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**ASSESSMENT OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF HOUSEHOLDS: A CASE STUDY OF TWO SELECTED COASTAL BARANGAYS OF CATANAUAN MUNICIPALITY, QUEZON PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES**

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**Abstract:**

Rapid urbanization, along with population increase both by natural increase and in-migration has caused the cities to suffer different inadequacy of infrastructural facilities. Among them, solid waste management is one of the greatest problems of major urban centers, especially due to want of available suitable space in the vicinity of the city for solid waste disposal. Although the problem is not that acute in smaller towns and cities, if considered from aesthetic and health and hygienic point of view, solid waste management deserves a better consideration than what is given by the smaller towns and cities at present.

The purpose of this study is to identify and analyze the waste disposal practices of households, in rural and in *poblacion* areas. Understanding waste management practice, which is supposedly handled and managed by Local Government Units (LGUs) and by the rural community themselves, is the key to understanding the problems and potentials that are available at the individual, community, and municipal levels.

In the Municipality of Catanauan as in most cases of municipalities all over the Philippines, solid waste is collected and managed by the LGU only in the *poblacion* area. This is due to lack of infrastructure facilities, especially road network in the rural areas, lack of sufficient dump trucks to collect the waste and also financial resource constraints. Nevertheless, two *barangays* in this study, a *poblacion* and a rural *barangay*, presented two distinct pictures of the waste management practice by the residents.

It is expected that with the increase of population, solid waste management would be a major problem for the municipality. Preventive measures should be given due consideration to remedial measures such as reuse, recycling, and composting of biodegradable materials should be emphasized. Otherwise, if the present trend of solid waste generation and disposal practices continues, the *barangays* would be a place of unhygienic living condition. The present waste management practice, which is mainly dumping of waste and burning by the municipality, should not be allowed from the national, as well as the global point of view considering effect on underground water pollution and harmful effect on ozone layer depletion.

From the analysis and findings, two strategies have been advocated. One is waste minimization as a strategy to reduce the pressure of increased waste transportation and disposal. This transportation and management can be managed solely by the LGU. The other one is sharing of burden through joint management by the individuals, communities, NGOs and the municipality at household, community, and municipal level, respectively. In addition, information and education campaign was identified as the prime mover of changing

the present concept of burning and future minimization of waste generation in both the *poblacion* and the rural *barangays*. It was also felt that the Barangay Captains should be involved to improve the community waste management at the household level, especially at the rural *barangays*.

Considering the weak economic base and limited resources of the municipality, it is impossible for the municipality to bear the solid management expenses alone without imposing service charge on the residents. If service charge is imposed, the collected amount along with the municipal budget for the sector may contribute to a better service delivery and greater area coverage.

Political commitment and implementation of the locally passed resolutions may result in the improvement of better solid waste management in the municipality. All these measures may bring the change in health and environment, which will usher better and cleaner environment and hygienic living conditions for the Municipality of Catanauan.