LEVEL OF INFORMATION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND HOUSEHOLD PRACTICES ON SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL IN BUTUAN CITY

Fernando T. Herrera, Ph.D
Lilia Z. Boyles , Ph.D
Mr. Ian Miculob

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To determine the level of Information and Education Campaign (IEC) on Solid Waste Management (SWM) conducted by the LGU and other government agencies in Butuan City, and
2. To determine the practices among households of Butuan City in relation to solid waste disposal.

METHODOLOGY

The utilized the descriptive survey design with household heads from the selected different barangays of Butuan City as the main uni t of analysis. From eighty -six (86) legitimate barangays of Butuan City, five (5) rural barangays and five(5) urban barangays were randomly selected. Selected community key leaders or LGU focal person and selected personnel from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources were also involved in the study for triangulation purposes. Other than the constructed interview schedule, collection of existing files and mapping of existing facilities were also employed. Analysis of data employed both qualitative and quantitative methods which includes the descript ive statistics and exploratory data analysis.

FINDINGS

1. On the Level of IEC

1.1 As to the frequency of application in both rural and ur ban Barangays, IEC through meetings was sometimes applied while the rest of the methods such as: focus group discussio n, installatio n of tarpaulin and other signs, television ad and radio broadcast, ho use to house information campaign, school campaign, were seldom applied. This trend is consisten t in both rural and urban baran gays except for the focus group discussion and school campaign which were applied in a higher level in the rural areas (sometime s applied) than in the urban areas (seldom applied). It is worth noting tha t the public meeting yielded the highest mean rating in terms of frequ ency of application.

1.2 As to the nature of meetings conducted, it can be seen that it was during general assembly on regular schedule that SWM was present ed and discussed. This activity was more prevalent in the rural ar eas as indicated by the majority (63.7%) of the responses. Special mee ting with concerned citizens such as businessmen or local proprietors was also evident method in IEC as confirmed by a substantial number of responses (28.1%). This result is also consistent i n the context of rural and urban barangays.

1.3 On the coverage of IEC, parameters or topics such as city ordinance on SWM, barangay ordinance on SWM, waste management problem, and benefits of proper SWM were moderately or occasionally covered or discussed.

*1.4 As to institutional support and other technologies in the IEC, very few (10.80%) of the respondents, especially those from urban barangays (7.10%) admitted that the level of support from other organizations involving most of the HEIs and other government and non-government sectors, were seldom demonstrated. However, many(32.60%) of the respondents especially those from urban areas (37.70%) consented that a few of HEIs in the city donated garbage can and that they were taught on proper segregation of wastes at home on occasional basis. In terms of monitoring and evaluation, this support is not as well so evident from among the concerned households which is also similar among the kagawad /*BHW/CVO *wherein many of these households declared that this support is seldom evident.*

2.1 As to household practices in solid waste disposal, results revealed that majority(95.70%) of the residents from both urban and rural barangays have storage bin most (48.60%) of whom are without separators for biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes. However, the majority of the household respondents claimed they are separating biodegrable wastes from non-biodegrable wastes despite the non-availability of their own storage bin with separators. Among those with storage bin, majority of the household respondents living in both rural(50.0%) and urban (68.40%) barangays are using plastic bags; the rest (about 40%), are using sacks.

2.2 Considerable number (21.30%) of those who admitted have no storage bin, they buried their biodegradable wastes in the ground. Those who live in urban areas, instead of burying the non-biodegradable wastes in the ground (as some who are in rural areas are practicing), they were selling the wastes materials to scrap shop to earn money. In addition, the majority admitted that the amount of waste disposed daily is ranging from 1-5 Kg which is more prevalent in rural areas (80.20%).

2.3 Very few of those living in rural areas(35.9%) are aware that the barangay they are living in has garbage station. Unlike in urban areas, majority(68.10%) of the households are aware that garbage station is made available in their own barangay. However, despite the availability of the garbage facility, most (44.8%) of those in urban areas do not throw their waste in the designated garbage station. Among those who do not throw their waste at the designated barangay garbage station, majority from rural areas prefer compost pit.

*2.4 As to the m*eans of transporting solid wastes, *many(38.10%) of them are hiking to transport their waste* at their designated barangay garbage station. *Some (34.40 %) of them from both rural and urban areas, they prefer open dumping. Considerable number (20.80%) of households living in urban areas are dependent on the garbage collector.*

CONCLUSIONS

1. Overall, the level of IEC in both rural and urban barangays of Butuan City is *poor*. Data provide evidence that methods such as public forum or general assembly, focus group discussion, ins tallation of tarpaulin and other signs, television ad and radio broadcast, house to house information campaign, and school campaign were seldom carried out.

2. Lack of institutional support and inadequate provision of garbag e disposal station s and Mass Recovery Facilities (MRF) from other concerned government agencies, non -government organizations and HEIs were evident.

3. Majority of the households have their own garbage storage bin but without separators for biodegradable and non -biodegradable wastes and opted to use plastic bags and sacks instead. Many of those in rural areas do buried their biodegradable and non - biodegradable waste on the ground. A few of those in the urban areas disposed their bio -degradable waste on the available garbage station but burned those non-biodegradable waste materials (some were sold to scrap shops).

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.It is imperative to strengthen the role of LGUs, their primary task of implementation and enforcement in service delivery and improve their performance. Strategies and mechanisms for effecti ve service delivery must take into consideration issues of people 's participation, practices, environmental sustainability and econo mic and social equity for more long - term results.

2. The need to create new structures, and undertake innovative programs that are more responsive to the needs of the communities and develop mechanisms to strengthen education and wide dissemination of relevant information on efficient sol id waste disposal as part of an integrated approach to providing relevant and sustainable services to their constituencies.

3. Local government units in collaboration with other sectors, HEIs government line agencies to develop strategic development plan o r mechanisms (e.g. competition, provision of rewards for most clea n barangay) to further push or motivate concerned residents to observe proper waste disposal.

4. Similar studies be conducted in other barangays especiall y those along agusan river and hospital premises in Butuan City.