**Table S2**. Frequency distribution of respondents’ responses on knowledge-related questions towards plastic pollution.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Variables | Frequency (n = 294) | Percentage (%) |
| Most plastics are made from fossil fuels (example: natural gas, petroleum, coal, etc.). | | |
| Yes | 183 | 62.2 |
| No | 38 | 12.9 |
| Maybe | 73 | 24.8 |
| Plastic affects human health and the environment at every stage of its lifecycle. | | |
| Yes | 277 | 94.2 |
| No | 5 | 1.7 |
| Maybe | 11 | 3.7 |
| Incineration/ Burning of plastic wastes can release toxic metals, organic substances, acidic gases, and other toxic substances to the air, water, and soils. | | |
| Yes | 281 | 95.6 |
| No | 2 | 0.7 |
| Maybe | 11 | 3.7 |
| Discarded plastic, if digested, will not cause any harmful effect on organisms. | | |
| Yes | 97 | 33.0 |
| No | 155 | 52.7 |
| Maybe | 42 | 14.3 |
| Some cosmetic products contain plastic in them. | | |
| Yes | 221 | 75.2 |
| No | 3 | 1.0 |
| Maybe | 70 | 23.8 |
| Plastic will not degrade into plastic fragments. | | |
| Yes | 125 | 42.5 |
| No | 103 | 35.0 |
| Maybe | 66 | 22.4 |
| A plastic bag will take about 10 years to degrade. | | |
| Yes | 168 | 57.1 |
| No | 59 | 20.1 |
| Maybe | 37 | 12.6 |
| Degraded plastic fragments (e.g., microplastics, nano-plastics) can accumulate in the food chain and be consumed by humans. | | |
| Yes | 208 | 70.7 |
| No | 24 | 8.2 |
| Maybe | 62 | 21.1 |
| Microplastics can be inhaled through air. | | |
| Yes | 137 | 46.6 |
| No | 25 | 8.5 |
| Maybe | 132 | 44.9 |
| Among municipal solid wastes produced in Malaysia, plastic wastes are the second highest in composition. | | |
| Yes | 169 | 57.5 |
| No | 14 | 4.8 |
| Maybe | 111 | 37.8 |
| Malaysia is one of the top ten countries with mismanaged plastic waste in the world. | | |
| Yes | 201 | 68.4 |
| No | 6 | 2.0 |
| Maybe | 87 | 29.6 |