

HOUSEHOLD SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND PERCEPTIONS AMONG RESIDENTS IN KALMUNAI MUNICIPAL AREA

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Household solid waste has become a critical issue with the increasing population leading to a negative impact on the urban environment. Kalmunai Municipal Council (KMC) is considered one of the main municipal councils in Ampara District that generates an immense amount of solid waste (SW) due to higher population density, and improper solid waste management (SWM) practices. This study was conducted to examine the household SWM practices and perceptions among the residents in the KMC area. The study was conducted using a structured questionnaire with 100 households selected in the study area based on purposive sampling techniques. According to the results, 98% of respondents collected waste at home, and 75% of them separated their waste. Further, the results show that food waste was topped the list, where every household generated above 14 kg (63%) of food waste per week. It was found that above 70% of respondents were aware of open-dumping, burning, recycling, and composting as SWM practices, and only about 23% were aware of incineration as an SWM option. However, about 29% of the respondents were practising composting. It revealed that 77% of the household heads believed that burning waste can create health risks. Furthermore, 86% of respondents have a good attitude towards playing an essential role in managing SW within their community. However, 52% of the household heads were not concerned with waste disposal due to other socio-economic issues such as unemployment, and high cost of living. Overall, it can be concluded that the residents in KMC have sufficient general knowledge, good attitudes, and practices regarding household waste management.

Keywords: Attitudes, Household solid waste, Kalmunai, Solid waste management