

Potentials for managing waste papers: A case study of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Extended Abstract

BND Dissanayaka ¹, PSK Rajapakshe

Background

The paper is traditionally identified with reading and writing, communications has now been replaced by packaging as the single largest category of paper use 41% of all paper used (PPI, 1995). After using a paper becomes a waste in short. Simply, discarded papers are called as a paper waste. Around the worldwide, we use one million tons of paper every day (WWF, 2016). Raw materials of the paper pulps are majorly from woods. So today paper wastes are increasing gradually and it indirectly affects the environment. The second cause of paper waste is the misuse of technology. When computers first started coming out, it was theorized that society would move towards a paperless world. However, this theory did not prove to be true (Randall, 2005). However Rajarata University is still utilizing some of the traditional strategies like written papers documents, questions, answer papers, and assignments. As a result, a huge amount of papers are collected for waste, and burning is frequently used way of disposing of these papers. In fact, burning causes many invisible environment issues since papers are majorly made of wood. Therefore, managing papers mean saving trees. Apart from that, it is a threat to university's scenic beauty. Moreover, our day to day activities also adds paper waste to the university. Recycling 1 ton of paper saves around 682.5 gallons of oil, 26,500 liters of water and trees. Therefore, it is advisable to manage paper waste in order to save natural resources.

Objectives

We live today in an electronic age, people are starting to consider going paperless. Paper production involves cutting down trees. Therefore, wasting paper means destroying the natural resources. The main intention of this study is to identify the harmful effects of paper waste and to

propose measures to reduce paper waste of Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Moreover, this study involves counting the number of student's assignments and answer papers, calculating the weight of assignment paper waste in the faculty and identifying which resources can be protected by the paper waste management. Furthermore, this research will be extended to a comparative study among the departments of the faculty. It is also intended to identify benefits of reducing paper waste. The final objective is to make others aware about harmful effects of paper waste and encourage them to explore "How to go green".

Methodology

Data were collected via both primary and secondary data collection methods. The secondary data collection methods were utilized in collecting information from the selected websites on the internet, and the primary data collection method includes questionnaires, interviews, and a field survey. The sample group of the present study was comprised of 40 students who were randomly selected from the faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. These participants were chosen to represent the undergraduates who are currently following both general and specialized degrees in all five streams available in the faculty aforementioned and covered four batches. Moreover, interviews were conducted to collect data from both academic and non-academic staffs. Finally, the data collected were calculated by the functions of SPSS.

Results

According to the study, students majorly use A4 sheets for their assignments. The weight of one A4 sheet is 80gsm (similar for 5grames). The results also indicate that 8928.8kg of paper waste which is 1785760 papers is removed yearly from the faculty. The largest number of paper waste is committed by the first year students which are 3326kg. Moreover recycling 54kg of newspapers can save one tree.(Government of Canada, n.d.). Recycling one-year assignment waste in the faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities can save 167 trees. As it was estimated, 10 liters of water is needed to make one A4 paper and thus 324 liters of water are used to make 1kg of papers. Therefore, managing this paper waste can save 178576000 liters of water. In addition to that one tree produces enough oxygen for 3 people for their whole life. Therefore, when we recycle the annual assignment paper waste in our faculty, can help to save more than 55 lives.

¹ Department of Environmental Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale, Sri Lanka.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Paper waste is playing a vital role today. As a suggestion for aforementioned faculty can introduce for Valachchena paper recycling center for recycling papers. They pay Rs.4.00 per 1kg. Hence, faculty can earn nearly Rs.35715.20 annually except environmental benefits. Especially, if it is necessary to print make sure print on both sides. Submit the assignments via the e-mail is cost-effective and solution for allocates the large space for paper based assignments. Universities have a serious problem about the confidentiality of their document. So they destroy of the documents. However, a paper shredder is a machine can shred papers. So it solves the problem of disposal of confidential of environmental problems instead of burying, which creates in today wasting and unnecessary usage papers make key damage to the environment. However, if we manage properly, can promote the 'GREEN CONCEPT' through the paperless path.

Keywords: paper waste, green concept, faculty, cost effective, environmental issues

References

- Government of Canada, D. c., n.d. Facts about Paper and Paper Waste.
<http://www.asiaworldevents.com/earthday/10-facts-on-paper-waste>
- PPI,N.A.F.,1995.<https://www.scribd.com>.<https://www.scribd.com/document/23979975/Production-of-Paper>
- Randall, J. E., 2005. Campus Paper Waste. *Journal of Undergraduate at Minnesota State University, Mankato*, Volume 5, pp. 2-8.
- WWF, 2016. *Save Paper*. www.panda.org