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A Study on Plastic Waste in Households



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ABSTRACT

Plastics are indispensable part of the society but it effects directly or indirectly in the environment, wildlife, aquatic life as well as the human health also. Households use plastics the most frequently and due to unavailability of proper tools, most individuals simply throw the used plastics into nature without following the correct recycling procedure. As a result of the ecology system, people face several health problems. Although Single-Use Plastics and Plastic Polybags are prohibited, our society has continued to utilise it.

In order to prevent plastic pollution, government must play a crucial role, otherwise future generations will have to face a dire situation by plastic pollutions. A clean environment and a healthy lifestyle are both possible if we can continue to be conscious of plastic.

Keywords: *Household, Plastic, Pollution, Recycling, Health Issues.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Plastic is a pollutant of environmental concern. As plastic products are inexpensive, comfortable and easily available in the market, its demand from households is very high and have many applications in their daily life. “Global annual production of plastic materials currently exceeds 367 million tonnes”. In developed country, approximately 36% of all plastics are used in packaging including Single Used Plastic products for food and beverage containers. “Mostly the pollution arises from large (macro) items including bottles, cartons, food wrapping, straws, cosmetic products etc”. The Government of India is trying to stop the use of plastics through different banned announcement. “In the three-stage ban, the first category of Single Used Plastic (SUP) items proposed to be phased out are plastic sticks used in balloons, flags, candy and thermocol that is used in decorations”. “The second category already announced from July 1, 2022, includes items such as plates, caps, glasses and cutlery such as spoons, knives, straws, wrapping and packing films used in sweet boxes, cigarette packets and plastic banners that are less than 100 microns in thickness”. “The third category of prohibition is for non-woven bags below 240 microns in thickness. This proposal started from September 30, 2022”.

Despite the announcement by the government, plastic production is going on and it is being used in large quantities. Although plastics are widely used, households are quite silent in using the recycling process. They are scattering plastic everywhere. “If global trends on plastic demand continue, plastic production is expected to double by 2040 and increase by 2.5 times by 2050”. In this review, we aim to provide an emphasis report on impact of plastic on human health and other environmental issues including the challenges faced by households in recycling plastic in a biological environment.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The Objectives of the Study are as follows –

- To know the reason why Households continue uses plastics despite the government's decision to ban it.
- To know how many ways plastics effects the nature (mainly soil, water and air) due to oblivious of the households.
- To study the reason why the Households not using the recycling processes.
- To examine any type of health issues or other barriers faced by households.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- a) Area covered for the Study: Hooghly and Howrah District.

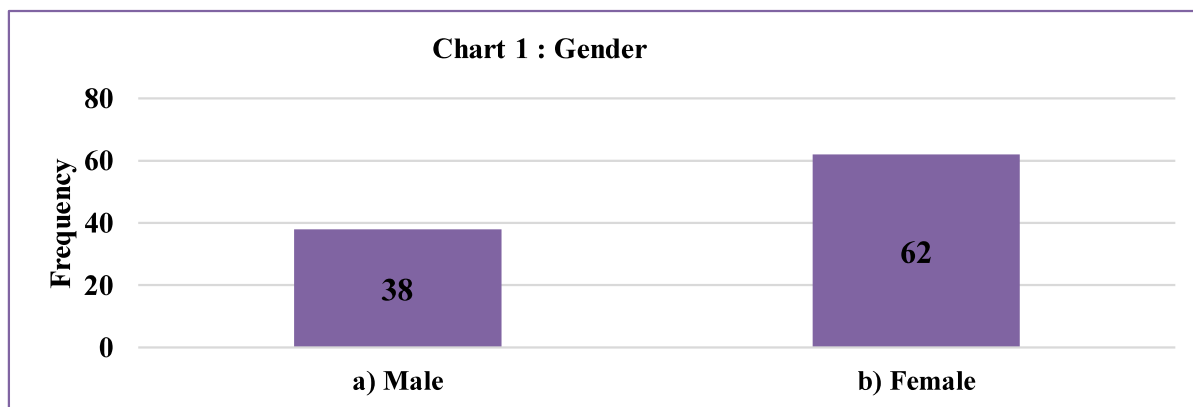
- b) Sample Technique used: This research has used “convenience sampling technique.” For the proposed study, a sample size of 100 has been taken into consideration.
- c) Type of Study: The study is descriptive as well as analytical in nature.
- d) Sources of Data Collection: Our study is based on i) Primary Data collected from a structured questionnaire via Google Form containing 10 questions and administered to respondents and ii) Secondary Data collected from previous work related to our study like journals and websites.

