

The impact of environmental awareness on garbage disposal behavior of residents in dormitory of Hokkaido University

(北海道大学の寮在住者のゴミの廃棄挙動に対する環境意識の影響)

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Our lives in the modern society with the rapid renewal growth produce a plenty of garbage, which made a bad impact on ecosystems and human health. Therefore, the reduction of the amount of garbage is very important. However, most of developing countries don't have an adequate system for waste disposal and consequently causes many environment problems.

Most of Japanese local government has a complex garbage sorting system. Foreigners who come to live in Japan often encounter the difficulties in the adaption to that system because garbage-sorting systems differ from country to country. This research focused on the foreigner's garbage disposal behavior and then to analyze the effect of acquired consciousness on garbage classification behavior of foreign student in Sapporo.

At first the literature review of relevant papers was conducted to investigate the variations and peculiarities of garbage disposal systems in various countries. Secondly, a survey on garbage disposal behavior was carried out at the dormitory of Hokkaido University. Three dormitories were chosen because a variety of foreigners reside there. A questionnaire was distributed into the students' mailbox and collected in a box. The data from the questionnaires were analyzed statistically using Microsoft Excel and SPSS on the basis of various characteristics such as gender, nationality, and age. The interviews were also conducted with the relevant stakeholders including foreign students and dormitory managers. On the other hand, the weight of garbage bag/per category (burnable, non-burnable, plastic, and pet bottles) was measured to determine the average weight bag/per garbage type in various seasons of the year. The qualitative and quantitative data will then be juxtaposed in a comprehensive discussion to determine the final conclusions and recommendations of the research.

The result of this study clearly shows that the difference in awareness and behavior of garbage sorting between students from European, Asia and Africa. Almost all of the European countries have practiced garbage-sorting system and the residents from European have already cultivated the awareness on garbage disposal. Compared with the European countries, most of the Asia and Africa countries don't have a complete garbage sorting system. Therefore, they take a long time to adapt to the system. There is no significant difference in awareness and behavior of garbage sorting due to gender on the case study. Both of the male and female students who live in the dormitories need more strict supervision of garbage separation. If the standard garbage sorting system will be established world widely it will be easy for foreigner to do garbage disposal in foreign country.