

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND**

Currently, the Environmental problems have severely affected human beings and living creatures in every part of the world. The important environmental problem affecting our health in everyday life both in urban and suburban societies is “Solid Wastes” which is dramatically expanding its degree of seriousness worldwide because of the rapidly increasing population and the progress of technology. Thus, the significant factor affecting the amount of wastes is “population” since the number of people reflects the increase of the total consumption of the country. In 2003, the total amount of solid wastes from the communities across the country was about 14.2 million tons all of which was divided into 4 categories. Firstly, the compostable refuse such as remnants of vegetable, food, and fruit occupied 46%. Secondly, recyclable waste such as pieces of glass, plastic, metal, and lead was about 42%. Thirdly, general waste comprised of packages of snacks and sweets was 8%. Lastly, hazardous waste consisting of fluorescent and light bulb, insecticide bottle and expired battery accounted for 3%. (กรมควบคุมมลพิษ : 2544).

People are the key element for solving the solid wastes problem because wastes have been distributed from the human’s activities. Therefore, an effective solution is engaging people with the solution by strengthening environmental public awareness and providing the accurate knowledge, understandings, and attitudes towards the importance of solid wastes management. Building up awareness will provide people the environmental literacy which they can adopt and practice in real life. Right attitude will help develop how people lead their ways of life to be friendly with the environment in using natural resources economically and wisely, and reducing the distribution of wastes. In conclusion, the research was conducted to find out the relationship between environmental awareness and environmentally friendly behavior by conducting a study of the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion on solid wastes management.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

This study aims to answer the following questions

1.2.1 To what degree are officials in the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion aware of causes of producing solid wastes?

1.2.2 How do they lead their lives at home and at workplace in relation to the solid wastes management?

1.2.3 Is their lifestyle at home the same as at workplace when the solid wastes management is considered?

1.2.4 Do the degree of environmental awareness on solid wastes management have any effect on their behavior?

## **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of this study are the following:

1.3.1 Main Objective

To find out relationship between environmental awareness and environmentally friendly behavior on solid wastes management

1.3.2 Sub-objectives

1. To find out the degree to which officials in the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion are aware of solid wastes management

2. To find out how officials of the DEQP lead their lives in relation to solid wastes management concerns when they stay at home and at workplace

3. To find out whether the lifestyle at home and at workplace of officials about solid wastes management are alike.

4. To find out whether the degree of environmental awareness has any effect on their environmentally friendly behavior.

## **1.4 DEFINITION OF TERMS/ VARIABLES AND DEFINITIONS**

The definition of terms of this study are as follows;

Environmentally friendly behavior on solid wastes management: the frequency in doing the following activities that help reduce the amount of solid wastes at home and at workplace:

1. Reduce the amount of solid wastes by using refill products, buying the good quality products, using dishes, plates and durable plastic container instead of plastic bag, avoiding foam containers, etc.

2. Reuse materials, for instance, using both sides of a piece of paper and using cloth bags.

3. Recycle materials

4. Classify solid wastes before discarding

Degree of Awareness on Solid Waste Management: the degree of knowledge and comprehension on solid wastes management and the ability to classify the type of solid wastes, the understanding of how wastes were generated from, and the ability to manage the wastes correctly.

## **1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

1.5.1 The subjects of this study are all of officials who have been working at the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion.

1.5.2 The study focuses on the relationship between environmental awareness and environmentally friendly behavior.

## **1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The findings reveal the relationship between environmental awareness on solid wastes management and environmentally friendly behavior. The outcomes will be presented to the department's policy makers to use as database in regulating the DEQP's policy on capacity building, strengthening the awareness on environmental problems especially in solid wastes management.

## **1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter one includes background, research problems, hypothesis, definition of terms, scope of the study, significance of the study and the organization of the study. Chapter two is about review of literature. Chapter three is the methodology part which explains study design, samples, materials, procedures, and data analysis. Chapter four shows the results of the

research. Chapter five consists of summary of the study and the findings, discussions, conclusions, and recommendations for further research.