



Liberal Study Project Report

Would implementing Plastic bag tax levy be beneficial for Hong Kong?



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Introduction

The indiscriminate use of plastic shopping bags is a major and visible environmental problem in Hong Kong. Our landfill survey indicates that some eight billions plastic shopping bags are disposed of at landfills every year. This translates into more than three plastic shopping bags per person per day, which apparently go beyond our needs.

In recent years, the government has noticed the importance of living a environmental friendly, and from July, 2009, to stop the abuse of plastic shopping bags, the plastic bag tax levy is in effect.

If you see the plastic bag tax logo in some specific shops, such as supermarket, convenient stores, personal health and beauty stores, fifty cents will be charged for each plastic shopping bag with a handle that you obtain from that shop.

Yet, is this policy effective? Does this policy improve the environmental quality of life in Hong Kong?

To collect data, we used three research methods, which are questionnaires, field observation, and reviews of books and websites respectively. From the mentioned research methods, our key research question is to find out how effective the policy is in Hong Kong, and did the policy reach the expected result, solve the problem of abuse of plastic bags. To find out the result, we did a comparison between shops that charge for plastic bags and shops that do not charge for plastic bag.

Also, another key research question is to know how did this policy affect the quality of life in Hong Kong. We mainly focus on these three aspects, social, environment and economic. For social quality of life, we want to find out how did this policy affect the customers, and their responds, and opinions to the policy. Moreover, did the customers' sense of being environmental friendly improved by the policy. For environmental quality of life, did the policy result as people use less plastic bags. And for economic quality of life, we want to know how was the business volume affected after the plastic bag tax levy is carried out.

The first reason for our group to choose this topic is that the topic is related to our daily life, for example, when we go shopping, we might come across the problem of should we take a plastic bag. Second, I think this is a challenging topic since the plastic bag tax levy covers everyone, no matter how old they are, or what job they do, so we need to collect data widely from different sources and analyze them. Moreover, since this policy have not ended yet, we do not know the exact result and effect of the policy and we need to find it out by data collected. Third, this is a hot topic, the policy affect everyone and they have different opinions and suggestions on the policy. Lastly, since the policy has carried out for almost one year, and we can know if the policy is effective by observing the changes in one year, such as the customers taking plastic bags and bringing their own shopping bag.

Overview

A. Background of carrying out the plastic bag tax policy

Hong Kong is facing a serious problem of depositing too much solid waste in the landfill, and eight billions plastic shopping bags are disposed of at landfills every year, and this translates into more than three plastic shopping bags per person per day. Comparing to foreign countries, the plastic shopping bags used is only one plastic bag per person per day, which show the use of plastic bag in Hong Kong apparently go beyond our needs and the abuse of plastic shopping bags is a major and visible environmental problem in Hong Kong.

To solve the problem of abuse of plastic bag, the government decided to carry out the plastic bag tax levy, which is a policy that require the polluters to be responsible, and pay the price for their pollution. Also, the government hope to maintain a sustainable development, which means that the solution can satisfy the immediate needs but considerate the future generations too.

B. The charge of plastic shopping bags

To make sure the policy can be carried out effectively, the government charge each plastic bag for fifty cents, since the government thinks that charging can be an inducement to encourage customers to use their recycle bag more, and remind them to be responsible to protect our environment. Also, the government thinks that fifty cents per plastic bag is an acceptable price for the public, and the government expected the use of plastic bag will be reduced by about 54% after the policy is carried out.

C. The shops that carry out the policy

To make sure the outcome of the policy will reach the expected result, the government decided to carry out the policy in different stages. In the first stage, the policy will be carried out in supermarkets, convenient stores, and personal health and beauty stores. Since a data shown that more than 20% of plastic bags in the landfill came from these shops.



Our specific enquiry questions

1. Is the charge of plastic bag an effective way to raise environmental awareness?
2. Do Hong Kong citizens support this policy?
3. How is our quality of life be affected? (Mainly base on environmental and social aspect)

Research methods

To collect the opinions and suggestions on charging plastic bags from different stakeholders and find out the benefits of the plastic bag tax levy for Hong Kong, we did researches through questionnaires, field observation, reviews on books and websites.



Research Methods

What kind of research method do we use?	What kind(s) of information do we need to collect?	How and from whom/where/when we can collect the information?	How to record the information? (Equipment needed)
Questionnaires	Opinions from different classes of people for supporting or opposing the policy. And to see if the sense of being environmental friendly is improved after this policy is carried out.	We will distribute questionnaires to different classes of people, we will classify them into primary, secondary, tertiary, three kinds of education qualification. Some of them are housewives, some are students and some are workers.	Questionnaires
Reviews of books and websites	More details and government's viewpoints on the plastic bag tax levy.	We will collect data from online articles and books to study the viewpoints of the plastic bags tax levy, also, we will study the books and websites for detail information.	Computer, books
Field observation	How many people pay or do not pay for a plastic shopping bag, and how many people will bring their own shopping bag in shops that charge and do not charge for plastic bags.	We observed at four different kinds of stores: two supermarkets (Jusco, Parkshop), one convenient store (7-11) and one personal health and beauty store (Mannings), which charge for plastic bags. And wet market (Tai Ping Wet-market), chandler, which would not charge for any plastic bag.	Notebook

Research Results

Questionnaires

Introduction:

We total gave out 40 questionnaires, 12 of them are males, 28 of them are females.

