



## Identifying the social and environmental impacts of household waste disposal in rural communities: A case study in "Galoya" Grama Niladari Division

D.M.C.S. Dissanayaka  
[dchamu98@gmail.com](mailto:dchamu98@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Many social and environmental consequences have resulted from improper waste management up to the present day. The main research problem of this study was to identify household waste disposal practices and study the environmental and social impacts. The general objective of this study was to identify the social and environmental problems caused by improper household waste management, and the specific objectives of this study were to provide an understanding of the current practices in order to make appropriate decisions to address those issues and to propose appropriate measures to achieve a sustainable approach. Both primary and secondary data were used for this qualitative research. Random sampling method was chosen to collect primary data and open-ended questionnaire and key person interviews were used, and a secondary data survey, including a literature review, provided substantial information to examine in order to determine the waste management issues that Sri Lanka's rural communities are facing. According to the data collected from 75 randomly selected families out of 650 in the "Galoya" Grama Niladhari division, 55% have faced environmental problems due to waste in this area. 48% have faced health problems. 92% of households dispose of waste on the same land where they live. Since the government has not taken any formal measures to manage the solid waste in the area, the main problem is that many non-biodegradable and biodegradable wastes are accumulated inside houses or in public places. Finally, measures such as institutional intervention, implementation of policy plans, and providing social awareness about waste management, mainly with regard to waste categorization and composting, have been proposed through this research as solutions to the identified problems.

**Keywords:** Improper waste disposal, Rural community, Environment impacts, Social impacts, Composting