- e) Statistical Tools used: Bar Diagrams, Pie Charts, Mode, Questionnaire are used for the collection and analysis.

4. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Every research has restrictions and this one is not an exception. The limitations of this study are as:

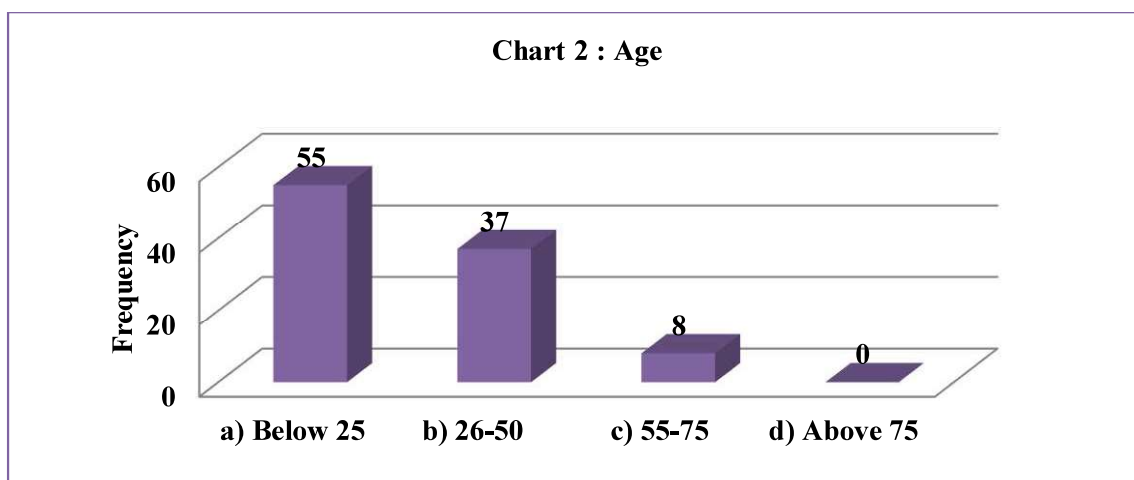
- i) “The main restriction is time. Only a small sample size (100) is possible for conduct such a comprehensive study.”
- ii) “The present study is carried out on an individual basis. The finding of the study can’t be applied to similar districts in the state of West Bengal.”



Source: Primary Data

Interpretation: Chart 1 reflects Gender Analysis of Respondents. From the above chart it is clear that out of 100 respondents, Female respondents gained the majority over