Fifteen of them are under 15 years old, which are classified as children. Five of them are 15 to 20 years old, ten of them are 21 to 35 years old, which are classified as teenagers. And five of them are 36 to 45 years old, and five of them are above 46 years old, which are classified as adults.

We believe that their education qualification might affect their viewpoints on the plastic bag tax levy too. Six of them are primary, twenty of them are secondary, and fourteen of them are tertiary.

Also, we think the plastic bag tax levy mainly affect three types of people, housewives, students, and white collars, so these three types of people are the major interviewees of our questionnaires.

From the questionnaires, we mainly want to find out the opinions of different stakeholders in four gradation, which are the public sense of being environmental friendly, about the policy, and interviewees' viewpoints, and open ended questions respectively.

By these four gradations, we hope to find out if the customers' sense of being environmental friendly had improved, the viewpoints of the policy among different stakeholders, and see if they support or oppose the plastic bag tax levy.

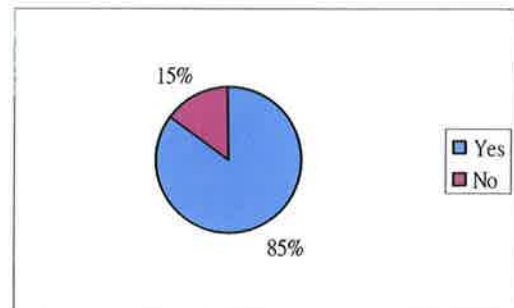
Research Results

Questionnaires

Public sense of being environmental friendly:

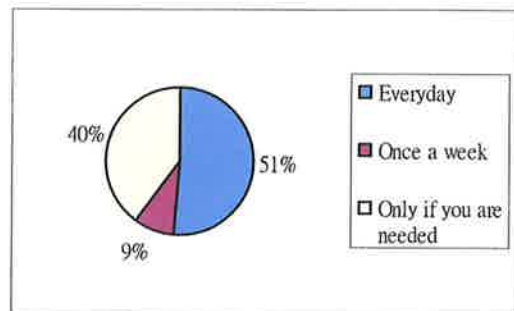
1. After the implementation of levying plastic bag tax, will you bring your own shopping bags more often?

After the policy is carried out, 85% of the interviewees will bring their own bag while shopping while 15% would not.



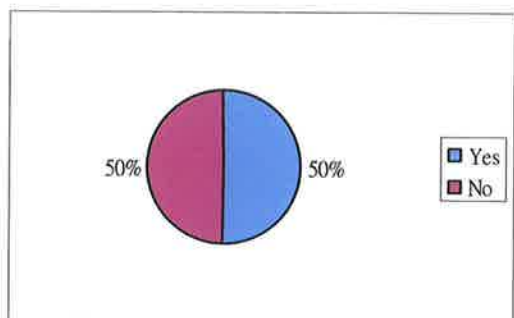
2. If yes, what is the frequency?

The frequency of the interviewees bringing their own bag is mainly everyday.



3. If there isn't such policy, will you bring your own shopping bags?

If there is no such policy, half of the interviewees would not bring their own shopping bag, because they think it is inconvenient and sometimes they forgot to bring it.



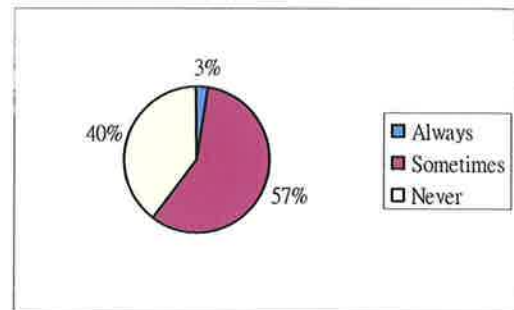
Research Results

Questionnaires

Public sense of being environmental friendly:

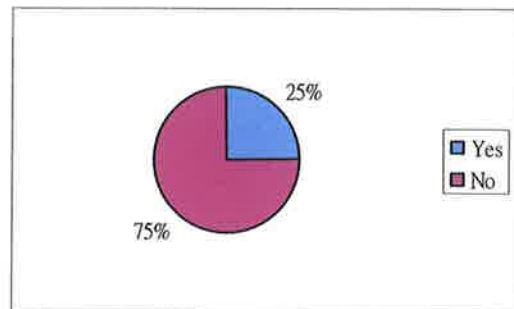
4. After the policy is carried out, will you pay for a plastic bag?

After the policy is carried out, 57% of the interviewees would pay for a plastic bag sometimes, while 40% never. Only 3% of them will pay for a plastic bag always.



5. Do you feel inconvenient to bring your own bag? Why?

75% of the interviewees do not feel inconvenient to bring their own bag because their shopping bags are small, light, and they think this is a good habit which can protect our environment. Contrarily, 25% of the interviewees think it is inconvenient because they think their bag is heavy and they always forget to bring it.



Result Analysis: After the plastic bag tax levy is carried out, the public's sense of being environmental friendly had been improved, they will bring their own shopping bag more often, some even built up a habit to use recycle bags instead of plastic bag. Moreover, less people will pay for a plastic bag.

