

Factors that effect on waste disposal behavior: Empirical evidence from urban households in Sri Lanka

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Abstract

Persistent increase in human population and rapid industrialization has caused many global problems on improper waste disposal. The major drawbacks concerning waste management especially in developing countries are ineffective waste collecting strategies and lack of disposal sites. Sri Lanka faced some giant problems and had a destructive experience due to improper waste disposal methods. As such household waste disposal behavior is vital to be understood and answers need to be found. Lack of studies and literature in this important area in Sri Lankan perspective, lead to this study. Research question of the study was to determine what factors effect on waste disposal behavior in urban households. This study used theory of planned behavior and few variables extracted from literature review. Subjective norms, attitudes, preserved behavioral control, emotion and habit were considered as independent variables of the model while waste disposal behavior was the dependent variable. According to literature, these factors were important and highlighted by pervious studied in determining on waste disposal behavior of households. Study was grounded on deductive approach using quantitative methodology. Two hundred respondents were selected using convenient sampling method from Western, North Western, North Central and Central provinces considering different geographical locations. Data were obtained using a structured questionnaire which was emailed to the respondents. However, we were able to collect data only from 120 respondents. The questionnaire contained various questions to identify variables with five-point Likert scale. Descriptive and inferential statistical methods were used to analyze the data. Result of the study shows that variables including attitude, emotion, preserved behavioral control and habitat have a significant and positive effect on household waste disposal behavior. Therefore, policy makers in various organizations specially relating to waste management, need to concern about these factors in developing household waste disposal behavior.

Keywords: *Attitude, Disposal behaviour, emotion, Household waste, Urban household*

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