

Questionnaire

Perceptions and awareness of Sri Lankans on X – Press Pearl spill and its consequences

This research is conducted to study about the perception and awareness of Sri Lankan on X-Press Pearl spill and its consequences. The information gathered by this questionnaire will be used only for the above research and we assure the confidentiality of your details.

This research is conducted for educational purpose by the team of Social Science for Schoolers Project hosted by Nor-Lanka Blue innovative research and education network.

1. Your age: Years.....

2. Your Gender

I. Male

II. Female

3. What is your education status?

I. No schooling

II. Primary school

III. Secondary school

IV. High school

V. University degree or Diploma

VI. Postgraduate

4. What is your / your mother's / your father's employment :

5. Your city:

6. From which media did you hear about this accident at **first**?

- I. Television
- II. Radio
- III. Mobile phone/Social media
- IV. News paper
- V. By neighbors / relations
- VI. Other (Specify)

7. In your view, what is the main environmental danger of the wreckage?

- I. A sunken ship on the coast
- II. Leakage of plastic pellets
- III. Leakage of heavy metals
- IV. Leakage of nitric acid
- V. Oil spills
- VI. Other (specify)

8. 'The media reports on the Xpress Pearl accident increased the awareness of life in the sea and its vulnerability' Do you agree with this statement?

- I. Strongly agree: I learned and engaged a lot
- II. Agree
- III. No idea
- IV. Disagree
- V. Strongly disagree

9. Do you feel prepared to do something for the environment in the event of another similar accident?

- I. Very well prepared
- II. Prepared
- III. Neutral

10. Did the XPP shipwreck affect your local community?

- I. Yes
- II. No

11. Which **industry** close to you was **the most affected** by the XPP shipwreck?

- I. Fisheries industry
- II. Harbor related industry
- III. Tourist industry
- IV. Other (specify)

12. Did you change your consumption of fish after this accident?

- I. Yes
- II. No

13. If yes, how often did/do you consume fish before and after the accident (meals or days per week)

- Before the accident
- I. 5-7 days
 - II. 3-4 days
 - III. 1-2 days
 - IV. Do not eat

- After the accident
- I. 5-7 days
 - II. 3-4 days
 - III. 1-2 days
 - IV. Do not eat

14. Did you replace consumption of marine fish with freshwater fish after the accident?

- I. Yes, totally
- II. Yes, partially
- III. No

15. What do you think about the following actions taken to deal with the Xpress pearl accident?

Action	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Implementation of a temporary ban on coastal fishing from Negombo to Kalutara.					
Monetary compensation of the affected fishing community.					
Utilization of dry chemical powder to extinguish the fire on board.					
Deployment of the armed forces to manually clean the plastic pellets and debris on the beaches.					

16. Is Sri Lanka now better prepared to take suitable actions should a similar accident happen in the future? Rank the actions from 1 (most prepared) to 5 (least prepared).

Action	Rank
To extinguish ship fires	
To remediate oil spills	
To salvage the vessel	
To gain compensation	
To clean the debris reaching beaches	

17. Have you heard about spills of plastic pellets in the sea before the XPP ship disaster?

- I. Yes
- II. No

18. In your view, what is the main consequence of the spills of plastic pellets? Rank the following consequences from 1 to 5, where 1 is the major consequence and 5 is the least.

Consequence	Rank
A threat to life of marine animals including fish, dolphins, turtles	
Ugly beaches and bad water quality for swimming	
Plastic in fish for human consumption	
Plastic pellets washed away by ocean currents and winds to shore all around Sri Lanka	
Reduction of the recreational value of the beaches and impact on the tourism industry	

19. Did you reduce the usage of plastic after knowing about the accident and the spill?

- I. Yes, I use less hard plastics and polyester garments
- II. Yes, I use less disposable plastics, like shopping bags
- III. Yes, I use less of all sorts of plastic
- IV. No, I use about the same amount of plastic as before.

20. Following the accident and the alarm in the news about the Xpress Pearl accident do you think that we must change our attitudes?

Action	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
We must recycle plastic					
We must reuse plastic					
The Sri Lankan industry should use and sell natural products or environmentally friendly substitutes of plastics					

Thank you for your contribution and participation in the interview. Your responses to this research will be kept confidential and anonymous and will never be linked to you personally.

Do you think this interview was useful for you?

Based on your responses and of other participants, we will analyze the data and the results of this research will be made available at a later stage.