives toward the modern eco-friendly types, and proposing an awareness program to impart knowledge about them. To attain these objectives, the researchers conducted interviews with select vendors from Abucay, Bataan aged 18 and above to gather information on how they perceive these plastics. Through thematic coding and analysis, the findings revealed that the typical perception of the participants is that eco-friendly plastics can minimize waste and conserve resources, thus providing society with a cleaner and safer environment. The participants agree that shifting to the usage of this is more advantageous for sustainability, however; they are concerned about whether it will be able to match the current expectations of customers owing to possible increased pricing, poorer quality, and decreased versatility. In general, this study revealed that local vendors acknowledge the benefits of eco-friendly plastics to the environment and have a legitimate interest in testing them, but there are uncertainties and issues that need to be tackled for the security of their livelihood.

Keywords: Environmental science, Eco-friendly plastics, Awareness program, Thematic analysis