

## **UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

# COMMUNITY READINESS TOWARDS SOLID WASTE SEPARATION AT SOURCE IN SERDANG, SELANGOR, MALAYSIA

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FPAS 2015 1



## COMMUNITY READINESS TOWARDS SOLID WASTE SEPARATION AT SOURCE IN SERDANG, SELANGOR, MALAYSIA

Ву

**NURUL FADILA BT FADHILLUDIN** 

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

## COMMUNITY READINESS TOWARDS SOLID WASTE SEPARATION AT SOURCE IN SERDANG, SELANGOR, MALAYSIA

By

#### **NURUL FADILA BT FADHILLUDIN**

April 2015

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Malaysia especially Selangor is facing the increase of solid waste generation. Thus, source separation at source is seeing as a great opportunity to counter this problem. In implementing this program, it is essential to assess the community readiness level to ensure it's successful. Hence the main objective of this study is to to study the community readiness towards solid waste separation at source in Taman Sri Serdang. The study will assess the leader opinion on his community readiness using Community Readiness Model; determine the community readiness towards this issue using questionnaire form; and propose a modified conceptual model for the community. The results show that leader of community in Taman Sri Serdang is in Preparation stage where he begin planning in earnest and community offers modest support of efforts. Using a set of questionnaire, six areas is being assessed; community efforts on solid waste separation at source, community knowledge in solid waste separation at source, community perception towards solid waste separation at source, community perception on leadership roles, awareness of available resources and community knowledge towards environment activity in their residential area. The results show that only half of the respondents are making an effort to separate their solid waste. Their knowledge in the issue is average and in their perception, solid waste separation at source activity is important. Their perception is solid waste is not an issue for the leader though some of them do recognize the efforts by the leader. Most of the community is also not aware on resources available for them. In addition, the community awareness on the environmental efforts and activities in their area is low. Thus, modified model is focusing on the community practice, attitude, knowledge sharing, law enforcement and incentives.

Keyword: solid waste, separation at source, community readiness, leadership, community perception

## KESEDIAAN KOMUNITI TERHADAP PENGASINGAN SISA PEPEJAL DI PUNCA DI SERDANG, SELANGOR, MALAYSIA

Oleh

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Malaysia terutamanya Selangor menghadapi masalah peningkatan penjanaan sisa pepejal. Oleh itu, pengasingan sisa pepejal di punca dilihat sebagai langkah yang baik untuk mengatasi masalah ini. Tetapi untuk melaksanakan program ini, tahap kesediaan penduduk perlu dikaji untuk memastikan ianya berjaya. Oleh itu, objektif utama kajian ini adalah untuk menilai tahap kesediaan komuniti terhadap pengasingan sisa pepejal di Taman Sri Serdang. Kajian ini akan menilai pandangan Ketua terhadap tahap kesediaan komuniti beliau menggunakan Model Kesediaan Komuniti, menentukan tahap kesediaan komuniti menggunakan borang kaji selidik dan seterusnya mencadangkan model bagi aktiviti pengasingan sisa pepejal di punca. Hasil temu bual menunjukkan Ketua berada di tahap Persediaan. Tahap ini menunjukkan ketua aktif merancang dan sokongan komuniti adalah sederhana. Selain itu, set soal selidik mengkaji enam cabang iaitu usaha, pengetahuan dan persepsi penduduk terhadap pengasingan sisa pepejal di punca, persepsi terhadap tugas ketua, tahap kesedaran terhadap sumber yang ada dan kesedaran terhadap aktiviti alam sekitar di kawasan mereka. Hasil kajian menunjukkan hanya separuh daripada responden yang mengasingkan sisa pepejal mereka. Tahap pengetahuan berada di tahap sederhana manakala persepsi terhadap sisa sebagai penting. Walau bagaimanapun, berpandangan bahawa kitar semula tidak menjadi isu kepada ketua mereka walaupun masih ada penduduk yang sedar akan usaha yang dilakukan ketua mereka. Kebanyakan daripada komuniti juga kurang peka dengan sumber, usaha dan aktiviti alam sekitar yang berada di sekitar mereka. Oleh itu, model yang diubah suai memfokuskan kepada amalan, attitud, perkongsian ilmu, penguatkuasaan undang-undang dan insentif.

Kata kunci: sisa pepejal, pengasingan sisa pepejal di punca, kesediaan komuniti, ketua, persepsi komuniti

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

"In the name of God, the most gracious, the most compassionate."

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to Allah for blessing me with the patience, strong will and good health during the preparation of this project. My deepest appreciation to my supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Latifah Abd Manaf for her valuable time, guidance, ideas, comment, encouragement, and being the most understanding person throughout the course of this research. I would also like to thank my co-supervisor, Dr Sabrina Ho Abdullah for her advices, ideas, comments, and guidance.

Thank you for my dearest family for their endless support all the way since the beginning of my study and for believing on my path. I would also like to extend my thanks to my friends for the help during my research especially to Izaty Farehah Wahab, Fatma Sabariah Alias and Nurashida Saad.