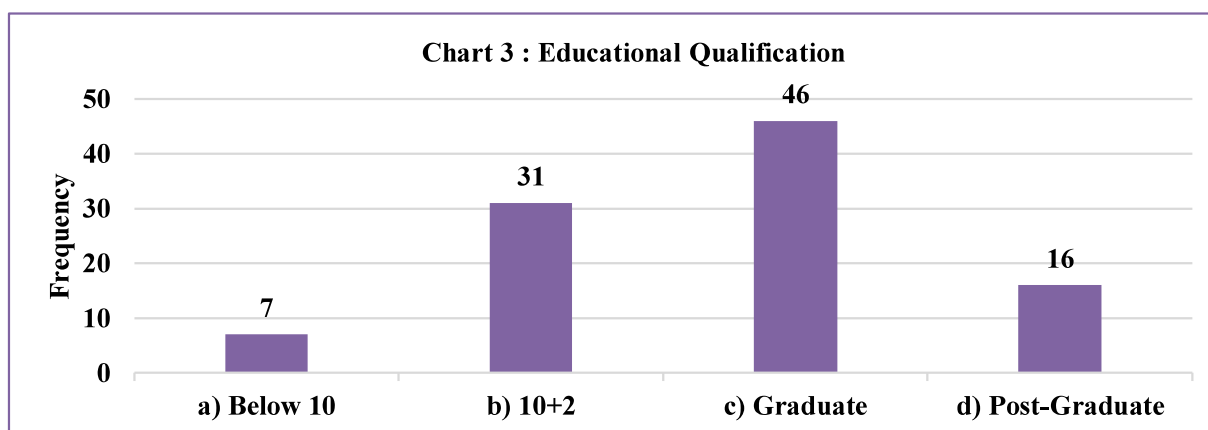
male respondents. There are 62% female respondents against only 38% male respondents.



Source: *Primary Data*

Interpretation: Chart 2 reflects Age of the Respondents. If a look is given on the age-wise classification of the respondents, then it can be said that the age of most of the respondents is

lying Below 25. The percentage of respondents bearing their age Below 25 years is 55%, between 26-50 years is 37%, between 55-75 years is 8%, and Above 75 years is 0%

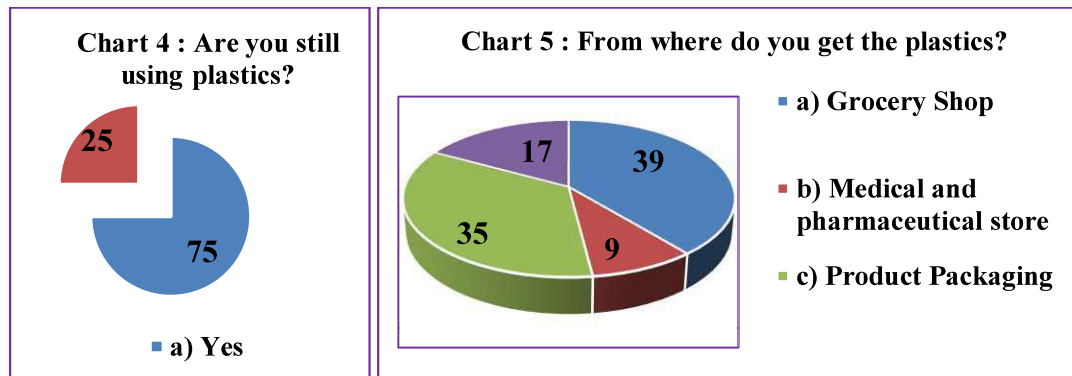


Source: *Primary Data*

Interpretation: The above chart reflects the Educational Qualification of the Respondents. The percentage of people Below 10 is 7%, 10+2 is 31%, Graduate is 46% and post-Graduate is 16%. The frequency of Graduate respondents is highest. Chart 3 also represents that educational qualification of a considerable number of respondents strong enough to know the side

effect of using the plastic. Most significant fact is that this study reveals a true fact that the use of plastic does not depend on the educational background of the respondents. Rather it depends on the self-awareness of the individuals who are willing to use plastic his /her own.

