

Lived Experiences of the Business Owners on No Plastic Policy of Ormoc City

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to examine what business owners are experiencing while enforcing the no plastic policy. This research was carried out in different businesses within the city of Ormoc. Twenty participants who are company owners or representatives of business are included in this research. The research style of the analysis uses qualitative phenomenological design. The methodology used to perform the analysis was to answer open-ended questions through interviews. Conceptual analysis were used to analyze the result. The information collected is coded within the total population number. Throughout the general sample size, common information will be tallied throughout the overall sample size. The result gathered by the researcher on the issues and challenges that business owners were facing are the inconvenience of paper bags, costly alternative packaging, and the preference of consumers for plastic. The coping mechanisms of business owners for their concerns is by increasing the price of their goods, encouraging consumers to BYOB or bring your own bag, and, despite customer complaints, sticking to the policy because they will be penalised if they failed to do so. Businesses benefited from this program because it significantly reduces the waste production and is eco-friendly..

Keywords: No Plastic Policy, business owners, interviews, conceptual analysis, alternative packaging, coping mechanisms, waste reduction

1. Introduction

Plastic has a significant impact on people's lives. Its versatility allows it to be used for several products. It can act as a storage bag for. It also allows for the production of some products, such as shoes and watches and has excellent thermal and insulation properties, which will enable the creation of devices such as laptops and phones, and almost everything we see that has involvement of plastic. (Europe, 2018).

Although it is useful and convenient, it has a significant impact on the health of our environment. It has caused a vast array of problems, such as pollution and carbon footprint. Plastics that are not disposed correctly will eventually be thrown into the ocean damaging all marine life. Some of it will ultimately get burned and harm our ozone layer (Behm, 2019).. Due to hazards that plastics possess, governments and different organizations from all over the world are starting to make their move, and some have issued activities, programs, or policies that would help in the mitigation of plastic

This research intends to explore what business owners are experiencing on the implementation of the no plastic policy. This study would be useful in determining the solutions of the problems that business owners' experiences in following the no plastic policy. This would also uncover the different struggles that they face and finding out how no plastic policy affects businesses and people.

2.Statement of the Problem/Objective

The purpose of this study is to determine the lived experiences of the business owners on the No Plastic Policy of Ormoc City. This study will be conducted in several businesses in Ormoc City.

Specifically, this study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What are the problems that business owners encountered in the implementation of “No Plastic Policy” in Ormoc City?
2. What are the ways that the business owners employ to counter the challenges encountered in following the “No Plastic Policy”?
3. What are the perceptions of the benefits on the implementation of “No Plastic Policy” of the businesses to the environment?

3.Significance of the Study

The primary goal of this study is to learn and discover the lived experiences of business owners on the no plastic policy of Ormoc City. This would allow the people to develop plans so that more businesses will be able to follow the system as well as improve the effectiveness of the policy.

4.Literature Review

This chapter contains the related literature that provides more information about no plastic policies. The researchers have collected several related literature and studies that would help support the analysis.

According to the American Chemistry Council (2019), the innovations of plastics help make life more convenient and healthier. It allows the production of many materials such as electronic devices, helmets, and can also be used as packaging to help keep foods safe and fresh. It is also used to create articles that would help us in emergencies and keeping us safe such as bicycle helmets and airbags in automobiles. Indeed, their versatility and durability helped shaped the innovation of the industries and made the lives of people more comfortable.

Based to House Bill No. 3338 of the Philippines, plastic in the Philippines has been increasing at an alarming rate over the years. It is among the top 5 countries in the world where plastics come from. The Earth Day Network’s Statistics also said that the Philippines is 3rd in the rank of the worst polluter of the world’s oceans in 2018.

According to Asmuni et al. (2014), plastic bags are commonly used throughout the world. They are very convenient, inexpensive, and sufficient. However, improper disposal could cause significant damage to our environment. Programs are implemented by different organizations around the world to manage the waste plastics produce.

