

## **STUDY ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS ON GARBAGE MOUNDS AROUND THE CITY OF RATNAPURA**

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Ratnapura district is a commercial zone and due to garbage disposal near Ratnapura city, improper disposal of dead waste and direct discharge of hospital waste into the environment, Atoya, Kanadola, Gatangama areas are facing severe environmental problems. The aim of this study is to focus on air pollution, spread of infectious diseases, damage to the biosystem as well as water pollution. A part of Kanadola area has been selected as the study area. A field survey around Kanadola village documented plastic, hospital chemicals, fecal waste, decomposing waste location mapping, waste types and approximate quantities. Socio-economic, environmental conditions and disease risk data were collected. Heavy metals, microplastics, ammonia etc. were present in water and soil. Environmental damage due to burning and incineration of waste, environmental damage due to odor, house and cropland damage were analyzed using numerical methods. Water in canals and wells is polluted due to garbage. Water from the tributaries joins the Kalu Ganga, causing damage to aquatic life. Microplastics and chemicals leach into the soil, depleting the richness of the soil. Due to the washing away and garbage, the cultivated lands have become blocked and cannot withstand the crops. Many socio-economic environmental problems have emerged, the main feature of which is the loss of biodiversity and the destruction of ecosystems. Consumers are reluctant to buy crops grown in polluted ecosystems. Flooding caused by rainfall increases littering and increases the prevalence of malaria, diarrhoea, cholera and respiratory diseases. More improved methods for waste recycling and excreta disposal and further strengthening of existing government laws on waste disposal and land reclamation, organizational integration of the two departments of hospitals and municipal health services and efficient delivery of services, development of waste management facilities, etc. It is appropriate to aware the people on it to take necessary measures.

**Keywords** - *air pollution, infectious disease, biological system, chemicals, decomposing,*

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