SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN TOURIST DESTINATION CITIES: A REVIEW

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Tourism is one of the most dynamic economic activities in the world and recognized as a high energy and water resource demanding activity. It leads to generate a significant amount of solid wastes from lodgings and recreational areas. Improper management of solid waste leads to substantial and irreversible environmental, social and economic impacts. This study aimed to critically review the published research findings to identify the amount and the different types of waste generated and the management strategies used in the selected major tourist destinations of the world and Sri Lanka. According to the literature, solid waste generation in touristic locations is varied between 1 to 12 kg per guest per day, which mainly depend on the tourist attributes, season of the year and the prevailing environmental legislation of the country. The management of solid waste in tourism dominated areas is particularly problematic due to weather and climatic conditions, topography, financial restraints, planning issues, changing consumption patterns, transient population, and seasonal variations in solid waste quantity and composition. This study revealed that there is not much research evidence on the quantity and quality of waste generated in developing countries. Improper waste management methods, lack of essential facilities, under-estimation of actual waste generation rates, and inadequate management and technical skills are the key factors attributed to the poor waste management of developing countries. However, studies conducted in developed countries have suggested that proper management of waste can lead to higher income from tourism by avoiding environmental pollution.

Keywords*:* Environmental pollution, Solid waste management, Tourist
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