

ANALYSIS OF THE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH WASTE DISPOSAL PRACTICES AND THEIR IMPACTS: A CASE STUDY FROM GANEWATHTHE DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION

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Today, the growth of waste can be pointed out as a major problem in Sri Lanka with an increase in the population. Waste comes in many different forms and they can be categorized using their characteristics such as solid, liquid, gaseous. Today some methods are used to manage the waste such as recycling, landfilling and incineration. This study is based on an analysis of issues associated with waste disposal methods and their impacts related to Ganewaththe Divisional Secretariat Division. This study is based on primary and secondary data with cross - sectional mix methods combining both quantitative and qualitative research methods. A questionnaire was used to collect data and carried out through an interview. In addition, the relevant areas were observed through participation observation. According to the data analysis, plastics, polythene, paper, glass, cardboard and food were main types of waste in the study area. Many environmental and social issues can be seen based on these waste types. The environmental issues are fire on wastes (47.90%). Spread of waste (20%), land pollution (12.1%), dark water and eating waste animals (8%) and other environmental problems is 1% respectively. Furthermore, unpleasant odour is the most common social issue base on waste Ganewaththe DS division area (30%). In addition, scavengers (21%), flies (18%), mosquitoes and cockroaches (10%). domestic animals (9%), rats (8%) and other social issues (4%) were reported. Poor waste management leads to serious socio-economic and environmental impact. Addressing these issues requires waste management policies and efforts that prioritize sustainable waste reduction, recycling and composting practices. Public awareness and educational programs should be promoted on waste sorting and collection, establishment of legal landfills and recycling facilities and importance of good waste management procedures.

Keywords: Waste, Environmental, Social, Disposal methods, Management.

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