

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

The need for the community to participate in solid waste management is ultimately necessary in order to provide a better living environment to the inhabitants. In this chapter, discussions are focused on the findings of the research, the challenges involved in creating awareness among the communities, some recommendations in reducing waste and to have better community involvement.

#### **5.2 Summary of Findings**

The findings from the interview with the residents, solid waste manager, NGOs/CBOs and the local authority are as follows:-

##### *5.2.1 Community*

Communities are major stakeholders in the country. As such their participation enables greater diversity and experimentation in the use of effective policy instruments from a wide range of choice and also their involvement increases the accountability of policy makers.<sup>52</sup> This research has identified various factors that could enhance community participation.

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<sup>52</sup> Wee Chong Hui, *op.cit.*, p. 2.

From the research conducted among the residents of Section 17, Section 10, SS 9A and Kampung Lindungan the factors that induce their participation are as follows:

a) Income

Sections 17 and 10 are identified as the living area of above average income group. On the contrary, SS 9A and Kampung Lindungan can be classified as the area for average and low income group. The wealthy residential areas have residents' association while the other two areas have none. This indicates that affordable residents have higher level of awareness to preserve the environment.

b) Education

Educational level also plays an important role in creating awareness among the people. The interview with residents who possess higher educational level seem to be more aware of environmental issues from various sources, such as newspapers and magazines. This also enables the adoption process of waste reduction programmes to be in much easier manner.

c) Source of Information

Resident who has lesser access to information tends to appreciate less the importance of awareness towards the environment. Here, the NGOs/CBOs play an important role in providing the necessary information to the public.

d) Self initiative/attitude

A resident who possesses a positive attitude towards environment has more initiatives toward preserving the nature by participating in related activities and programmes. For instance, in PJCC the residents have shown their continuous support in the activities that been organised by the centre

e) Neighbourhood

A good and friendly neighbourhood also provides a path to encourage residents' association in working together to address their problems. For instance, the concern of the residents of Section 10 had arrived with the resolutions to identify and address their problems to the respective party, especially in the case of the rebuilding of Taman Jaya recreation park.

*5.2.2 The Solid Waste Manager*

As a waste manager, AFSB provides sufficient collection service for the area. Having 77 contractors in the Petaling Jaya area, AFSB does the collection service for 3 times a week at the residential areas. Most of the residents are satisfied with the service provided. In order to have a proper solid waste disposal, AFSB seeks the public and the community organisations to give a better participation especially in caring out the 3R programmes.

### *5.2.3 NGOs/CBOs*

The organisations such as MNS, TrEES, WWF, PJCC and Residents Association of Section 10 provide information to the public and seek their involvement through programmes and activities in various aspects especially on waste reduction programmes.

### *5.2.4 Local Authority*

MPPJ does not only provides information but also implements globalised programme such as Local Agenda, to gather all the related party under one roof in order to address the community's problem, provide solution and promote sustainable development to the respective community as well as to the country.

## **5.3 Challenges**

In order to provide a healthy environment for the inhabitants the solid waste manager, NGOs/CBOs, local authority and also the community face many limitations and challenges.

### *5.3.1 Community*

There are only a few active CBOs in the country and most of the residential area does not have a residents' association. This is due to the lackadaisical attitude of the residents in respect of the awareness of proper waste disposal. In some areas, although there is a resident's association but there are no full commitment given by the residents, most of them prefer to remain passive.

### *5.3.2 The Solid Waste Manager*

AFSB as the solid waste manager faces a number of challenges from various aspects. It is difficult to gain co-operation from the residents and the private companies, in helping them to achieve a proper waste disposal. The activities such as unpacked and leaking solid waste, illegal dumping and waste thrown into the drain and river make it to be worse. Squatter areas worsen the situation, when the wastes are not thrown in the community bin provided. Instead, it is scattered all over the places making the collection work to be more complicated.

Furthermore, since the system is handed over for an interim period prior to privatisation, the company has absorbed the private contractors who were previously serving MPPJ. The attitude of certain contractors provide poor collection service and at certain times dumps them at illegal sites to avoid travelling far to the landfill in Puchong, results in AFSB being blamed and criticised.

### *5.3.3 NGOs/CBOs*

Gaining collective co-operation is another challenge faced by these organisations. Besides that, lack of funds has also been identified as a major problem to prolong the survival of these organisations. Sometimes, there are cases whereby these associations were not given sufficient attention by the authorities.

#### *5.3.4 Local Authority*

It is a fact that increasing waste will effect the nature and the environment. Being as the authority's responsible, it needs the full support from the community, private companies, solid waste manager and also the NGOs/CBOs to curb the problem. The ignorance of these components to work together will result in a poor and polluted environment.

### **5.4 Recommendations**

Here are some recommendations towards a better waste disposal and to get a better involvement of the community.

#### *5.4.1 Waste Reduction Programmes*

##### a) Residents

The 3R programme, namely reduce, reuse and recycle needs a better attention from the respective stakeholders. That is to educate the consumers to change their buying habits, evaluate their waste generation and participate in recycling. The educational outreach activities such as workshop, newsletters and taskforce should be provided in a more wide range where it will only be a success if each and every residents aware of these programmes. Further more, all residents should be taught to do their own composting from their yard waste.

## b) Manufacturer

Technical assistance should involve research centres within universities where it will assist the manufacturers to design waste reduction and recycling programmes. For instance, plastics are not taken for recycling, this shows that plastic manufactures still remain as the main contributor in high production of wastes in Malaysia. Thus technical assistance is essential in this field.

Furthermore, introduction to cleaner production and green productivity programmes will definitely help to preserve the nature. Manufacturers could also be encouraged to design products that promote easier disposal or recycling. In this aspect, they could be provided with special loan arrangements for the purchasing of recycling equipment, provide penalties for those industries and also reduce procedural requirements. MPPJ can also encourage them to share information on their successes in waste reduction and identify financial resources and incentives for companies that need more capital-intensive technologies.

### *5.4.2 Legal Enforcement*

The three levels of government should re-examine their policies and concentrate on more proactive, sustainable and equitable solutions to be made involving source reduction and recycling. Local government can also disseminate information regarding waste reduction techniques and alternatives. Laws could be made on promoting a better waste disposal from the households such as, separating the

waste at source for recycling and provide a dry solid waste for collection. This will avoid leaking on the road while the lorry is carrying them.

#### *5.4.3 Funding*

The LG could encourage the activities of the NGOs by providing funds from either the government or private companies. This is in order to create a better and sustainable participation from the community.

### **5.5 Conclusion**

The level of awareness among Malaysian society is low compared to other developing nations, especially in the acknowledgement of 3R and composting programmes, which lead towards a proper solid waste disposal. Here, it indicates the need for the community, NGOs/CBOs, the waste manager and the local authority to draw out proper planning.

The planning involve in creating awareness and participation among the community in the solid waste management is due to promote a sustainable development, the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.<sup>53</sup> So, in other words we have to preserve the nature and environment for the coming generation, our children and grandchildren as long as our mother earth survives.

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<sup>53</sup> Bruntland Report, "Our Common Future", 1987.