• **Research Objective – 1**

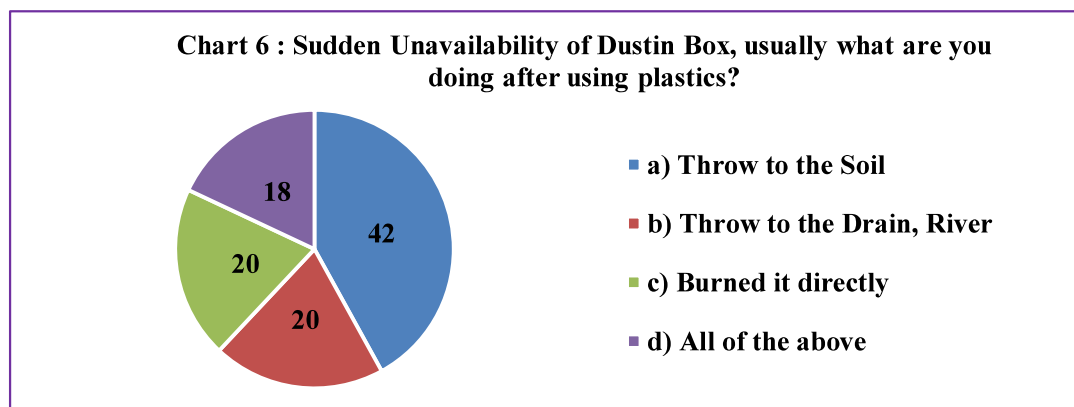


Source: *Primary Data*

Interpretation: Chart 4 reflects that 75% respondents are still using plastics. Chart 5 reflects the percentage of respondents get the plastics from Grocery Shop is 39%, Medical

and Pharmaceutical Store 9%, Product Packaging is 35%, Others Store (Electrical, Toys Factory etc.) is 17%. The frequency of Grocery Shop is maximum.

• **Research Objective - 2**

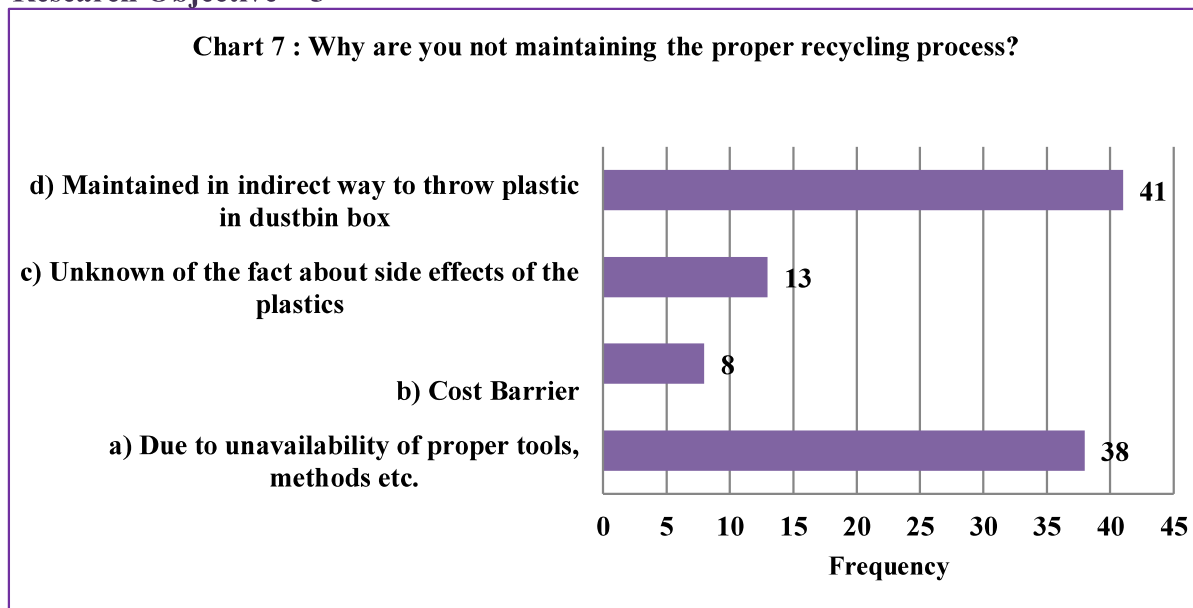


Source: *Primary Data*

Interpretation: Chart 6 reflects Sudden unavailability of Dustin Box, after using plastics usually 42% people throw to the soil, 20% throw to the Drain, River and 20% burned it directly, 18% do all of the above. The

maximum frequency is 42 i.e., sudden unavailability of Dustin Box, after using plastics people usually throw it to the soil.

