

## **IDENTIFYING THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH IMPACTS OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE DISPOSAL IN RURAL COMMUNITIES: A CASE STUDY IN “GAMPOLAWATTA” GRAMA NILADHARI DIVISION**

*Dissanayaka, D.M.C.S.<sup>1</sup>*

People are face many environmental and health problems nowadays due to the informality of waste management. Identification of household waste management techniques and analysis of their effects on the environment and society served as the study's primary research problem. This study's general objective was to identify the social and environmental impacts of informal household waste management practices. Its specific objectives were to provide an understanding of the practices in use today so that suitable sustainable solutions could be suggested. This research, which is qualitative, used primary and secondary sources. Open-ended questionnaires and key person interviews were used to collect primary data using random sampling methodology. Statistical data about the region was also gathered from the ministry of health in order to assess the health issues, such as the threat of dengue that the rural community faces as a result of informal waste management. Additionally, substantial data were gathered via secondary data surveys through literature reviews. According to data collected from 70 randomly selected families out of 598 families in “Gampolawatta” Grama Niladhari domain, it was revealed that 67% of those families were facing environmental problems due to waste. 60% have experienced health issues. 98% of households dispose of their waste in the same area where they live. The local solid waste management has not yet been formalized by the government. Therefore, the fact that there are large piles of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste in houses and public spaces is a serious issue. Legal and social solutions can be recommended according to the problems I have observed. Along with giving legal notices, prosecuting cases under the Pressure Actions Act, the Penal Code, etc., other social measures include educating the people and schools, introducing the 3R concept, and regularizing garbage collection programs by the local council are suggested.

**Keywords** - *Improper waste disposal, Rural community, Environmental Impacts, Health Impacts, 3R concept*

---

<sup>1</sup> Depaertment of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. [dchamu98@gmail.com](mailto:dchamu98@gmail.com)