

Utilization of Paper Bags in Lingayen, Pangasinan

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Abstract –The objective of the study focused on the Utilization of Paper Bags in Lingayen, Pangasinan. Specifically, it answered the following questions; the profile of the respondents as firms in terms of, type of firms, type of goods sold, years of operation, years of using paper bags; and as consumers in terms of age, sex, civil status, and occupation; the level of frequency on the utilization of paper bags by the respondents, the level of acceptance of the respondents on the utilization of paper bags, the level of advantage of paper bag utilization as perceived by the respondents on the environment and on the economy, and the problems encountered by the respondents in the utilization of paper bags in Lingayen, Pangasinan. The descriptive research was used in this study. There were 10 firms and 100 consumers who served as the respondents. The main instrument used was the questionnaire. The collated data were subjected to statistical treatment such as frequency counts, average weighted mean, and ranking. Majority of the respondent are in the age bracket of 20 years and below, dominated by female, and are single. They are all residents of Lingayen, Pangasinan and most of them are unemployed because majority of them are teenagers. The type of business that the firms are engaged in are on drug store, and fast foods. Most of them are selling food and medical items and they operate for more than 6 years. Majority of them use paper bags for more than 4 years. Business firms “Always” use paper bags in their packaging with an acceptability level of “Very highly accepted”. While consumers “Often” use paper bags in their buying activity with an acceptability level of “Highly accepted”. The advantages on the utilization of paper bags to the environment and the economy got a descriptive rating of very highly advantageous for both areas as perceived by the firms, and the use of paper bags for the consumers is both highly advantageous to the environment and the economy. The number one problem of the firms with the use of paper bags is the difficulty to package heavy goods since they are not durable and that it's more convenient to use plastic bags, while according to the consumers, the use of paper bags during rainy season is their number one problem.

Keywords – acceptability, paper bags, utilization

INTRODUCTION

This study determined the level of acceptability and the problems encountered on the use of paper bags by both the firms and the consumers. The place of the survey is in Lingayen, Pangasinan which implemented the Municipal Ordinance No. 2. S 2011 on the use of paper bags vs plastic bags. The study was done on the first semester of SY 2016-2017 which involved ten (10) firms and one hundred (100) consumers.

Basically, the significance of this study is to provide information as to the acceptability on the use of paper bags following the Municipal Ordinance of Lingayen, Pangasinan. Sectors of the society like the firms, consumers and the local government unit of Lingayen will be provided with information and feedbacks as to the implementation of the ordinance. The Local Government Unit may craft mechanisms as to how the ordinance may be further implemented with less or no resistance at all.

The world is drowning in plastic shopping bags. Worldwide, some estimate that more than one trillion plastic shopping bags are used each year or one million plastic shopping bags used per minute (Spokas, 2008).

The plastic shopping bag represents the icon of a culture of convenience. However, convenience entails significant and costly negative impacts. Once plastic bags are thrown, they result to pollution in the water, air and land that harms the existence of all species, including human beings. Clogged sewerage may result to trapped water with mosquito and other insects thriving then later create health problems. The inability to reduce, reuse, and recycle non-biodegradable products like plastic bags is also a major concern.

As a response to this, paper bags are a growing trend. In the Philippines, Lingayen, Pangasinan is one of the municipalities that made an ordinance prohibiting the use of plastic bags on dry goods and regulating its

utilization on wet goods and prohibiting the sale and use of styrofoam in the municipality of Lingayen and prescribing penalties, also known as Ordinance no. 2, s. of 2011. This ordinance is intended to significantly reduce the environmental impacts related to single-use of plastic bags, and to promote a major shift towards reusable bags and paper carry out bags.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to know the acceptability of paper bag utilization by the respondents, specifically; it aims to answer the following.

1. What is the profile of the respondents in terms of:
 - a. Firm
 - a.1. Type of firm
 - a.2. Type of Goods Sold;
 - a.3. Years of operation; and
 - a.4. Years of using paper bags
 - b. Consumer
 - b.1. age;
 - b.2. sex;
 - b.3. civil status; and
 - b.4. occupation
2. What is the frequency of utilization of paper bags by the respondents?
3. What is the level of acceptance of the respondents on the utilization of paper bags?
4. What is the level of advantage of paper bag utilization as perceived by the respondents on:
 - a. environment; and
 - b. economy?
5. What are the problems encountered by the respondents in the utilization of paper bags in Lingayen, Pangasinan?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The descriptive survey method was used in this research because the data gathered were described and analyzed. The survey method under the descriptive type was used and employed. The data were tabulated and analyzed carefully.