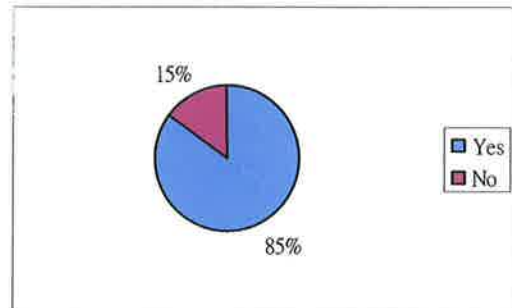
Research Results

Questionnaires

About the policy:

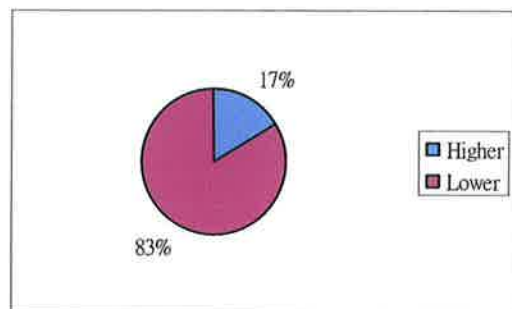
6. Do you think the price of a plastic bag (\$0.5) is reasonable?

85% of the interviewees think that the price of each plastic bag (\$0.5) is reasonable while 15% do not.



7. If not, how should the price be adjusted, why?

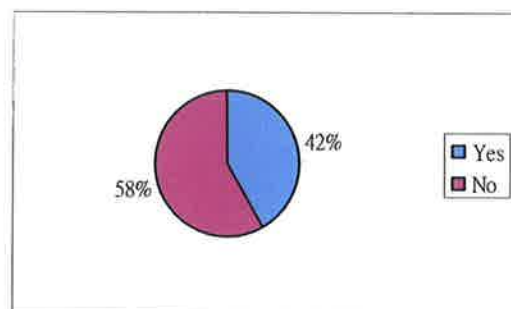
83% of the interviewees think the price of each plastic bag should be adjusted lower, for about ten to twenty cents, because they think it is more reasonable and fifty cents per a plastic bag is too expensive.



Contrarily, 17% of the interviewees think the price of each plastic bag should be adjusted higher, for about three dollars, because it will be more effective to encourage people to bring their own shopping bag.

8. If the charge of the plastic bag tax is higher, will you pay for it?

58% of the interviewees would not pay for any plastic bag if the charge of each plastic bag is higher. This shows that the government should adjust the charge higher, so that the policy will be more effective since fewer people will buy plastic bags, and can reach the target of the policy, stop the abuse of plastic bags.



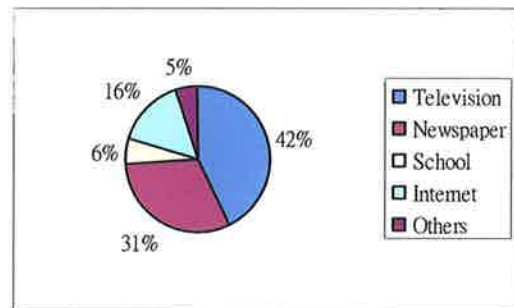
Research Results

Questionnaires

About the policy:

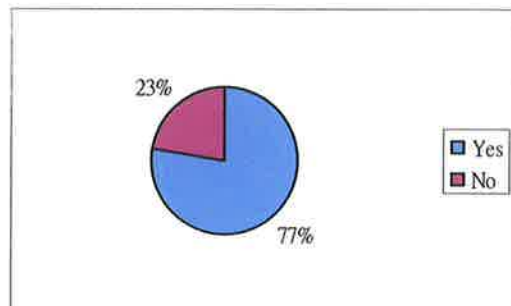
9. Where did you get the information about the charge for plastic bags policy? (You can choose more than one answers)

Most of the interviewees got the information of this policy from the television and newspaper only. This shows that the information given by schools, internet, and some other gateways are not enough.



10. Do you think that the shops of charging plastic bag (For example: Supermarkets, Convenient Stores, etc) are enough? Or should there be more shops?

77% of the interviewees think that the shops of charging plastic bag is enough while 23% do not. For the interviewees who chose “not enough”, they think every shops should charge for plastic bags, and some think department stores, clinics, boutiques, should charge for plastic bags.



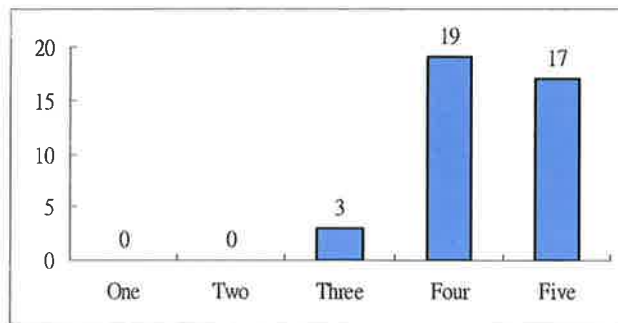
Result Analysis: Most of the interviewees think that the price of each plastic bag is reasonable, but some of them think that the price should be adjusted lower since it is too expensive. Also, most interviewees would not pay for plastic bags anymore if the charge is adjusted higher, and this shows that it is more effective to reach the target of this policy, stop the abuse of plastic bag, if the price of each plastic is adjusted. Furthermore, most interviewees think that the shops of charging plastic bag is enough.

