

ABSTRACT

LAW REFORMS ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA; A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH GERMANY.

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Plastic packaging production is increasing due to the increase of plastic consumption therefore plastic packaging waste is rapidly increasing. Due to poor recyclability and recovery of plastic packaging waste in Sri Lanka has caused mismanaged plastic packaging to be remaining in landfilling, on road sides and on coastal line in Sri Lanka further as marine debris in the ocean. The most problematic plastic waste identified and observed is the single use plastic. Mismanaged plastic packaging waste creates huge impact on human health, eco-system and economy in Sri Lanka. It is not the plastic waste is problematic but uncontrolled generation of plastic packaging therefore plastic packaging generation by manufactures needs to be controlled by increasing recycling and recovery of plastic packaging waste.

Thus, it is vital to focus on the manufacturers and distributors who place their plastic packaging on the market focusing to be sold to the private consumer and finally disposed by the consumer as a municipal solid waste. In order to establish sustainable businesses, the harmonization of environmental, social, and economic performances need to be guaranteed. Therefore it is imperative to address the producer physical responsibility over the plastic packaging so as to ensure that plastic packaging do not end up in landfills or burning.

In Sri Lanka local authorities have the primary responsibility to manage municipal solid waste. Implementation of laws is vested with each provincial council in Sri Lanka. Therefore local authorities lack the authority to charge a financial incentive from the producer of a product for producing the plastic packaging those are in difficult to recycle once the product is consumed and they lack the authority to force the producer to take back their plastic packaging waste for recycling or recovery.

Interviews were carried with waste experts in Sri Lanka to implement regulations and policies to overcome the lacuna in plastic packing waste policies under solid waste management in Sri Lanka with special emphasize to German law to increase recycling and recovery and reduce the impact on the environment.

A comprehensive literature review was carried in identifying the current zero waste management strategies. An online questionnaire conducted on respondents living in Western Province to view the awareness of plastic packaging waste and opinion on the implementation of the zero waste strategic plans through policy regulations in Sri Lanka.

From survey findings it is identified that respondents are disposing specific packaging waste in viewing packaging is recyclable but however which is truly not recyclable. Most of the respondents agreed that they need the source material information as to the recyclability of the packaging on the product packaging.

Regulations on manufacturers under zero waste management strategies will make a frame work for preventing the generation of waste, increased reuse, recycle and recovery of plastic packaging waste material without the shifting the plastic packaging waste to landfill or incinerators.

Therefore this research aimed on applicability of the zero waste strategies through the lessons learned from German jurisdiction under the plastic packaging regulation on producers and distributors. This research has specifically concerned on the applicability of "Green dot system" in compliance with regulations to force manufacturers to have a certificate before putting their product into the market in Sri Lanka.

KEYWORDS

Sustainable Development, Producer Responsibility, Municipal Solid Waste Management, Plastic Packaging Waste, Plastic Packaging Regulation, Zero Waste Management, Zero Waste strategies.