

STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF IMPROPER SOLID WASTE PRACTICES - A CASE STUDY FROM PINNAGOLLA GS DIVISION

H.F.H.D. Chandima¹

Municipal solid waste (MSW) poses a significant global environmental and socioeconomic threat. Improper disposal of hazardous, medical, solid, and other waste types substantially jeopardizes the ecosystem and human health. Within the context of Sri Lanka, the existing solid waste management practices are proving inadequate, primarily due to the adoption of rudimentary methodologies by governmental entities. The prevalent employment of open dumping methods underscores the lack of sophistication in solid waste management approaches. In Sri Lanka, the responsibility for collecting and safely disposing of waste generated within specific jurisdictions lies with the Local Authorities (LAs), in alignment with the mandates outlined by the Local Government. Against this backdrop, a recent investigation was undertaken to assess the environmental repercussions of waste disposal within the Galigamuwa Pradeshiya sabhawa. The research encompassed primary data acquisition through interviews and questionnaire administration, complemented by secondary data sourcing from scholarly articles and literature. Over the course of approximately seven years, garbage has accumulated in this locality, coinciding with ongoing resettlement efforts within the village. This confluence of factors has engendered adverse consequences for the inhabitants' quality of life, manifested through noxious odors and resultant health complications. The site serves as the final repository for refuse from both the Galigamuwa and Arandara local councils, with a daily intake accounting for approximately 60% of the area's waste generation. Notably, this region has been designated for resettling individuals displaced by landslides, further underscoring the urgency of establishing robust waste management protocols. In light of the detrimental impacts on the environment and human well-being, this region necessitates implementing comprehensive waste management strategies. Mitigating the deleterious effects of waste demands immediate attention and concerted efforts to safeguard the delicate balance between ecological preservation and community welfare.

Keywords - *Municipal Solid Waste, jeopardizes, rudimentary methodologies, Open dumping method*

¹Department of Environmental Management, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.
hansanichandima78@gmail.com