



***ICEEM/03 – ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
SECTION***

Solid Waste Management

**TO RECYCLE OR NOT TO RECYCLE?
A STUDY OF HOUSEHOLD ATTITUDE TOWARD
RECYCLING OF SOLID WASTES IN MALAYSIA: A
CASE STUDY OF PERLIS STATE**

Omran Abdelnaser^{1*}, Mahmood Abdullah¹, Abdul Aziz Hamidi²

¹ *School of Housing, Building and Planning, 11800, Minden*

² *School of Civil Engineering, 14300, Nibong Tebal, Seberang Selatan, University Sains Malaysia*

Abstract

Last years recycling quota amounts merely to 5% in Malaysia, especially due to missing technology, infrastructure and the attitude of the households towards environment. The Government aims to increase the number up to 22% in 2020. In recent years, the government of Malaysia spent millions of ringgit in its efforts to promote the recycling of solid wastes amongst its population. Recently, a nationwide campaign was launched to get the people to recycle their wastes. Recycling centers equipped with separate recycling bins for different recyclables have been set up across the country. In addition, publicity drives using the newsprint, the electronics media on top of the other modes of information dissemination such as seminars, workshops and meetings were held on a continuous basis over the years. However, despite the effort little has been achieved due to the lack of participation from the households. This paper discusses the findings of a study conducted in the State of Perlis, Malaysia. The aim of the paper is to identify reasons for the failure of the campaign. Data were gathered using a questionnaire mailed to 500 randomly chosen houses in the State of Perlis. Quantitative analysis made based on 466 responses received provided an interesting insight into the reasons for the campaign failure. Findings of the study indicated that although all of the respondents had a positive attitude towards recycling; surprisingly, only few of the respondents did recycle. The poor response was largely due to the lack of facilities provided. Many residents are turned down when they are unable to locate the recycling centers and if they are able to locate one, it was difficult and inconvenient to access.

Keywords: attitude of household, recycling of solid waste, Perlis, Malaysia

* Author to whom all correspondence should be addressed: Phone: +60-125250975, Fax: +60-46576523, e-mail: naser_elamroni@yahoo.co.uk