

Public attitudes towards improper waste dumping sites: A special reference from Ambuluwawa

Extended Abstract

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Background

The solid waste is usually defined as any garbage, refused sludge, from waste treatment plants, water supply treatment plants, or air pollution control facility and other materials, including solid, liquid, semisolid, contained gaseous resulting from industrials, commercials, mining and agricultural operations from community activities. (Moeller, 2005). The solid waste has become a serious problem. It is currently a rigorous problem for the Sri Lankan municipalities. Not only the urban areas, the rural areas also started to suffer from this rapidly emerging problem which is causing so many problems to the society, economy and for many other areas. (Wijerathna, 2012). Ambuluwawa waste dumping site is maintaining by Gampola Municipal Council.

Objectives

Most impacts of solid waste dumping sites affects nearby residents, therefore, it is important to study on public attitudes (nearby residents) towards improper solid waste dumping in Ambuluwawa waste dumping site. As specific objectives of the research, study on used measures to the establishment of this waste dumping site in this location, study on how people interact with government and relevant parties, to examine the way nearby residents are thinking to take solution for this problem.

Methodology

This study was carried out in improper solid waste dumping site in Ambuluwawa village in Central Province in Sri Lanka maintained by the Gampola Municipal Council. According to this research, the population was a pool of people in Ambuluwawa villages and villages around "MahaOya". The researcher has used random sampling method in order to carry out the household survey. 30

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questionnaires are used to assess public knowledge, attitudes, awareness and practices towards the solid waste problem. Primary and secondary data are considered and all collected data are analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Excel.

Results

The researcher has found some important information about public attitudes towards waste dumping sites. According to human perspectives, the environment has seriously polluted. It measured by air quality, water quality, public health, food and drinking water, aesthetic beauty. It is researched about public attitudes towards some proposed solutions, pay some tax to remove this dumping site, changing living place, receiving some compensation. More than 15% of people was willing to change living place and about 45% of people prefer to pay tax to Municipal Council to remove the dumping site and more than 75% of people accept to have some compensation for the negative impacts created by the improper waste dumping site.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Public awareness about the impact of solid waste dumping sites is low. People take reactions against solid waste dumping sites by forcing to remove it, but most poor people may accept to bear that negative impacts for receiving compensations. The recommendations are, to aware people about conserving the environment without a high amount of waste production and change human attitudes. Control waste generation by law, separate waste by using separate dustbin system, establish proper landfill site in a lowland area and establish waste management plant such as waste to energy.

Keywords: Municipal solid waste, improper dumping site, public attitudes, quality, Ambuluwawa,

References

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