Research Results

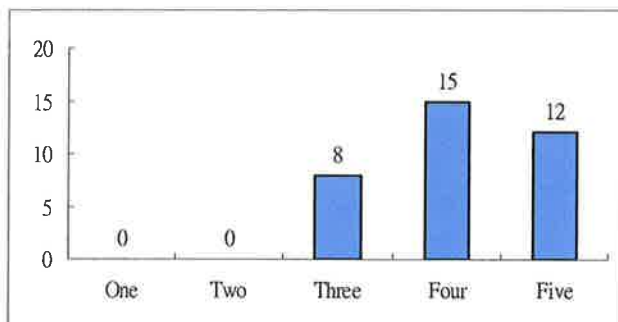
Questionnaires Interviewees' viewpoints:

One represent “Strongly disagree” and five represent “Strongly agree”.

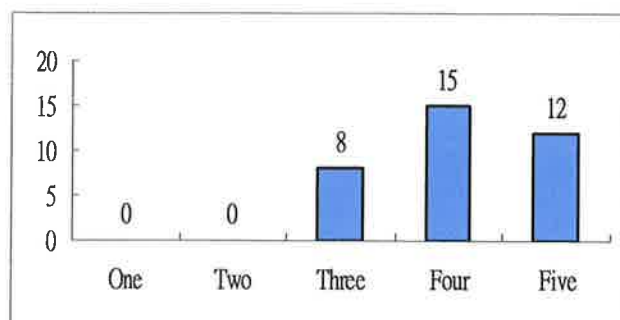
1. This policy can improve environment quality of life in Hong Kong.



2. This policy can educate the public to be more environmental friendly.



3. After this policy is carried out my awareness of being environmental friendly raised.



Result Analysis: Overall, they think that the policy can improve the environment quality of life in Hong Kong, and educate the public to be more environmental friendly. Moreover, their awareness of being environmental friendly had been raised.

Research Results

Questionnaires

Open ended questions:

12. Are there any improvement(s) for this policy?

The following are the improvements of the policy that the interviewees suggested. Firstly, the charge of plastic bag should be higher, therefore less people will buy plastic bags and the awareness of people being environmental friendly might be higher. Secondly, government should educate the public to use recycle bags in a good way, and also control the quality and material of recycle bags, so to ensure recycle bags will not threaten our environmental quality of life. Thirdly, government should promote this policy to more shops, since the policy will not be effective if some shops still give out free plastic bags. Last but not least, some interviewees think the information of this policy given by the government is not enough, and the government should use more ways to introduce the policy, like advertisement on internet and newspaper, and give clearer guideline to both public and shopkeepers.

13. What would you like to know more about this policy?

The interviewees also want to know more about the following points. Firstly, is there any data that show our environmental quality of life had been improved after this policy is carried out. Secondly, how would the money collected by this levy be used. And lastly, how we can get more detailed information about this levy.

Research Results

Questionnaires **Conclusion**

From results of the questionnaires, firstly, we found out that the public sense of being environmental friendly had been greatly improved. Before the policy is carried out, only 50% of the interviewees will bring their own shopping bags, because they think it is inconvenient and sometimes they forgot to bring it. But after the policy is carried out, 85% of the interviewees said they will bring their own shopping bags, and the frequency is mostly everyday. Which means the policy is effective since 35% more interviewees will bring their own shopping bags after the policy is carried out. Also, less people will pay for plastic bags and most interviewees do not think that bringing their own shopping bag is inconvenient because they had already built up the habit of using their recycle bag instead of plastic bag when shopping.

Secondly, about the policy, most interviewees think that it is a reasonable price to pay fifty cents for each plastic bag. Though, some interviewees think the price, fifty cents, is not reasonable, while most of them think the price should be adjusted lower. On the other hand, 58% of the interviewees claimed that if the price of the plastic bag is adjusted higher, they will not pay for it anymore, which show that the fifty cents is still not suitable enough to make an induction and encourage customers to use less plastic bags. Interviewees mainly got the information of this levy from the television and newspaper only, which shows that the information and guidelines given by the government is obviously not enough, and we think that the government should give more detailed information to the public by schools, internet, and other gateways. Moreover, interviewees think that the shops of charging plastic bags, for example, supermarket, convenient stores, personal health and beauty store, etc, are enough. But a small part of interviewees think that department stores, clinics, boutiques, and even every shops should charge for plastic bags, so that it will more effective to reduce the use of plastic bags.

Thirdly, from the overall interviewees' viewpoint, we can conclude that they think that the policy can improve the environment quality of life in Hong Kong, and educate the public to be more environmental friendly. Their awareness of being environmental friendly had been raised too.

Last but not least, the interviewees suggested many improvements for this policy, for example, educating the public in many ways, control the material and quality of recycle bag, promote the policy to all shops, etc, so that the policy can reach the expected result, reduce abuse of plastic bags. They also state the things they want to know about the policy, for example, the use of money collected by the policy, the gateways to get more detailed information, etc.

Research Results

Field Observation

Introduction:

To see how effective this policy is, we went to six different kinds of shop for field observation, including four shops that charge for plastic bags (Jusco, Parknshop, 7-11, Mannings), and two shops that do not charge for plastic bags (Tai Ping wet market, Tai Fai grocery store)

We counted the number of people paying and not paying for plastic bags, and also the number of people bringing their own bag when shopping, so to see if the policy can encourage customers to bring their own shopping bags and reduce the use of plastic bags.



