

ABSTRACT

While plastics have many valuable means and its ubiquity and affordability, they have caused severe environmental consequences. One million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute and 9.6 million single-use plastic bags are used every minute. Likewise, products that contain large amounts of microplastics are used by individuals from all over the world. Plastic waste created by single-use plastics and microplastics have become a major environmental issue. The government of Sri Lanka has passed regulations to ban single-use plastic products such as polyethylene bags with a thickness of 20 microns or less, food wrappers, using polyethylene in events and ceremonies. Nevertheless, such regulations have not been implemented effectively, and no significant change has occurred from the regulations. Moreover, no regulation was passed to minimize the use of microplastics in Sri Lanka. This study analyzes the legal framework of Sri Lanka in a comparative analysis with other jurisdictions of various countries in the world to identify why the existing legal and policy framework will not yield results as expected. In order to cure these inherent issues in the plastic policy in the country, this study suggests that the use of Behavioural Theories will provide a strong foundation on which sustainable regulations may be introduced to face plastic challenge in Sri Lanka.

Key words – *Environmental Law, Plastic waste pollution, Single-use plastics, Microplastics*