

**HOUSEHOLD WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AMONG
SEMI-URBAN RESIDENTS - A COMMUNITY-BASED CROSS-
SECTIONAL STUDY FROM GALUDUPITA GRAMA NILADHARI
DIVISION, GAMPAHA DISTRICT**

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Household waste (HW) collection and disposal are among the major urban environmental problems in the Sri Lankan context. Waste generation rates and composition are influenced by industrialization, climate, and socioeconomic factors such as attitudes and behavioural patterns of the dwellers. Therefore, this study aimed to assess household waste management knowledge, attitudes and practices among semi-urban residents. A cross-sectional study was conducted by using a detailed questionnaire survey with face-to-face interviews. For this study, 75 households from the *Galudupita* GN division in *Gampaha* district were selected using the purposive sampling method. According to the results, 81% of the respondents had some knowledge of solid waste management methods. Approximately 37% of households had composting units. However, 60% of the people in the area depend on the public sector for solid waste management, and almost all people depend upon the private sector for recyclable waste management. However, 49% and 40% had excellent and moderate satisfaction regarding the public waste collection services. Moreover, nearly all respondents showed satisfaction regarding the recyclable waste collection process in the studied location. However, the majority were aware of the adverse effects of improper waste management practices. Overall results conclude that most semi-urban residents had the knowledge and practices regarding household waste management. Promoting environmental information through public education and implementing community-based programs on disease prevention and health promotion will enhance environmental friendliness and community safety in the long run.

Keywords: Attitudes, Knowledge, Practice, Solid waste management