Research Results

Field Observation

Shops that charge for plastic bags: Jusco

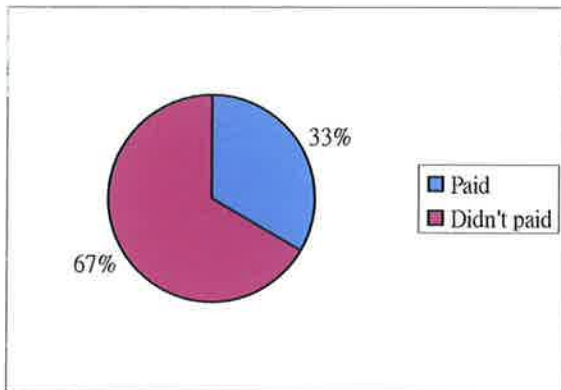
On the 23rd of April, 2010, we went to Jusco for field observation. Jusco is a supermarket and will charge for plastic bags.



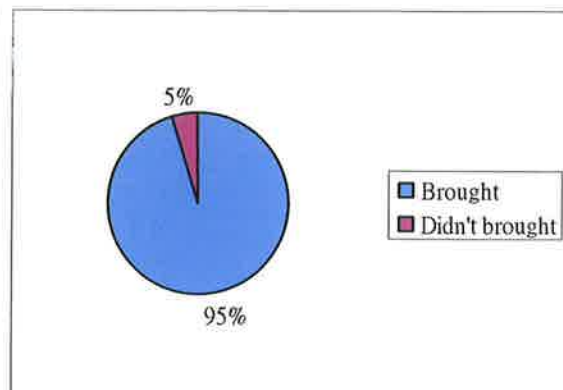
In 40 minutes, 21 customers paid for plastic bag(s), and 42 customers did not pay for any plastic bag. For the customers that did pay for any plastic bag, 40 of them brought their own shopping bags.

The data shown that 33% of costumers paid for plastic bags, and 67% did not. 95% of them brought their own shopping bag while 5% did not.

Customers paid/did not paid for plastic bag(s)



Customers brought/did not brought their own shopping bag(s)



Research Results

Field Observation

Shops that charge for plastic bags: Parknshop

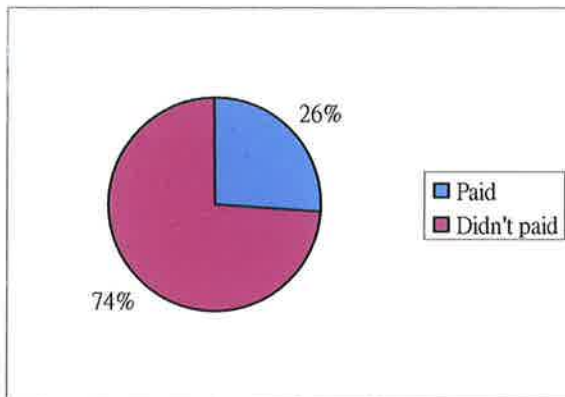
On the 24th of April, 2010, we went to Parknshop for field observation. Parknshop is a supermarket and will charge for plastic bags.



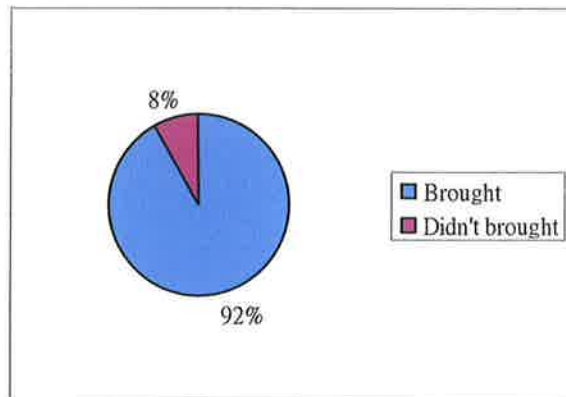
In 45 minutes, 13 customers paid for plastic bag(s), and 37 customers did not pay for any plastic bag. For the customers that did pay for any plastic bag, 34 of them brought their own shopping bags.

The data shown that 26% of costumers paid for plastic bags, and 74% did not. 92% of them brought their own shopping bag while 8% did not.

Customers paid/did not paid for plastic bag(s)



Customers brought/did not brought their own shopping bag(s)



Research Results

Field Observation

Shops that charge for plastic bags: 7-11

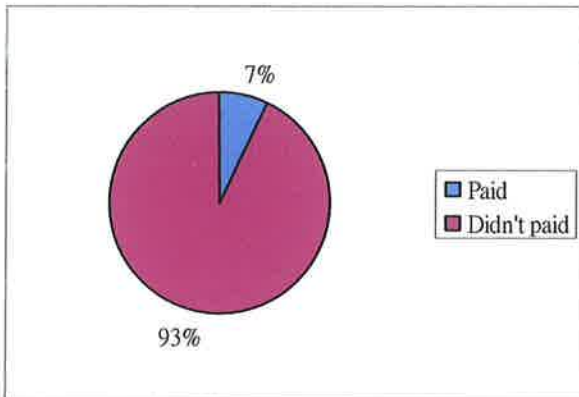
On the 24th of April, 2010, we went to 7-11 for field observation. 7-11 is a convenient store and will charge for plastic bags.



