Solid Waste Management through Community-business
- Case of Kuarta sa Basura program in Cebu City -
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<Abstract>
This thesis suggests a solid waste management system through community-business in developing countries. In developing countries, economies continue to grow rapidly and there is risk that waste issues would be worsening. However, such countries do not necessarily have a well-organized solid waste management system. Moreover, people in developing countries may not be aware of
existing waste issues. So, residents' participation in solid waste management is needed to handle waste issues there. To establish such resident participation, community-business approach is suggested because it is a new approach in promoting community empowerment and monetary benefits.

Community-business approach uses local resources that already exist in the region efficiently and promotes community empowerment in order to solve local issues.

This paper focuses on the Kuarta sa Basura program which has been held in Barangay Luz, Cebu City, for more than a decade. A part of the residents living there participated in it. Manufacturing products by using waste, composting, and waste segregation in a commercial complex have been done by local people in this program. An interview survey was done that included 21 participants of the program from August 19 to August 23. What I learned through the interview was that participants were satisfied with two things. One is that they could get a constant income. Barangay Luz is one of the low-income communities in Cebu City, where many residents cannot get income constantly. The program provides them with a job opportunity. The other is that participants could experience a clean community. They could manage to decrease waste that was disposed inside Barangay Luz through their work in the program. As a result, the volume of waste discharged from the community also became lower. That is why Kuarta sa Basura program is a beneficial one that creates balance between community cleanliness and resident's economic support.

In order to strengthen the program, feedback of the program was done based on SWOT analysis survey. One existing weak point is that low personal awareness about waste issue needs to be further improved. In my interview survey, most of respondents tended to focus on monetary benefit. Also, in the threat element, review of the program by participants is important to further develop the program. In addition, the evaluation needs to revise the environmental aspect in order to further promote personal impact about waste issue. By improving the program and raising personal impact about waste issues, the program would contribute to establishing an ecological community.

To effectively improve waste issues, cooperation of residents is required. First, residents become more aware about the issue; second, they think how they can act and solve the issue; and finally, initiate some actions. Such a cycle is a required way for people to engage in solid waste management in the future. Community-business approach will be a useful way to organize a solid waste management system and the approach can contribute to making environmental-friendly society.

<Key Word>

solid waste management, community business, Cebu City, SWOT analysis