With lesser amounts of plastics disposed, not only we can save money on personal need but also improves our health- where it decreases mosquito-related diseases- plastics are considered as breeding grounds for mosquitos where it can hold patches of water where they can lay there young and can grow there population where it could be

5.Research Methodology

This research uses a qualitative design because its goal is to seek out non-numeric data from the respondents. This design mainly focuses on the collection of data that involves interview and observation, as well as interpretation, is based on the researcher’s uses of Phenomenology research design. It is used to explore and understand people’s every lived experience, which is what the researchers are trying to find out in their businesses of the no plastic policy regulation.

The study is conducted in any business located in Ormoc City. Ormoc City is known as a place full of different kinds of businesses, and it is an excellent place to conduct a study about the plastic policy formed at the city following the ordinance of the No Plastic Policy.

The study is conducted in any kind of businesses that has the usage of plastics and has no regard or choice on what company do they run. It could be malls, convenience stores, snack houses, shops, etc. If there are businesses that use plastics as their storage of their products, it will be a great, productive, and useful environment for the research. Participants of the study are the owners, managers, or representatives of selected businesses in Ormoc City.

Sampling technique that was used in this study is purposive or judgmental sampling and convenience sampling. Only those that are believed good choice for the research are chosen by the researcher. Sampling

technique is applicable for the study because there are a lot of businesses in Ormoc City, and the No Plastic Policy applies to every one of them. Since all companies that was identified has met the requirements, the researcher will just choose ones that are convenient and easy to access.

The researchers designed an interview questionnaire and interview schedule as one of the data collections instruments for this study.

The instruments that will be used in this study are open-ended questions that were created by the researchers to gather the necessary information for the study. The research will be conducted through a face-to-face interview with the participants.

The questions used during the interview process were used in asking for the research participants. The follow-up questions that apply to the situation will then be asked to clarify their responses and to extract further information that can shed more light on the message that the researcher is trying to convey and to get the answers that would satisfy the study.

6.Data Analysis

The process of the content analysis will most likely take a long time and may require the researchers to repeat specific steps and procedures to ensure that the researchers have done a thorough job of analysis.

The first step in the process of content analysis involves gathering the data from all the interviews that proceeded. The data will be transcribed manually by the researchers, and after that, the data that will be Transcribed will be analysed, copied, and read. Annotations will be left margins of the transcribed pages to serve as markers to quickly locate the data, helping the researchers interpret the data. The researchers will then record the critical statements from the transcript in a separate sheet, thus allowing the researchers to see on what page they are found and where the line it belongs.

Secondly, the relevant data gathered from the transcriptions will then be saturated and be formulated into meanings according to the general idea the information gives. Those meanings will be sorted into categories in a way that it offers a description of what these answers are about.

Thirdly, the researchers will determine whether or not the categories are in any way relevant and be useful to the study.

The fourth step will only be done after the data are all finally Tran scripted. The collected categories or themes are analysed in detail and will be considered fitting and relevant to the study.

The fifth and final step in the content analysis process occurs after the categorization is done, this step involves the researchers to go over the original transcripts and ensure that all the information and data that needs to be categorized have already been done in.

7.Results/Discussions:

Four main themes were found in the collected data: awareness of the policy, challenges, and problems in following the policy, coping with the problems, and the benefits of the policy to businesses and for the city. The result of the study can contribute to a deeper understanding of the experiences of business owners on the no plastic policy.

8.Problems And Challenges In Following The Policy

The different problems and challenges that businesses encounter hinder them from following the policy. However, some of the businesses that the researcher interviewed do not experience any problems in following the policy because they have already implemented the policy for some time to a point that they got used to it.

7.1.No Challenges Encountered

According to some respondents, their businesses has not encountered any problems in following the No Plastic Policy. This is because they have been following the policy for quite some time now that they already have adopted to developing it without any problems as well as making sure their businesses is sustaining well.

