

## **Environmental pollution in Badagamuwa forest reserve in Kurunegala**

### **Extended Abstract**

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#### **Background**

Badagamuwa forest is located 4km away from the capital city of Kurunegala bordering Dambulla Kurunegala highway (Jayarathne, 2007). The trees covered more than 30 hectares. This reserve of more than 200 hectares was started in 1925 and has unique biodiversity. Badagamuwa forest reserve is well known for its natural beauty but unfortunately, the forest is going into the hand of destruction. Environmental pollution is including air and water pollution, global warming, energy, solid and hazardous waste, and pollution at home (Marquita, n.d.). There are several reasons for this issue. The local tourists are not provided a proper place to have their meals. So, as a result, the village's people have constructed some small shops beside the roads of the forest. The tourists have practiced taking the meals for these shops and the wastes such as polyethylene, plastic are thrown away to the environment. Although there are so many negative after effects still the authorities have not taken any considerable action for this. They can construct resort center where the local people can rest and walk through the forest. And also, if the shop owners are given a proper place to sell their goods and to engage their business. Most importantly environmental authority, forest department must pay attention from this problem. This long issue can be the result of the total destruction of the forest. So, it is the responsible of the authority to take necessary steps and to protect the forest for the future.

#### **Objectives**

The general objective of this study was to identify the main causes affected to the environmental pollution in Badagamuwa forest. Specific objectives of this research were to study about the importance of Badagamuwa forest, identify the main human causes affected to the environmental pollution and identify the new plans and

suggestions to protect forest reserve for future generation.

#### **Methodology**

This study was carried out based on primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected from shop owners and villages near the Badagamuwa forest. A questionnaire survey was conducted with a random sample of 30 households to collect primary data. The secondary data was from books, magazines, newspapers, articles, leaflets and internet. Graphs, charts, and tables in Excel were used to analyse the data.

#### **Results**

Environmental pollution is one of the big problems in the world. In this research, it was able to identify environmental pollution besides the Badagamuwa forest. There were no garbage pits beside the forest. Municipal Council dispose garbage near the Kowana village. There is a huge bad smell around the village area. People complained about the problem and they were health problems. Numbers of people suggested proper disposal methods were suitable for minimizing environmental pollution in Badagamuwa forest and the government should be paying attention to developing facilities.

#### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Badagamuwa forest reserve owns a great biodiversity. But the improper management of garbage is becoming a major threat to the forest. The environment has got polluted as a result of the improper disposal of garbage. The trees are also been destroyed. The authorities like Department of forest concervation, Central Environmental Authority have not still taken necessary steps. They are only pretending their responsibilities. As a result, have to consider this issue. The researcher identified following recommendations was suitable for sustainability of Badagamuwa forest placing safe garbage pits, making the forest a place suitable for people, making the people aware of the forest, developing the sanitary facilities, taking necessary steps to manage the shops around the forest and recycling the garbage

**Keywords:** destruction, garbage, authorities, minimize, forest

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