Last but not least, thank you for those who have contributes to this research directly and indirectly. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.



This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

ATOD Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

CRM Community Readiness Model

CTC Communities that Care

EPSM Environment Protection Society Malaysia

HIV Human Immunodeficiency Virus

LA Local Authority

MBM Majlis Bandaraya Miri

MIPH Minnesota Institute of Public Health

MPPP Majlis Perbandaran Pulau Pinang

MPSJ Subang Jaya Municipal Council

MSW Municipal Solid Waste

NIDA National Institute on Drug Abuse

ORC Organizational Readiness for Change

PPOR Perinatal Periods of Risk

SWM Solid Waste Management

UPM University Putra of Malaysia

### **CHAPTER 1**

### INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

Solid waste management is a major challenge throughout the world particularly in developing countries (Latifah et al., 2009). At present, the annual total solid waste generation is approximately 17 billion tons (Karak et al., 2012). This figure is expected to be increased to 27 billion tons in 2050 from 13 billion tons in the year 1990 as global municipal solid waste generated in 1997 was about 0.49 billion tons with an estimated annual growth rate of 3.2–4.5% in developed nations and 2–3% in developing nations (Karak et al., 2012). Thus, solid waste management become as one of the biggest problems facing by the developing country like Malaysia.

The development of Malaysia with total population of approximately 29.2 million currently, along with the economic growth, business activities and consumption rate, will accelerate the daily generation and volume rate of municipal solid waste (Iffah, 2013). Current situation of total Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generation in Malaysia shows that the MSW generation has increasing about 18% between 2001 and 2005 where 5.91 million tonnes was generated in 2001 and this figure increased to 6.97 million tonnes in 2005 (Zamali et al., 2009). Moreover, the average per capita generation rate is also increased from 0.67 kg/capita/day in 2001 to 0.8 kg/capita/day in 2005 (Zamali et al., 2009). This figure translates to 17,000 tonnes of domestic waste generated per day in 2003 (Budhiarta, 2012), and this amount increased to 19,100 tonnes per day in 2006 (Abdul Jalil, 2010; Agamuthu et al., 2009) and expected to increase to 31,000 tonnes per day by the year 2020 (Iffah et al., 2013; Latifah et al., 2009; Kathirvale et al., 2003).

Therefore the challenge of municipal solid waste management has become a priority for governments all over the world especially in Malaysia (Ying et al., 2008). Keeping pace with the requirements of rapid economic development and continuing population growth, and because of its critical role in protecting the environment and public health, accomplishing effective and efficient MSW management should be a priority for cities in developing countries like Malaysia as inappropriate waste handling, storage, collection and disposal practices pose environmental and public health risks (Osman, 2009). Uncontrolled solid waste generation not only creates serious environmental problems and affects human and animal health, but also causes serious financial and socioeconomic losses. Worsen is the remaining capacity at the existing landfills is critically low in Malaysia (Yahaya and Larsen, 2008).

In order to manage this increasing solid waste generation, waste separation at source is seeing as a great opportunity to counter this problem in Malaysia especially in Selangor. Waste separation is a critical component of a successful

integrated waste management system that increases the quality of produced compost and recyclables, and optimizes incineration (McDougall et al., 2001). It also enables better financing of waste management activities and minimizes the energy and labor inputs to any downstream processes (Murray, 1999). There is no doubt that recycling based on waste separation at source has been fairly successful in developed country cities and now being widely promoted in developing country cities as essential component of long-term solution to the solid waste problem. (Charuvichaipong and Sajor, 2006). Currently, Malaysia is also in their stage to promote waste separation at source as one of nation strategy to prolonged landfill longevity. However, to implement this step is not an easy task and cooperation from the community need to be gain first and therefore their readiness need to be assess in order to have the best plan to ensure this strategy is successful.

### 1.1 Problem Statement

Increasing of solid waste generation has always being a serious issue for most of the local authorities in Malaysia. This increasing of solid waste generation not only leads to the environmental problem but also can caused health problem and increase the management cost for Local Authorities (LAs). Landfill in Malaysia is also filling up to its brim capacity where most of the landfill will be full earlier than their expected lifespan due to this problem. LAs cost will increase in order to dispose their waste in other landfill which is further away from their jurisdiction area. Selangor is the most affected state of this issue as they are currently refuses to implement the new solid waste Act 672. As a consequence, the federal governments will not funding or helping LAs in Selangor regarding their solid waste management. Thus, Selangor LAs need to come up with their own strategy and plan to manage their solid waste issue.

One way to tackle this problem is by promoting solid waste separation at source. However, this is not an easy task as Malaysian has been very comfortable on their current practice of solid waste disposal where all of the waste is being disposed in one plastic bag without separating any of the waste. To change this lifestyle is a very challenging process and need to be planned properly to avoid wasted energy and resources. This has been proved by the recycling rate of Malaysian that has been way below the average levels at a mere 11% of the total solid waste being produced compared to 57% in Singapore and 66% in Germany (Ahmad Suhaili, 2013).