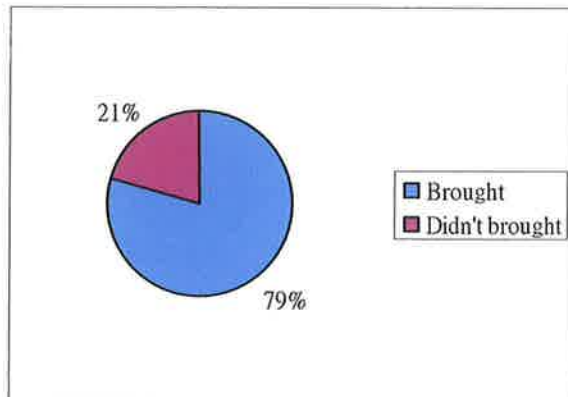
In 40 minutes, 2 customers paid for plastic bag(s), and 26 customers did not pay for any plastic bag. For the customers that did pay for any plastic bag, 19 of them brought their own shopping bags.

The data shown that 7% of costumers paid for plastic bags, and 93% did not. 79% of them brought their own shopping bag while 21% did not.

Customers paid/did not paid for plastic bag(s)



Customers brought/did not brought their own shopping bag(s)



Research Results

Field Observation

Shops that charge for plastic bags: Mannings

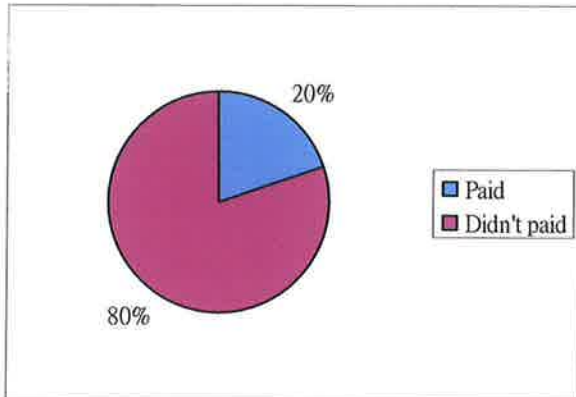
On the 25th of April, 2010, we went to Mannings for field observation. Mannings is a personal health and beauty store and will charge for plastic bags.



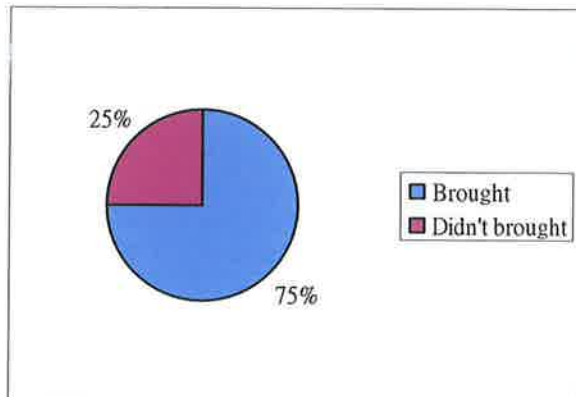
In 35 minutes, 7 customers paid for plastic bag(s), and 28 customers did not pay for any plastic bag. For the customers that did pay for any plastic bag, 21 of them brought their own shopping bags.

The data shown that 20% of costumers paid for plastic bags, and 80% did not. 75% of them brought their own shopping bag while 25% did not.

Customers paid/did not paid for plastic bag(s)



Customers brought/did not brought their own shopping bag(s)



Research Results

Field Observation

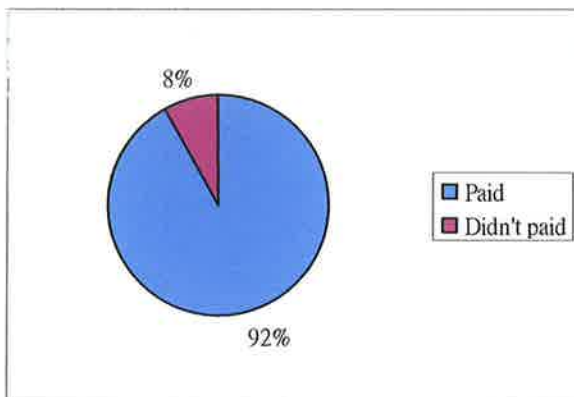
Shops that do not charge for plastic bags: Tai Ping Wet Market (Vegetable store)

On the 15th of May, 2010, we went to Tai Ping Wet Market for field observation. Tai Ping Wet Market is a convenient store and will charge for plastic bags.

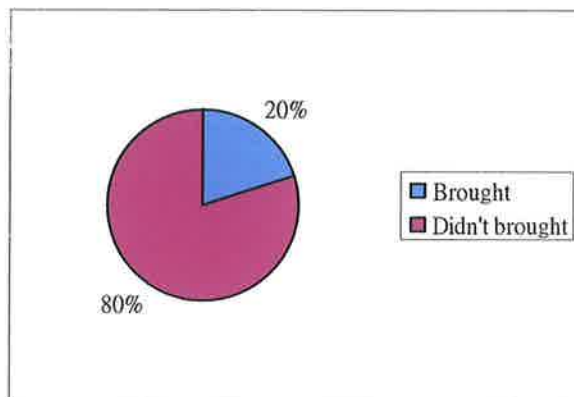
In 35 minutes, 7 customers paid for plastic bag(s), and 28 customers did not pay for any plastic bag. For the customers that did pay for any plastic bag, 21 of them brought their own shopping bags.

The data shown that 92% of costumers paid for plastic bags, and 8% did not. 20% of them brought their own shopping bag while 80% did not.