The instrument used to gather the data needed was the questionnaire which was validated by the experts and reliability was later computed. The survey was also aided with personal interviews.

Respondents of the Study

The subjects of this study were the consumers in Lingayen, Pangasinan and the firms. The total consumer population is 95, 773 and out of it we got a sample size of 100 for the consumers and 10 for the firms. Consumers and firms served as respondents and answered the questionnaire constructed for the purpose of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section has been prepared in order to come up with a clearer view on the utilization of paper bags in Lingayen, Pangasinan. Through the study's result the following are the findings:

Profile of the Respondents

Firms

The type of business that the firms are engaged in are on drugstore, and fast foods, most of them are selling food and medical items and they operate for more than 6 years, and majority of them use paper bags for more than 4 years.

Consumers

Majority of the respondents are in the age bracket of 20 years and below, dominated by female, and are single. They are all residents of Lingayen, Pangasinan and most of them are unemployed because they are teenagers.

Frequency of Utilization of Paper Bags by the Respondents

Firms

In terms of the frequency on the utilization of paper bags by the business firms, a descriptive meaning of "always" was derived with an overall average weighted mean of 4.58.

Consumers

In terms of the frequency on the utilization of paper bags by the consumers it derived an overall average weighted mean of 3.91 with a descriptive rating of "often".

Level of Acceptance of the Respondents on the Utilization of Paper Bags by the Respondents

Firms

For business firms, the overall average weighted mean was 4.64 with the descriptive meaning of "very highly accepted".

Consumers

The consumers in terms of their level of acceptability in the utilization of paper bags shows that



an overall average weighted mean was 4.13 with the descriptive meaning of “highly accepted”.

Advantages on the Utilization of Paper Bags by the Respondents

Firms

The findings show that in terms of the advantages on the utilization of paper bags to the environment, it got an overall average weighted mean of 4.90, with a descriptive rating of “very highly advantageous”, while its advantage to the economy got an overall average weighted mean of 4.32 with the same descriptive meaning of “very highly advantageous”.

Consumers

The use of paper bags for the consumers is “highly advantageous” to the environment and the economy with an average weighted mean of 4.13 and 4.12 respectively.

Problems Encountered by the Respondents on the Utilization of Paper Bags in Lingayen, Pangasinan

Firms

The number one problem of the firms with the use of paper bags is the difficulty to package heavy goods since they are not durable and that it’s more convenient to use plastic bags.

Consumers

According to the consumers, the use of paper bags during rainy season is their number one problem.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on thorough analysis and further evaluation of the results and findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn:

Firms

1. The business firms are mostly drugstores and fast food stores operating for more than six years and are using paper bags for more than four years.

2. The firms in Lingayen, Pangasinan are “always” utilizing paper bags in selling their items to the consumers.

3. The level of acceptance of the firms on the utilization of paper bags in Lingayen, Pangasinan is very highly accepted.

4. The level of advantages in terms of the environment and the economy on the utilization of paper bags was rated by the firms as very highly advantageous for both.

5. The business firms find difficulty to package heavy goods with paper bags.

Consumers

1. Majority of the consumers are twenty years old and below, female, single and unemployed.

2. The consumers “often” utilize paper bags when buying dry goods from the firms.

3. The level of acceptance by the consumers on the utilization of paper bags is highly accepted.

4. The level of advantages as perceived by the consumers on the utilization of paper bags in Lingayen, Pangasinan in terms of the environment and the economy is highly advantageous for both.

5. The consumers mostly encountered the problem on the use paper bags during rainy season.

In the light of the aforementioned findings and conclusions drawn by this study, the following are conceptualized and formulated as recommendations.

1. Since the utilization of paper bags are always used by the firm and often used by the consumers, it is suggested that the utilization of paper bags in Lingayen, Pangasinan be properly monitored in accordance to the ordinance. Thus, other business establishments must also follow to be fair to those who are already using paper bags. Consumers should not resist the use of paper bags when packaging the goods sold to them. They must be ready with their eco-bags if they will buy heavy/big items.

2. Paper bag production must be commercialized for its availability especially in different sizes.

3. The local government of Lingayen can adopt a program encouraging the increased utilization of papers bags and provide incentives to firms that are environmentally and economically friendly.

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