

Awareness about recycling of kitchen waste

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, a wide range of organizations in developed countries have embarked on efforts to address the economic, environmental and social impacts of food waste. Food-scrap recycling has multiple benefits. Food scraps can be used for composting, which enriches soil and reduces emissions of methane (a potent greenhouse gas) from landfills. It also significantly reduces the volume of landfill needed in a given area. And recycling food can save cities and towns money by lowering the needed frequency of trash collection. Waste material is produced as a result of human activity. Over a period of time the quantity of waste generated has grown significantly due to increasing population and consumerist nature of the people. The objectives of the study were to gather information about the different types and quantity of waste generated the methods of waste disposal, to create awareness about recycling of bio-degradable waste. The research design was divided into two parts. In the first part household survey was conducted to know the existing household waste management practices before creating awareness and post survey to know about the impact of awareness programme. Interview schedule was used on thirty families from Jodhpur city. The vermicomposting technique was explained through posters lectures and demonstration. The major findings of the study are a majority of the families followed incineration method of waste disposal in the pre demonstration survey in comparison to 85 % of the families who sorted their waste before disposal in the post demonstration. Throwing the waste outside the house was almost stopped and using dust bins and plastic covers increased in the post awareness survey. Cent per cent of the homemakers were self motivated, for sorting the waste before disposal and post awareness programme, 17% of the homemakers have started composting their waste. The percentage of the families who recycle their waste increased from 26% to 53% in the post awareness survey. The waste was recycled into decoration items, cloth bags, mats, children's Bed, pillows etc. Thus, it can be concluded that, post awareness a small percentage of homemakers started composting organic waste and using it for their kitchen garden and household plants.

Key Words : Kitchen waster, Organic waste, Household plants

INTRODUCTION

Waste is any substance which is discarded after primary use, or is worthless, defective and of no use. Waste is also defined as any solid or semisolid, liquid or contaminated gaseous materials discarded from industrial, commercial, mining or Agricultural operations or community household activities. Rising quality of life, high rate of resources consumption patterns have had an unintended and negative impact on the environment. Generation of waste far beyond the handling capacities

of the government agencies requires drastic measures. The current emphasis on waste disposal is focused on the community and private sector participation involving behavior change and creating awareness.

Aims and Objectives:

Objective of the study were to gather information about the different types and quantity of waste generated in the kitchen, to gain knowledge on the methods adopted for the disposal of waste, to educate about reuse or recycling of bio-degradable waste and to know the

outcome of awareness programme conducted.

METHODOLOGY

The study was limited to 30 homemakers belonging to Jodhpur city. The research design for the study is done in two parts:

1. Household survey to find out the existing household waste Management practices followed in the selected households.

2. Creating awareness on the safe and hygienic methods of disposing Household organic waste through vermicomposting was demonstrated to the selected women.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An interview schedule was prepared and used as a tool in order to conduct the survey to elicit the necessary information. The result of the study is presented below.

The Table 1 reveals that each household generates different types of waste like kitchen waste, cow dung and plant waste. It was observed that there was no change in the waste generated in pre and post demonstration survey.

Sr. No.	Types of Waste	Pre-Awareness %	Post-Awareness %
1.	Kitchen Waste		
	< 1Kg	30	30
	1-2 Kg	40	40
2.	Cow Dung		
	< 10Kg	30	30
	> 10 Kg	70	70
3.	Plant Waste		
	< 2Kg	30	30
	> 2 -5 Kg	40	40
	5 Kg	30	30

Table 2 shows the methods of disposal adopted by the households. It was mainly through incineration in pre-awareness while in post demonstration 17 per cent started composting and the remaining households sorted the waste before disposing.

It can be observed from Table 3 that, in post awareness survey the majority of the home makers took personal interest in the waste disposal.

Sr. No.	Disposal Method	Pre-Awareness %	Post-Awareness %
1.	Incineration	60	0
2.	Composting	0	-
3.	Discarding outside the house	40	0
4.	Sorting	0	83

Sr. No.	Person in charge	Pre-Awareness %	Post-Awareness %
1.	Homemaker	46	70
2.	Children	20	-
3.	Paid helpers	34	30
	Total	100	100

After an initial survey, an intervention program was conducted about the importance of waste segregation at household level and vermicomposting technique for converting organic waste into useful manure through lecture and demonstrations.

Sr. No.	Adopt Composting	Pre-Awareness %	Post-Awareness %
1.	Yes	-	17
2.	No	100	83
	Total	100	100

One major change in the post awareness survey was the change in attitude towards waste disposal and concern for the environment. This is revealed through a small, but some change i.e., vermicomposting adopted by 17 per cent of the home makers.

In the post demonstration survey it was also observed that recycling was waste increased from 26 per cent to 53 per cent. It was basically used to create decorative items, old clothes into clothes bags and quilts.

Thus, it can be concluded that aiming at eventual minimization and decentralization of waste management requires deeper community participation, understanding the economic benefits of recovering and recycling of waste.

Conclusion :

Kitchen waste generated ranged from less than one Kilogram to more than 2 Kilogram. Majority of the families followed incineration method of disposal of waste in the pre awareness survey in comparison to 83 percentages

of the families who sorted their waste before disposal in the post awareness survey. Throwing the waste outside the house was almost stopped after awareness programme. In pre survey none of the homemakers were composting, their waste. But post awareness programme, it was found that 17 per cent of the homemakers have started composting their waste.

Thus, it can be concluded that aiming at eventual minimization and decentralization of waste management requires deeper community participation, understanding the economic benefits of recovering and recycling of the waste.

Recommendations:

1. To understand the knowledge and practice of waste management at household and community level.
2. To prepare an action plan for homemakers to promote healthy waste disposal technique.

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