

RESTRICTED

ABSTRACT

Municipal Solid Waste became a critical issue in urban cities of Sri Lanka and this problem caused a huge negative environmental impact to absence of proper Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) systems at local authorities and community unawareness. Therefore the main purpose of this study is to investigate the community attitudes and behaviour towards the Municipal Solid Waste Management in the Divisional Secretariat Division in Kelaniya. Stratified Random sampling technique was used to select sample, and from "Grama Niladhari" and "Pardeshiya Sabha" divisions, a total of 300 households were studied. A semi structured questionnaire survey was carried out to collect the data where data collection was carried out by face to face individual and group interviews.

In the analysis, it was found that there is a positive significant relationship with knowledge and awareness of community, government mechanism and present practices of people in discharging Municipal Solid Waste in the Kelaniya DS Division and its effectiveness over the MSWM. Furthermore, it was found that the community who's having knowledge on the environment is more concern about waste segregation and other best practices like reusing, recycling and-reducing. It was also found that the majority (92%) of the household heads believed that the burning of waste makes health risk. 100% of the sample concerned about disease Dengue that were related to improper storing and disposal method of waste. Sometime 90% of the household were concerned about the service that provided by the Municipal Council. According to this finding, it is recommended that the householders must be educated with proper Solid Waste Management practices and the government must intensify its proper solid waste management education to increase the awareness and knowledge level of households on the collection service.

Key words: Solid Waste Management, Knowledge and attitude, government mechanism, Kelaniya DS Division