

Think Global, Act Local – A Policy Prescription towards Sustainable Energy System in India

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How used diapers should be treated has been an environmental head-ache in most countries. At present, almost all of the used diapers are dumped into the landfill. Environmentally, it is less acceptable because it is a huge volume for landfill and takes no less than 100 years for the decomposition. Economically, it is less wise to be lanfilled because the used diapers are composed of very good materials of pulps and plastic, and can be a valuable resource if they are recycled. One can argue that if used diapers can be recycled, it would not only reduce environmental damages but also be an economically good resource. But others argue that the recycling of the used diapers is technologically not workable yet and might potentially result in unforeseen problems. Therefore, used diapers share characteristics of a dual property good depending upon how they are classified. As one that is to be dumped, it is a waste after its use. But as one that is to be recycled, it is a valuable raw material for other goods. There are some countries that allow the used diapers recycled, while others do not. The purpose of this research is to examine the reasons behind the policy postures about the way the used diapers issue is treated in different nations. Why do some allow it, while others not? Focused in this study is a comparison of Korea and Netherlands. Netherlands is one of a few nations that permits the recycling of the used diapers, while Korea bans to do it by law. There are several specific questions to be addressed in this research: Is it because nations have different cultural perspectives about the used diapers? Is it because nations view the recycling technology differently? Is it because bureaucratic environments of the policy process in nations differ? The theoretical bases for the research are the Advocate Coalition Framework (Sabatier, 2007) and the Bureaucratic Belief System (Kingdon, 1995). By applying both models of the policy making and bureaucratic behaviors, this study would find out the reasons why the used diapers treated differently in different nations. References Kingdon, John W. 1995. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*. Addison-Wesley. Sabatier, Paul A. 2007. *Theories of the Policy Process*. Boulder, CO.: Westview.