7.2Product Inconvenience

The data gathered shows that one of the main problems of why they have a hard time in following the no plastic policy is due to how inconvenient paper bags can be. This is due to how it can easily break or easily get ripped off. This is especially very common to stores that sells food and bulky items.

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Based on what the respondents have stated, it was shown clearly they have a hard time using paper bags as packaging for their foods. This is why they tend to use plastic instead of using paper bags.

7.3. Expensive Alternative Packaging

Some business owner face additional problem on the expenses of using paper bags. Since paper bags are more costly than plastics, they tend to prefer cheaper packaging because it will save them money and is suitable for their business.

7.4. Customer's Plastic Preference

Another issue that businesses face in following the policy is not in the business itself, but the customers. It has been found out that several customers demand to have their goods packaged in plastic.

8. Coping Up With The Problems Or Challenges Encountered

The companies interviewed by the researcher all sought to find ways to address the challenges they face in implementing the no plastic policy. They do not need to deal with anything for businesses who have faced no challenges in developing the issues. Some firms, however, still have not found ways to cope with the challenges. This is largely because they have not begun to follow the policy or have a difficult time keeping their box or paper bag supplies high.

8.1. Increase Price of Products

According to some respondents, one way to counter the problem of the increasing expense is by increasing the prices of the goods the business sells. Since there is an increase in expenses, the costs may also be increased to get even with the additional expense.

Bringing of Own Containers Shoppers can bring their own bags like endorsing BYOB bring your own bag.

The respondents also said that when shopping for food, goods, or any other item that are purchased, clients are encouraged to carry their containers. This will also help reduce the amount of waste created and support the environment.

8.2. Sticking to the Policy

According to some of our interviewees, for them to cope up with the problems they face in following the policy, they would just go through the difficulties and just continue to follow the policy despite having more expenses and customer complaints.

9. Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

1.1 The different problems and challenges that businesses encounter hinder them from following the policy. However, some of the businesses that the researchers interviewed do not experience any problems in following the policy because they have already implemented the policy for some time to a point that they got used to it.

1.2 The data gathered shows that one of the main problems of why they have a hard time in following the no plastic policy is due to how inconvenient paper bags can be. This is due to how it can easily break or easily get ripped. This is especially very common to stores that sell food and bulky items.

1.3 Since paper bags are more costly than plastics, they tend to prefer cheaper packaging because it will save them money and is suitable for their business.

10. Conclusion

The researcher concluded with all the data and information being collected and evaluated that each respondent has its own comparable and different views and experiences in enforcing the no plastic policy in their businesses. Though some businesses haven't had problems following the policy, there are still industries that have problems following the policy, and they should not be left behind.

The most common concerns they face are how uncomfortable and expensive the alternative packaging is for their businesses. The most prevalent issues they face are

customers' constant complaints about getting paper bags.

Business owners are still seeking to build ways to deal with the issues found in

implementing the policy. Even if consumers complain, businesses want to raise the price of the goods, tell customers to carry their containers, and stick with the strategy. Not all businesses, however have fully coped with the strategy, and there are still many who fail to implement their business policies.

Overall, business owners do see the No Plastic Policy as a positive environmental policy. Even if businesses are affected, it is still for the benefit of the nation that people live in. It reduces the amount of plastic waste significantly and is environmentally friendly.

11. Recommendations

The following recommendation are hereby proposed

1. Business owners may collect an extra charge for the plastic in order to persuade shoppers to bring their own eco-bags or allow paper bags for their merchandise.
2. Let consumers be aware on the advantages and relevance of the "No Plastic Policy"
3. Customers must be oriented on the risks that business owners would face should they insist in using plastic as it even against the law.
4. Customers must reject the use of plastics or use Eco bags when shopping not only for the sake of following the said policy but also for the purpose of leaving a clean environment for the future generations.
5. Ormoc City Government need to modify the "No Plastic Policy" that may enable the businesses to adapt easier.
6. Revisit the "No Plastic Policy"

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