
APPRAISAL OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE RECYCLING CHALLENGES IN SOUTH AFRICA: A CASE STUDY OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

The management of solid waste is a challenge in municipalities of South Africa. The objectives of the study were to analyze the current status of recycling and challenges hindering efficient solid waste minimization mandate by municipalities in Limpopo province. The study employed both qualitative (through observation questionnaires interviews) and quantitative (fishers exact test) research methodology. The study was based on field surveys allowing for observation and measurement with respect to waste minimisation activities and final disposal at landfill sites. In addition to observation questionnaires were administered to waste supervisors and waste managers. The data collected from questionnaires was coded and subjected to both descriptive and inferential statistics for analysis. Several factors have been identified indicating barriers of engagement with solid waste recycling accomplishments. The challenges ranges from needs prioritization, regulations and capacity. In South Africa local government decisions are made through administrative and political context however political framework becomes particularly strong in relation to decisions. Waste management experts and researchers around the world are responding to the international concern and they are working towards zero waste strategies. Municipal sustainable waste management in the 21st century is supposed to recognize the significance impact of recycling. It was recommended that municipal decision makers should ensure that waste minimization as one of the commissioned services are effective, and equitable as possible, and thereby achieving the best value for money and the greatest environmental and health gain across the whole population. The prioritization of recycling by municipal management should be appropriate for an efficient waste delivery system.

Keywords: Recycling, solid waste minimization, prioritization

INTRODUCTION

Several studies [1, 15] indicated that recycling is an essential element of long term solution to waste control with the most significant waste treatments in the waste hierarchy system documented as sorting, recycling, recovery and composting. Waste is a midstream stage in the transformation of resources that occurs in the consumption process. In most developing countries urbanization is an added problem as it directly feeds into the problem of uncontrolled waste generation and treatment. Local municipalities in Limpopo Province face challenges of effective implementation and achievement of waste minimization strategies [2]. It is important to subject municipal waste recycling system to scrutiny in order to identify weaknesses. Is the system in