

AWARENESS & ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

A CASE STUDY IN SECTION 17, PETALING JAYA,

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## **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study is to understand the level of knowledge and awareness on environmental issues. It also seeks to understand and examine the attitude and participation of the public in dealing with wastes and other environmental issues.

It is generally believed that knowledge on environmental issues would increase participation in environmental programmes. However, the traditional measures of high awareness and knowledge are found not to be closely linked with public participation on environmental issues. As in other studies, this study found that some 93 per cent of the respondents know the adverse effects of environmental pollution. However, only some 39 per cent of the respondents think that they should be responsible in the care of public places. At the household level, some 96 per cent of the households throw at least one recyclable item each week. Only some 35 per cent of the respondents have sent items for recycling.

It is found that age and education would significantly affect participation in environmental issues. Younger people are more concern about environmental issues compared to older people. Likewise those with higher education are more likely to participate in environmental programmes compared to those with lower education. Therefore, some effective programmes to encourage those with lower education and the older groups are necessary to increase participation in environmental issues and feel a sense of responsibility in the care of our environment.

The result revealed that knowledge and attitudes linked to actual action on environmental issues are better measurement of participation in environmental issues than just general measurements of knowledge. Hence, policies and programmes aiming

at increasing public participation in environmental issues should enhance people's understanding on issues affecting them directly.

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