In present, Subang Jaya Municipal Council (MPSJ) is the only LA in Selangor that has implemented the solid waste separation at source program in their jurisdiction. Thus, Taman Sri Serdang has been chosen by MPSJ as the pilot area for this program. However, according to Chenayah et. Al. (2009), the recycling rate in Subang Jaya is estimated to be only 0.43% in 2004. In addition, an existing recycle centre in Taman Sri Serdang has also ceased its operation. Currently, this centre is only operating based on the request due to low participation of residents in Taman Sri Serdang. Hence, it is essential to identify and analyze the causes that will affect the community readiness towards solid waste separation at source as a first step in recycling. This is because research has shown that plan and programs implemented in a

community who isn't ready for it often lead to failure. A failure program will lead to waste of resources and energy. Especially without the help and fund from the Federal Government, MPSJ need to ensure their program is effectively taken into action among the community to conserve their limited resources. The knowledge on readiness of the community is essential to develop a proper plan on implementing such changes in community.

## 1.2 Research Objectives

The main objective is to study the community readiness towards solid waste separation at source in Taman Sri Serdang.

In order to achieve the general objective, a few of specific objectives were listed as below;

- 1. To assess the leader opinion on the community readiness towards solid waste separation at source in Taman Sri Serdang using Tri-ethnic Centre Community Readiness Model.
- 2. To determine the community readiness towards solid waste separation at source in Taman Sri Serdang using set of questionnaire.
- 3. To suggest and modify a community readiness conceptual framework towards solid waste separation at source activity in Taman Sri Serdang.

## 1.3 Significance of Studies

This study will benefits the local authority (LA) the most in planning for their municipal solid waste in their jurisdiction area as it provide current readiness level of the community towards waste separation at source particularly and other environment program as general. By knowing the community readiness it can help local authority to plan and manage properly their program in order to ensure their activity will be successful.

Through this research, the LA will also know current situation or problem regarding their jurisdiction residents' attitude towards solid waste management. Besides that, this research will be able to provide the communication status between LA and the community such as whether their program is known by the community or not. A successful program will resulted in decrement of solid waste generation. Thus it will reduce solid waste that is being sent to landfill and help the national government to preserve landfill capacity in Malaysia.

In addition, this study will help the LA to evaluate and assessing their policy on solid waste separation at source. It will help them to plan on implementing this policy as compulsory or plan for a suitable solution for Taman Sri Serdang. Besides that, it will also improve their management on the solid waste collection services as this research will help the LA to understand the community practice on handling their solid waste.

This study will also be beneficial for the community as it can be a medium for them to give their opinion regarding solid waste management activity and program in their residential area. The survey will be also act as an education program to the community regarding solid waste management especially waste separation at source program in their area. Besides that, it is a platform to increase community knowledge about national and local authority plan and program for them. As a result, it may improve the communication between the community and their local authority.

## 1.4 Scope of Study

The scope of this study was focusing on community readiness towards waste separation at source in Taman Sri Serdang household. This household was bound only to the terrace type of residential. Medium rise buildings, business area and other type of waste were excluded from this survey.

The scope for survey respondents is residents live in the residential area. A representative from each household will be surveyed. Focus will be on the Malaysian residents only. Foreign residents were excluded as this study was to evaluated Malaysian readiness.

The interview was done using several relevance questions from the Community Readiness Model of Tri-ethnic Center. Additional questions were added to understand more of the leadership opinion of their community. The leader chosen for this survey were those who actively involved with the solid waste management program in Taman Sri Serdang. Survey questions focused on community readiness towards solid waste separation at source which includes their practice, knowledge, efforts, and perception.

Both methods covered a topic on existing community efforts, community awareness of program, leadership, community climate, community knowledge of the issue, and resources availability. Answers from both methods were used to develop a model of community readiness development.

## 1.5 Thesis Organisation

The organization of this study is divided into five chapters. Each chapter explained the research process from beginning until end. The chapters content were discussed as below.

Chapter 2 focused on the literature and background of the study in detailed. This includes the definition, factors and impact of solid waste management to the environment and community. Relevant past research will be reviewed for further understanding of the topic and research strengthen. Current situation of solid waste management in Selangor along with its evolution during past years will be described deeply in this chapter. This chapter will also discuss the methodology and model available to conduct this research and comparison will be made through review of reports and journal in order to choose the proper method for this research.

In Chapter 3 discussions was focussing on the method chosen for this study.

Discussion will be focusing on the selected community readiness model and its implementation. Besides that, further selection method of interview respondents and survey respondents will be discussed. Background of selected study area will also be presented for more understanding. In addition, analysis method of data collection will also be explained further in this chapter.

Focus of Chapter 4 was the presentation of research results based on the data collected through interview and survey. The results from the study will be discussed in detail along with explanation. It will also discuss the objectives achievement in this study. This chapter will provide a clear view of this research progress and achievement. Furthermore, it will also provide new information to the local authority, community and other researcher.

Finally, in Chapter 5, summary and conclusion for this study was discussed. Recommendation of the study was suggested for further research to gain more information and improve this research in future.

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