

ABSTRACT

Management of solid waste is becoming a matter of concern day by day due to its increasing volume and poor handling in Pakistan and other Asian countries. This problem can be overcome if recycling practices are adopted as recyclables comprise a large portion of solid waste which if reused would decrease its volume to fairly low levels. Management of solid waste as well as recycling practices in Shalimar Town, Lahore were analyzed in the current study. Waste collection rate was determined by sorting and weighing the waste of randomly selected 10 houses from each of five union councils of Shalimar Town, Lahore. Peoples' intentions to improve their environment, their consumption behavior, recycling trends in the area and management of solid waste were observed by surveys, interviews and questionnaire. Waste generation rate was found to be 1.07 kg per house per day with a per capita collection rate of 0.178kg/day containing 13.05 % paper, 7.25 % plastic, 2.74 % metals, 1.75 % glass, 72 % organic matter, 0.5 % hazardous matter and 2.63 % textile material in its composition in this area. All of the above mentioned components of waste are recyclables with the exception of hazardous waste which constitutes only 0.5 % of the total waste leaving 99.5 % waste being recyclable. Study revealed that people of this area were not conscious about their surroundings due to low literacy rate. Peoples' intentions to improve solid waste management were significantly related to education and age. A positive correlation with a value of 0.037 was found to exist between peoples' intentions to improve solid waste management and waste management and between recycling and waste management with a value of 0.174. Few recycling facilities exist in the area where paper, scrap plastic, iron and wood are recycled. However people were not willing to buy used material from these facilities. It can be concluded from the study that area is occupied by low income group with a low literacy rate. People are not aware of the importance of their environment which can be overcome by improving literacy rate which will definitely affect monthly income and consumption behavior.