

SAT ANALYSES



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1 Theme Collection

1.1 Enablers

The following themes are considered to be “enablers” for the topic of “Ecological waste management in the Philippines”.

1.1.1 Care of the environment

The topic ‘care of the environment’ is of utmost **importance to the youth and young adults**, as that directly affects their future lifestyle and that of future generations. Especially the youth, a global example of which would be [Greta Thunberg](#) ¹, is rather passionate and active in the topic of environmental protection.

This care for the environment is not only limited to the youth. These movements **attract volunteers from all corners of the world** and lead to a collaborative effort to protect the environment with knowledge, experiences and perspectives from all over the world. Especially from the places where some of the issues faced in the Philippines are not as prevalent and solutions are known and implemented.

Aside from helping hands coming from outside the Philippines, there also are **local initiatives with insight on the consequences** of the issues. Not only do the participants of such have the aspiration to solve the problems, such as the other groups mentioned above, but they also have to deal with the consequences of the issues on a daily basis.

1.1.2 Low waste mentality

There already exist plenty of **low waste concepts & practices** that are being implemented worldwide and also exist to some extent in the Philippines. In particular concepts such as the [Waste Hierarchy](#) ¹ are pretty well known and contribute to some of the low waste mentality.

Naturally, there is also a business aspect that was born from the low waste mentality. Entrepreneurs started to create **sustainable products** that either reduce the waste produced (i.e. avoiding packaging where possible) or make an existing product more sustainable (i.e. reusable coffee cups).

Such **innovations lead by the “environmentalists”** are what brings new concepts and awareness to the general public. Through conventions and other events, the mentality spreads and more people become aware of the issue.

1.1.3 Reinforcement of a sustainable lifestyle through legislation

In order to face the issues the Republic of the Philippines is facing, several legislations have been passed that aim to solve the problems. An example of such is the **Republic Act No. 9003** ¹, also known as the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000”. It defines the procedures and institutions necessary to mitigate the problems of waste management in the Philippines.

Another instance of legislation that aims to solve the issues is the **Republic Act No. 11698** ¹, which amends the previous legislation and aims to further improve the waste management in the Philippines by introducing the “polluter pays” principle. These acts are also partially a result of international pressure, such as the UN and in particular their 11th Sustainable Development Goal ¹.

Lastly, another highly important step towards a sustainable lifestyle is a functioning **Garbage Collection & Recycling System**, which is also a government responsibility and is therefore also covered by the two Acts mentioned above.

¹[UN Sustainable Development Goal 11](#) ¹

1.1.4 Access to information

A huge step towards the desired outcome is also achieved through the **globally available access to information**. We live in a time where information is readily available to the vast majority of the world, which makes finding solutions to problems significantly easier.

This information becomes even more impactful when taught by people who have experience with the respective topic and can **share the knowledge through education**. That way the information is not only available, but also understood and can be applied in the given situation.

1.2 Inhibitors

The following themes are considered to be “inhibitors” for the topic of “Ecological waste management in the Philippines”.

1.2.1 Lack of executive action backing up legislation

Although there are several legislations that aim to solve the issues faced by the Republic of the Philippines, there is a **lack of government action** to enforce the legislation.

This can be seen in various ways, such as the **need for more designated trash bins**. Separating the trash into different categories is a crucial step in the waste management process, which is why it is important to have trash bins that would allow at least the separation of bio-degradable, recyclable and non-recyclable waste.

Another example of a lack of government action is the **poor garbage collection schedule and system**. Distant towns and villages are often not visited by the garbage trucks and therefore have to wait for a longer period of time until their waste is collected. In such situations the waste is often left on the streets or illegal dumping sites, which is counterproductive to the achievement of our goal.

1.2.2 Lack of awareness & education

Thanks to the internet the access to information is easier than ever, and yet a lot of people are not aware of the consequences of simple things, such as littering. People generally do not have a reason to look up information about the topic of waste management, thus there is a **need in public information education campaigns**.

Correlating to the lack of awareness is also the **insufficiency of insight on the relationships: environment ⇔ human health and survival**. The environment is a crucial part of our lives and yet we often do not realize how much we depend on it. It's pollution and degradation can have a huge impact on our health starting from making it impossible to breathe fresh air, such as is seen in some industrial parts of China ², to poisoning food and water sources ³.

There also is the aspect of **“no knowledge of other life”**. Since there never has been a proper system of waste management in the Philippines, people are not used to the idea of recycling and reusing materials. Moreover, why would you need to change your attitude towards waste management when it hasn't been an issue in the past? The change of habits is a difficult process and requires at least some motivation from each individual to succeed, which has yet to be achieved.

²WHO: Air pollution in China [↗](#)

³i.e.: WHO: Lead Poisoning [↗](#)

1.2.3 Individualistic mentality

The mentality of each individual is a crucial factor in the success of the broad and sustained change for the sake of the environment. Often a person has **too much distance to the problem** to realize the consequences of their actions and be farsighted enough to understand the lasting impact, especially when it comes to problems with such a large scale and slow, but consistent development as the degradation of the environment.

