

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1. Conclusions

1. The study revealed a bit more or less differences and variations in opinions on the use and management of betel nut wastes in the city. More people depend on the trade and use of betel nut and has been part and parcel of an important informal economy that supports a huge proportion of the unemployed population of the city. The survey also identified a number of issues that hinders efforts needed to ban the use and sale of betel nut in the city.
2. Today with the increase in the economic activities coupled with extreme high demand from betel nut consumers, it is quite impossible to minimize the trade and usage. Betel nut business has helped some of the local unemployed city residents out of poverty and plays an important role in reducing economic burdens.
3. But the manner in which the wastes are being managed from the use has been seen as irresponsible and ignorant on the part of the consumers. More wastes are being added to the environment than are being cleaned on a daily basis. The survey also revealed that the cost of betel nut does not affect the demand and supply. As more money are being spent on buying betel nuts, more rubbish is added into the environment. The results revealed that carelessness among consumers was identified as a behavior that exists among the users. Efforts needed to change human behavior will come at a greater cost considering the ripple effect that may arise. Laws and regulations will have to be imposed to change human behavior and control the spread of wastes derived from betel nut trade. Although laws and regulations on the banning of betel nut may be reintroduced as a means of making the city a clean and better place to work and live, there will be a lot more ripple effects. The survey has also revealed that banning the sale and trade of betel nut should not be an option but a proper approach is very much required to balance negative ripple effects that may arise. Controlling the sale of betel nut should be a better approach and assigning specific locations of trading would

help alleviate environmental waste management problems.

4. Management of betel nut wastes by the users seems to have not been good enough. Most consumers tend to ignore the dumping of wastes into designated trash bins and rather dispose them anywhere without due care for the environment. The age and gender of the consumers does not show any significant variation in the manner in which wastes are being generated. The survey identified a very small portion of difference in age and gender that indicates a large proportion of the population were those in their prime who consumes more betel nut. This is a direct indication of carelessness and ignorance that exists among the people.

5. **2. Suggestions**

1. It is necessary to carry out research on the management of betel nut waste