Customers paid/did not paid for plastic bag(s)



Customers brought/did not brought their own shopping bag(s)



Research Results

Field Observation

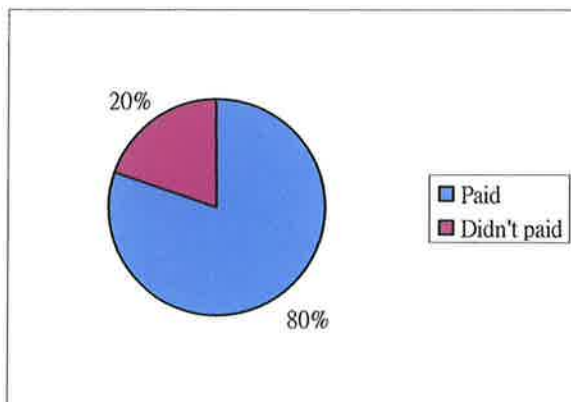
Shops that do not charge for plastic bags: Tai Fai Grocery Shop

On the 15th of May, 2010, we went to Tai Fai Grocery Shop for field observation. Tai Fai Grocery Shop is a convenient store and will charge for plastic bags.

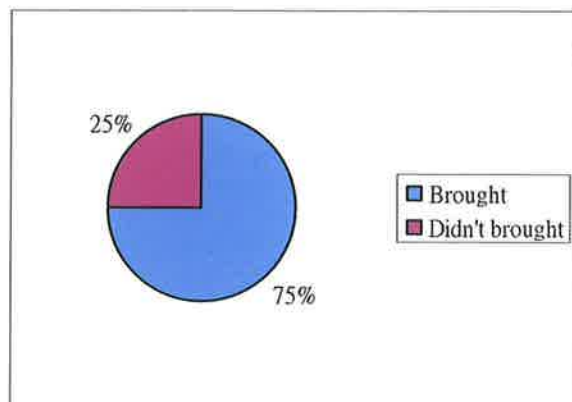
In 40 minutes, 12 customers paid for plastic bag(s), and 3 customers did not pay for any plastic bag. For the customers that did pay for any plastic bag, 1 of them brought their own shopping bags.

The data shown that 80% of costumers paid for plastic bags, and 20% did not. 25% of them brought their own shopping bag while 75% did not.

Customers paid/did not paid for plastic bag(s)



Customers brought/did not brought their own shopping bag(s)



Research Results

Field Observation

Conclusion:

From the field observation results, we found out the following points.

After the implementation of the plastic bag tax levy, we can see that shops that charge for plastic bag, for example, Jusco, Parknshop, etc, gave out less plastic bags. And most customers had built up a habit of bringing their own shopping bag. Besides of using recycle bags, some customers will put the products into their handbags, schoolbags, shopping cart, or holding the products after paying.

But oppositely, the shops that charge for plastic bags, for example, Tai Ping wet market, Tai Fai Grocery store, etc, did not gave out less plastic bags but more. Customers that patronize these shops usually get free plastic bags no matter what they buy, even a small stationary. Only a few customers would not take any plastic bag in shops that do not charge for plastic bag, but most of these customers did not bring their own shopping bag either. In Tai Ping Wet Market, we found out that most customers that did not pay for any plastic bag, would use the plastic bags that were given by other stores.

To sum up, after the field observation, we found out that the shop that charge for plastic bags gave out less plastic bags while shops that do not charge for plastic bags gave out more plastic bags after the policy is carried out. Overall the use of plastic bag did not reduce much, and this shows that the policy is not effective enough, because the problem of abuse of plastic bag can not be solved. We suggest the government to promote the plastic bag tax levy to all shops, so to ensure there will not be abuse of plastic bags and to improve our environmental quality of life.

Research Results

Reviews Of Books and Websites

Introduction:

To find out more detailed information, and the government's viewpoints on the plastic bag tax levy, we did a lot of reviews of books and websites.

From the resources of websites, we found out that after the plastic bag tax levy is carried out, most people's sense of being environmental friendly had been improved, they will bring their own shopping bags when shopping, but since there are some loopholes of the levy, the use of plastic bags did not decreased but surprisingly increased.

The plastic bag tax levy requires that plastic shopping bag with handles will be charged fifty cents each. Though the use of plastic shopping bags with handles had been decreased, but another data shown that the use of other kind of plastic bags had been increased.

The government expected after the policy is carried out, the use of plastic shopping handles bags will reduce for about one billion per year, but the fact is, although the use of plastic handles bags had been reduced for 30%, the use of other plastic bags had increased for almost 50%.



Research Results

Reviews Of Books and Websites

Positive results of the levy:

The government, and some environment protection organization had did a lot to educate the public to be environmental friendly, such as commercials, posters, some slogans of the plastic bag tax levy, etc.

For example, like what Parknshop had done, the plastic bags given there have a slogan on it, 'I'm a plastic bag, use me properly'.

This is one of the way to educate the public. Customers' sense of being environmental friendly will be improved and they will not waste that plastic bag and will use it properly.



Research Results

Reviews Of Books and Websites

Negative results of the levy:

To save the charge of plastic shopping bags with handles, some customers decided to take the free plastic bags which are provided for customers to carry fruits and vegetables or umbrellas.



After the plastic bag tax levy is carried out, to avoid the decrease of business volume, some companies had a new designed of a pack of products which used more plastic bags than before. That kind of plastic is more difficult to decompose and can neither be reused nor recycled.



Research Results

Reviews Of Books and Websites

Negative results of the levy:

Moreover, to avoid this levy might affect the business volume, some shops give out free plastic bags without handles, paper bags or even give out non-woven fabric bags which are more difficult to decompose and will harm the environment more seriously.

