

# The Past Constructs Ideal Environmental Problem Handling of Present

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**Abstract:** The purpose of this research is to investigate the differences in lifestyles 50 years ago and the preferred present. The following two planes are the research method. (1) As a group, we visited locations that preserved the old lifestyles and interviewed elderly local residents. (2) We compared commonly used everyday items of the past and present such as cups, utensils, plates, and bottled refreshments followed by an open discussion session with the entire class. (1) Compared to the past, current things are convenient beyond necessity. (2) Knowledge and practice contained in the wisdom of the past is less frequently used by the current generation do to advancements in science and technology. (3) Cost–performance is the current choice over efficiency and safety guidelines. Within the past 50 years, we found that new environmental problems have emerged. However, this is a common knowledge known to majority, actions to prevent it are not taken. By given this fact, not only knowing but understanding the past becomes a vital part of living this present.

**Keywords:** Environment, Lifestyle, Osugidani, Past and the present

## INTRODUCTION

Around the world various people have their own lifestyle and environment they have settled. However, no matter where your location is, we have a common problem to share. This one problem is recovering and sustaining the Environment we have. According to CNN, Japan recorded their highest temperature at 41.1C(105.98F). The relocated Bangladesh’s Leather tannery caused local river nearly inhabitable in a year, and earth is becoming overwhelmed by landfills making us the “planet plastic”. However, even though our present environment is highly endangered now, this was not as urgent 50 years ago. An effortless answer to this would be because technology advanced or human population sky rocketed. By this, to truly understand the discrepancy of both lifestyles past and present and theorize possible solution towards environmental problems we conducted a field study to understand more about the present and the future.

## REASERCH METHOD

To deliver multiple viewpoints, we Introduced an educational collaboration between Kansai University and De La nor Salle University, named as Sakura Project. Sakura Project has been launched to learn about the environmental issues experienced in japan, while finding various solutions. Within the project it includes a maximum of at least 24 participants that

has been assigned to research and look for possible initiative to further develop the current situation.

The location for the educational collaboration was chosen based of the people and lifestyles, one representing the present the other maintaining the old style. Shown by this we visited the modern Osaka and the Osugidani. Osugidani is a small village in the mountain valley of Japan. This village is currently facing a problem on the age ratio. In the past, the age ratio of young people and old people were balanced. But in recent years, the number of young people have decreased significantly due to modernization of nearby cities. This brings a good location to this investigation while attending the Osugidani nature school for basic information of the local area and their preserved lifestyles. We also compared commonly used everyday items of the past and present such as cups, utensils, plates, and bottled refreshments followed by an open discussion session with the entire class. Within the discussion, we identified visible differences that resulted from modern technology and the potential environment impacts these items may have caused.

## Results

Compared to the past, current things are convenient beyond necessity. The group has seen a huge difference in terms of the quality and the cost of the products itself. The use of glass bottles in stores are evident in the past however, plastic bottles is more abundant nowadays. Despite its abundance and

efficiency, plastic bottles are still dangerous for the environment and for the people's health since it contains chemicals that can harm them.

Knowledge and practice contained in the wisdom of the past is less frequently used by the current generation due to advancements in science and technology. Leaning towards the second object plates, the group has made observations such that comparisons between "urushi" or wood being the past product and ceramic being the present. With both products, it is evident that in terms of their usage "urushi" or wood is more reusable compared to ceramic since getting to see the features of both ceramic is more breakable, on the lighter side ceramic can be determined as the product that is more affordable since it is sold to a cheaper price because it is massed produced meaning the product has high chances of being available anywhere. Looking further into the topic according to our resident interviewer, Matsubayashi he has mentioned that "Urushi" lasts longer because even if it breaks there is always a way to fix the old product meaning it can be refurbish. Unlike with ceramic the crowd's basis of why they are mostly likely to buy the product is that it is more economical. This also vaporizes the tradition that was extended for years.

Cost-performance is the current choice over efficiency, tradition and safety guidelines. In contrast between people nowadays and the ancient people, our generation thinks that everything is accessible because compared to living in a traditional way it takes a lot of effort to get into satisfying an individual's need. From the example of old and new bottles it is said that in today's crowd PET bottle are used because its handier and recyclable but despite its advantages reusing these plastic bottles may cause harm because of how hazardous the chemicals are. Altogether PET bottles being the mainstream because of its convenience it can still cause harm because of chemicals used to produce the bottle. Present peoples "standards" are growing rapidly.

### Conclusion

Altogether doing hands on experience and research with the Filipino students by this we were privileged to immerse ourselves in the actual environment, and was able to learn more about not only the area we visited, Osugidani, but the Environmental issues that were linked within the village and the details of the old times. However, with such experience it is rare and inimitable to the public so we came up with an idea that our group's solution to this was to ignore educating them about the environment, but to educate them how to be skillfully prompt with the items they have now and most especially to be resourceful. For instance, creating a new usage for a pet bottle. By not

only drinking the Pet bottle and throwing it, taking it home and reusing it as a portable water cup or use it as a plantation pot for a garden is some of the ways. However, this is a common knowledge known to majority of the people, though actions to prevent these environmental issues are not taken. Mentioning the reason behind this activity, saving the environment isn't how majority of the present people thinks. By given this fact, for the few that does understand, not only knowing but understanding the past becomes a vital part of living this present and conducting a better future.

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