

**EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF WASTE PAPER BY MEANS OF
RECYCLING**

INSTITUTION AFFILIATION

Vidya Vikas Education Trust
Vidya Vikas First Grade College
Post Graduate Department of Commerce
Bannur Road, Mysore- 570011.

Authors

Dr. Vasanthi Reena Williams
HOD, Vidya Vikas PG Dept. of Commerce,

&

Bi Bi Quthej Tull Kubra
IV Semester M.Com
Vidya Vikas PG Department of Commerce
Bannur Road, Mysuru.

CONTACT : Hand phone: 09886045663

E-MAIL ID : rina.sony@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

We are aware of the usefulness of paper in our daily lives. Whether it is the daily newspaper or paper for office work / college work, paper is undoubtedly an indispensable product. Paper, as we all know is made from wood and with the number of companies, institutions and offices around, the amount of wood required is massive and tremendous. This means that more and more trees have to be chopped to cater to official need for stationery.

Indiscriminate use of paper is also causing ecological imbalance. We cannot totally stop or prevent the use of paper in our daily activities. It is our duty as enlightened citizens to conserve the use of paper and find alternative methods of replacing paper for official and other purposes.

This study attempts to suggest suitable measures for conserving the use of paper and to advocate the use of recycled paper for some of our daily requirements.

Key words: Paper, ecology, environment, conservation, recycle.

1.1.Introduction

If we do not care about our environment and resources, recycling will become inevitable. Intact, the use of paper bags are replacing plastic carry-bags at malls and several stores. Paper is recyclable, cost effective and benefits the environment as well. The well-known conglomerate, ITC's paper boards and specialty papers division launched the waste paper collection program me called 'Wealth out of Waste', way back in 2004. They selected the cities namely; Hyderabad, Bangalore, Coimbatore and Chennai where the company would tie up with IT companies including Infosys, IBM and WIPRO and purchase waste paper from them for recycling.

The term 'recycling' denotes the process of separating, collecting and remanufacturing or converting used or waste products into new materials. This paper focuses on recycling waste

office paper which when reused could help save energy and reduce waste, thereby ensuring effective use of resources. Research outcomes state that the paper production from the recycled fibers consumes less energy; conserves natural resources like wood and decreases the environmental pollution.

1.2. Significance of the study

We are all aware and are also feeling the effect of global warming. A cause for Global warming is due to the careless use of natural resources by our predecessors and also by our present generation. We are responsible and answerable to our future generation for what we leave them to enjoy and therefore it is our duty to ensure that we conserve natural resources.

After effects of globalization is the spurge in the number of business establishments, all over India. Foreign Direct Investments and the Liberalization Policy have helped improve the economy by way of providing employment opportunities to millions all over the country. Employment opportunities being generated through the establishment of business houses meant usage of more stationery for office use. This in turn meant, cutting of more trees for meeting the paper requirements of business houses. This study tries to emphasize the reduction in the use of paper through recycling and creating awareness on minimizing use of paper for official use.

1.3. Objective of the study

Paper Industry does have its effects on the environment. Therefore, recycling paper that is considered as waste, either at home or office can help in reducing raw material extraction, save energy and also combats negative effects on the environment. The objective of this study therefore is:

1. To develop an integrated sound waste management system.
2. To create awareness among friends and neighbors on the recycling waste paper
3. To study the positive economic impact of recycling on environment.
4. To highlight the benefits of reusing waste paper creatively.

1.4. Methods

This paper follows both primary and secondary research methodology. Relevant Literature on the subject was extensively studied. Practical activities concerning reuse of waste paper were conducted on weekends and holidays to observe and practically come to a conclusion regarding the benefits of reusing waste paper creatively.

1.5.Discussions

Pieter van Beukering and Anantha Duraiappah¹ (1996), in their study on the impact of waste paper have stated way back in 1996 that several developments and problems prevail in the Indian paper cycle. First, with the prospect of growing urbanisation, increasing literacy rates and general increasing economic growth, the consumption of paper and paperboard products is expected to grow considerably. The study identified that an Indian citizen on average consumes approximately 3 kg of paper each year. Although low compared to the annual per capita consumption of paper in Japan and the United States which is respectively 234 kg and 298 kg, this figure is expected to increase over the coming decades (FAO 1993). Moreover, it should be realised that the official statistics do not account for the consumption of re-used paper. Therefore, the actual per capita paper consumption in India is slightly higher.

A study on the Effects of Paper Recycling and its environmental impact by Iveta Čabalová, František Kačík, Anton Geffert and Danica Kačíková² (2009), reiterate through their research study that recycling is a necessity, looking at the present scenario globally. They emphasise the need for recycled paper utilisation for paper manufacturing.

A newsletter report in the International Preservation News³ published by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) (August 2009), state that while current environmental and economic conditions demand good fiscal and responsible management of resources. Since, the 1970's recycled paper research has begun to develop a

¹ The Economic Environmental Impact of the Waste Trade and Recycling In India. Creed working paper series. No 10. Available online at: www.pub/iied.org/pdfs/8129IIED.pdf. Retrieved on 13th March 2015.

² Source: The Economic Environmental Impact of the Waste Trade and Recycling In India. Creed working paper series. No 10. Available online at: www.pub/iied.org/pdfs/8129IIED.pdf. Retrieved on 13th march 2015.

³ Source: A news latter of the IFLA core activity on preservation and conservation August 2009. ISSN 0890-4960. Available online at www/ifla.org/files48-2009.pdf. Retrieved on 12th march 2015.

framework for understanding the effects of paper manufacture with recycled materials; assessing the inclusion of various additives.

According to Katherine Harmon⁴ (2011), in her article on recycling of old paper states that Paper is an easy material to recycle because, unlike plastic or metal, it does not require extreme heat to melt it down to make it into new form like plastic or metal. However, the study states that paper cannot be recycled too many times.

PRACTICAL ACTIVITY

To practically demonstrate the effective recycling of waste paper, the authors arranged for a workshop at a Government Residential School, Kasturaba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya situated at Alanahalli, near Siddarthanagar, Mysuru. The children were provided with waste paper and were taught to prepare handbags, toys, paper bowl, paper flowers and pen-stands. The children enjoyed the activity.



The warden of the children hostel proposes to conduct this activity in a large scale and hold an exhibition. The sale proceed would help finance some future activity in the hostel.

⁴ Source: Katherine Harmon (2011). Recycle! Make Old Paper New. Available online at www.scientificamerican.com/article/recycling/-make-old-paper-newbring-science-home. Retrieved on March 10th 2015





1.6.Conclusion

There are several people who are very creative and believe in the idiom ‘wealth from waste’. They seem to have magic on their fingertips and convert the waste strewn around the house into something interesting, useful and attractive. One such concept is the recycling of waste paper. Every home and office will inevitably have waste paper at its disposal. We can effectively recycle these waste papers and also ensure that some pocket money can be earned in the process.

During summer holidays and weekends, children can be taught the art of recycling paper and preparing creative articles which can be sold to earn their pocket money. Not only will the children be spending their time usefully and creatively, this exercise will also create awareness regarding environment protection. Several articles like decorative paper lamps, paper bowls, wall decorations, toys and similar artifacts can be made by recycling waste paper.

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