With the same surface area of a plastic bag and a non-woven fabric bag, the non-woven fabric requires 10 times more material than a plastic bag.



Some shops also stopped selling some specific products, so to avoid the plastic bag tax levy.

After the plastic bag tax levy is carried out, some shops complained that their business volume had decreased sharply, since most customer chose to patronize shops that do not charge for plastic bag, some shops even applied to withdraw from this policy.

In Circle K convenient store, there is an area for giving free plastic bags without handles for prepared food. Therefore, there will be double systems in one shop and the plastic bag tax levy will not be effective. This will make the system more complicated and troublesome too.



Research Results

Reviews Of Books and Websites

Negative results of the levy:

Furthermore, a research shown that the use of plastic bags in wet markets is more serious than either supermarkets or convenient stores. Even though the policy is carried out, the situation have not been improved. Since wet markets can still give out free plastic bags, the abuse of using plastic bags is still a serious problem in Hong Kong.



For conclusion, from the resources, we found out that although some customers' sense of being environmental friendly had improved, the abuse of plastic bags is still a serious problem in Hong Kong, because there are many loopholes of this policy.

To solve the problems, besides of restricting of free giving all plastic bags, paper bag, and non-woven fabric bag, education is also important. The government should educate the public how the little action of bringing their own shopping bag, can make a help to our environment.

Also, the government should balance the value between economic and environmental quality of life. We think that environmental quality of life should be put in the first place. Since global warming is a serious and emergency environment problem in the world now, we should take action immediately. If we keep on wasting resources, such as plastic bags, our earth will be harm more serious, and can not be remedied afterwards. Furthermore, if the world is destroyed one day, it will useless even though we have a lot of money.

Conclusion



After doing this project, we found out that the use of plastic shopping bags had decreased apparently, but actually the use of plastic materials and some shopping bags made by other materials had increased.

From the result of questionnaires, we found out that the public sense of being environmental friendly had been greatly improved since after the plastic bag tax levy is carried out, 35% more interviewees said they will bring their own shopping. Also, less people will pay for plastic bags and most interviewees do not think that bringing their own shopping bag is inconvenient because they had already built up the habit of using their recycle bag instead of plastic bag when shopping. Moreover, from the field observation results, we know that the shops that charge for plastic bags gave out less plastic bags after the policy is carried. By the results shown above, we can know that charge of plastic bag is one of the way to raise environmental awareness.

However, from other field observation results and the reviews of books and websites, we know that charge of plastic bag might not be the best and most effective way to raise environmental awareness. The shops that do not charge for plastic bag gave out more plastic bag than before, and most customers get a plastic bag no matter what they buy in these shops, even a small stationary. Also, many people get free plastic bags, such as plastic bags that provide for customers to carry fruit, vegetable, and umbrella, etc, although these plastic bag may not be useful for them and result as a waste. Some companies designed packs of products which requires more plastic material used, some shops give out paper bags, plastic bags without handle, and even non-woven fabric bag. This shows that the above stakeholders do not have sense of being environmental friendly. They weighted the value of economic aspect very high and put economic aspect at the first place rather than environmental quality of life. They do not know how important is to protect our earth from being damage and the education given by the government is obviously not enough.

Most Hong Kong citizens support the plastic bag tax policy, and this is shown by our questionnaire results. They all think that there are lots of benefits of the policy, such as improve environment quality of life in Hong Kong, educate the public to be more environmental friendly, raise the public's awareness of being environmental friendly. They will bring their own shopping bag more, and use less plastic bags so to show their support.

Our quality of life was also affected by this policy. First, for social aspect, the public sense and awareness of being environmental friendly had been raised, they will bring their shopping bag more, and pay for plastic bags less. Second, for environmental aspect, the use of plastic bag had decreased a bit, though it did not decreased a lot, but the environmental quality of life had improved a bit, and after the improve of the policy, the environmental quality of life may improve more.

To sum up, we should enhance our sense of being environmental friendly and protect our earth. We should use the recycle bags instead of plastic bags so that the recycle bags may not brings threat to our earth. We should not waste anything and bring any pollution and we can save our earth.

Suggestions

We have some suggestions for the government to improve the plastic bag tax levy.

From the researches, many customers, shops, or even companies, do not have strong awareness of being environmental friendly, therefore, they put economic aspect at the first place rather than environmental aspect. The education of being environmental friendly given by the government to the public is obviously not enough, therefore, the government should educate the public to protect our environment through more gateways, such as holding school talks about the dangers that our earth is facing.

Besides, the government can also design some posters to show how we can use the plastic bags properly. For example, it can be reused it next time when you go shopping, or use it as rubbish bag, etc.

Moreover, to ensure that the plastic bag tax levy will be effective and can solve the problem of abuse of plastic bags, the government should improve the policy by promoting the policy to every shops. Since if some shops can still give out free bags, it will not be effective to reduce the use of plastic bag, and the policy might be complicated. Also, resisting more shops to give out free bags is important too, no matter what material it is made of, so that the material on earth will not be wasted, and people will bring their own shopping bag more and the sense of being environmental friendly can be improved too.

Furthermore, the government should pass laws to control the plastic bags used of each products, so that beside plastic shopping bags, other plastic materials can be reduced too, and can really reach the aim, to reduce the abuse of plastic bags and protect our earth from being damaged.

We hope these suggestions can improve the levy to be more effective to improve our environmental quality of life.