• **Research Objective – 3**

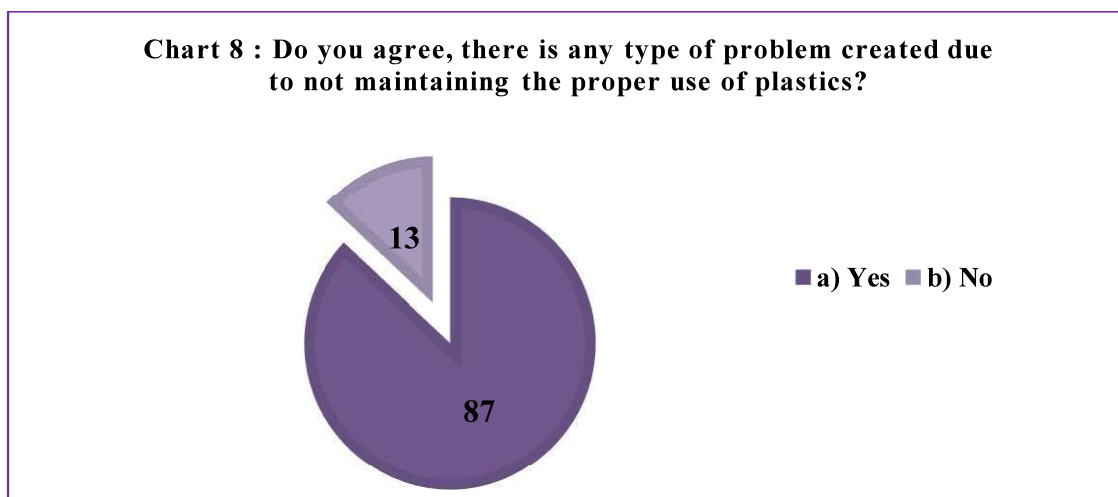


Source: *Primary Data*

Interpretation: Chart 7 reflects 38% people not maintaining the proper recycling process due to unavailability of proper tools, methods etc., 8% have Cost Barrier, 13% people

unknown of the fact about side effects of the plastics, 41% people maintained in indirect way to throw plastic in dustbin box and it is the highest frequency.