Add to that another aspect of the “individualistic mentality”: **“one person can’t make a change”**. This is a common thought that is often used as an excuse to not change one’s behavior, as one’s change would not be enough to make a difference on a scale that matters.

1.2.4 Limited access to sustainable products

When it comes to sustainable products produced through innovative ideas and technologies brought forward by environmental-friendly companies, the **limited access to such products** is a huge inhibitor to the positive effect it would have on the environment. Such products are often more expensive than their non-sustainable counterparts, which makes them inaccessible to the vast majority of the population. Sometimes the issue lies not even in the cost of the product, but the local availability instead, as the trend of sustainable products is rather new and therefore not yet widespread.

2 Analyses

2.1 Care of the environment

UPSTREAM CAUSES	DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS
STRUCTURAL	
Young Generation Local Community Influence International Collaboration	Personal Education [i.e. Talks] Environment NGOs & Volunteers Educated and Proactive Youth
ATTITUDINAL	
Appreciation of the environment Desire for a better future	Support for NGOs Collaborative Env. Contributions
TRANSACTIONAL	
Community Leaders / Elders Environment Influencers Family influence (childhood upbringing) Environment Activists	Environment-conscious leaders Environment Influencers

2.2 Low waste mentality

UPSTREAM CAUSES	DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS
STRUCTURAL	
Known Problem & Awareness of Solutions Support with diverse perspectives	Environmentally Conscious Businesses Environmentally Conscious Individuals Litterers
ATTITUDINAL	
Ethical Motivation to Businesses Adaptability of Individuals	Out of the Box Thinking Eco-Attitude Shift
TRANSACTIONAL	
Environmental Groups Forward-thinking Businesses Foreign Volunteers	Non-Profit Organizations Non Government Organizations Environmental Activists

2.3 Reinforcement of a sustainable lifestyle through legislation

UPSTREAM CAUSES	DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS
STRUCTURAL	
Communities & Towns	Law Enactment
Budget Appropriation	Waste Man. Infrastructure Expansion
Law Enactment	Decrease in Polluting Businesses
ATTITUDINAL	
Bureaucratic Approach	Supportive Entities (implementing change)
International Pressure	Defiant Entities (resisting change)
	Neutral Entities (no inconvenience by change)
	Openness to Partnerships
TRANSACTIONAL	
Government	Supportive Communities
Local Governors (Town Mayors, etc.)	Defiant Communities
Unified Community Voice	
United Nations	

2.4 Access to information

UPSTREAM CAUSES	DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS
STRUCTURAL	
Internet Access	Education on the Web
On-/Offline Education	Educated Youth
	Broader Availability of products
	International Collaboration
ATTITUDINAL	
Curiosity	Knowledge Exchange (Lakbay Aral)
Receptiveness	Improved Problem Solving Abilities
	Broader Perspective & Understanding
TRANSACTIONAL	
Educational Institutions	Educated Specialists
MOOC Professors & TA's	

2.5 Lack of executive action backing up legislation

UPSTREAM CAUSES	DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS
STRUCTURAL	
Lack of Designated Trash Bins Poor Garbage Collection Schedule & System Missing Recycling Infrastructure	Disorganized Waste Management Formation of Illegal Dumpsites Poisoning of the Env. with Toxic Waste Impossibility for Recycling (missing segregation)
ATTITUDINAL	
Prolonged Negligence	Careless Behavior with Waste Provisional Makeshift Solutions
TRANSACTIONAL	
Tentative Actions by the Government	Neglected Remote Areas Litterers

2.6 Lack of awareness & education

UPSTREAM CAUSES	DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS
STRUCTURAL	
Lack of public IEC Lack of awareness Lack of insight into Human \Leftrightarrow Nature relations	Lack of awareness Lack of education
ATTITUDINAL	
No knowledge of other life “If it’s not broken, don’t fix it”	Careless Attitude Ignorance
TRANSACTIONAL	
Each Individual	Careless Individuals

2.7 Individualistic mentality

UPSTREAM CAUSES	DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS
STRUCTURAL	
Overwhelming Scale of the Problem	Consistent Degradation of the Environment
ATTITUDINAL	
Distance to the Issue “One person can’t make a difference”	Ignorance of Long-Term Effects Preference of Short-Term Solutions Individualistic World View
TRANSACTIONAL	
Each Individual	Overwhelmed Citizens Ignorant Citizens

2.8 Limited access to sustainable products

UPSTREAM CAUSES	DOWNSTREAM EFFECTS
STRUCTURAL	
Limited Supply Costly Products	Limited Access Low Affordability Low Profit Margin for Businesses
ATTITUDINAL	
Consumers lacking awareness of alternatives	Fallback to Non-Sustainable Products
TRANSACTIONAL	
Each Individual Eco-friendly Businesses	Lack of Support for Sustainable Businesses