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From the MSW management to the environmental awareness and from the organic fraction (OFMSW) to the compost quality

Guillermo Solar Olivares and Dra M Àngels Alió Torres
Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

OFMSW is the bigger fraction of waste around the world, compost it is one of the more efficient ways in MSW prevention. We analyze the relation between the OFMSW and the compost resulting in six municipalities. The principal components of the environmental management are: professionals/techniques, funds and political will. However, a fourth component is required: environmental education. The data were obtained from municipalities of the Area Metropolitana de Barcelona, the Agencia Catalana de Residuos, statistics organism and field work. The quality of the OFMSW separation, we think it is linked with the environmental education, and in particular with the environmentally conscious resulting of the non-formal education. Therefore, this study considers environmental campaigns develop by the municipalities in MSW prevention. The selection of the municipalities to study combines variables of population, total budget and how part of this funds is used by the environmental section. We also selected municipalities to analyze different models of successful/unsuccessful in OFMSW separation and good/bad compost production. In terms of waste prevention, we evaluated the OFMSW composition (% of improper) of each municipality. The results suggest that the approach is effective to assess the level of variable's association and enable us to create patterns and relations between the variables evaluated like OFMSW recollected, municipal management and the non-formal environmental education. Investment in environmental themes and awareness campaigns is not always directly related with a better separation of the OFMSW, finally the separation quality is not related with the compost quality.

Biography

Guillermo Solar Olivares is currently working on his PhD thesis at the Department of Human Geography of the University of Barcelona, Spain. He studies the relation between the informal sector in MSW management and the formal sector. He obtained two Master's degrees, the first (2010) in Computer Sciences at the University of Concepción (Chile) and the second (2013), the Master in Urban Planning and Environmental Management from the University of Barcelona (Spain). He is an Academic- Investigator of the MSW Group of the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso (PUCV, Chile) and part of the UNESCO Environmental cathedra (University of Cantabria in Spain, and PUCV).

guillermo.solar@ucv.cl

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