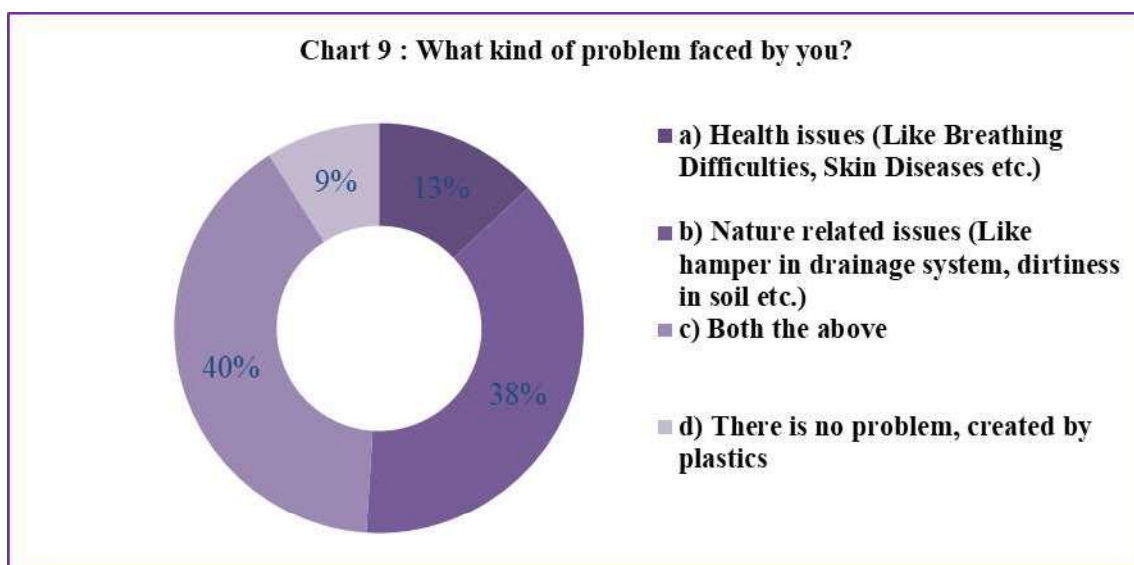
Research Objective - 4



Source: *Primary Data*

Interpretation: Chart 8 reflects that 87% respondents agreed that many problems

created due to not maintaining the proper use of plastics.



Source: *Primary Data*

Interpretation: Chart 9 reflects that 13% people faced Health issues (Like Breathing Difficulties, Skin Diseases etc.), 38% people faced Nature related issues (Like hamper in drainage system, dirtiness in soil etc.), 40% people faced both health and nature related issues and it is the maximum frequency, 38% people never faced any problem.

6. FINDINGS

- After chart analysis, we discover that, out of 100 respondents, 75% are still using plastic, proving that the government's banned is not having the desired effect. Different stores provide plastic to households, grocery shops provide the majority of it.
- People are unaware about the side effects of plastics. Households throw plastic into soil, water or burned it directly when there is no dustbin box nearby. For this reason, there arises a harmful effect on

environment. The soil receives the majority of household waste. It affects the diversity of soils, reduces the organic matter and the ability of soils to serve as filters.

- According to our study, 41% of respondents use recycling in an indirect manner by throwing plastic into dustbin box. The remaining respondents i.e. 59% do not maintained the recycling process due to a variety of factors (mentioned in above chart no. 7).
- In our study, majority of respondent i.e 87% agree that there are many types of problem created by not maintaining the proper use of plastic and the several issues (mentioned in chart no. 9), mainly in nature related issues, arise due to unawareness of the households. That why, Household are faced different types diseases.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are suggested:

- Many times, households are unaware of the diseases. In this regard, health centers must take lead by providing households with thorough understanding of the diseases caused by plastics.
- Production of plastic must be halted so that households will have no chance to use plastics again.
- Substitute of plastics should be launched in the market which are become more affordable and easily accessible to the households.
- Until plastic substitutes are available in the society, it is necessary to provide suitable tools, techniques and methods for households to use the recycling process at a low cost.
- Government should collect fines from plastic users and give Punishment to plastic producers.

8. CONCLUSION

Finally summing up the above study it can be concluded that despite the government's banned decision, a variety of stores (retailers) continue to sell it to customers. Grocery shop supply the plastic in the market most and Sudden unavailability of dustbin box, after using plastics most of the people throw it to the

soil. Plastics can release harmful chemicals into the soil that causes severe damage to living organism such as plants, animals and humans. Some people throw it to the drain, it hampers the drainage system, as well as the it makes the aquatic life in danger. Some people burned the plastics. plastic releases harmful gases (like furans, mercury, dioxins etc.). By the Ecology system, as a result the human being faces a lot of health issue (like infertility, hormone related cancer, neurodevelopment dis-order, obesity, impaired immunity, breathing difficulties, liver dysfunction, lungs problem, skin diseases etc.).

Many people are aware the side effects of plastic and they want to maintained proper recycling process. But due to unavailability of proper tools, method they are not maintained recycling process directly. It is the responsibility of the government to act immediately and also people have a responsibility to keep their country clean.

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Weblinks

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Kolkata Bidhannagar Society for Academic Advancement

Kolkata Bidhannagar Society for Academic Advancement (hereinafter referred to as the '**KBSAA**') established in the year 2022 as a registered Society under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act (West Bengal Act XXVI) of 1961 bearing Registration No. S0025851 of 2021-2022.

KBSAA is a non-profit seeking Society for Promotion and Advancement of Learning and Research in the field of Social Sciences and other allied areas.

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