

Current status of solid waste management in Kelaniya Pradeshiya Sabha

K. Handapangoda and S. Heshani*

Department of Zoology and Environmental Management, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya

***Corresponding author: savinda1993@gmail.com**

Abstract

Kelaniya Pradeshiya Sabha is one of the key urban areas in the Western Province that governs its maximum capacities for the betterment of the environment and public health. It covers 21km² in its jurisdiction. A questionnaire survey followed by interviews was carried out among randomly selected 50 households in 04 GN divisions and the officers in the Pradeshiya Sabha including sanitary overseers to identify the current waste management practices, public attitudes on the existing waste management system and the major constraints in the existing system. Microsoft Excel with descriptive statistical methods was used to analyze data. Results revealed that about 84% of the households handover their waste to the waste collecting crew while 12% practice bin composting. Majority of households (more than 80%) has no interest in making compost. In addition, about 4% of the households burn their waste at their own premises. Once awareness programmes have been conducted by Kelaniya Pradeshiya Sabha, about 98% of households practice waste segregation at source and earn money by selling paper and polythene/plastic. However, the degradable or mixed waste is being piled up at the dump yard of Pradeshiya Sabha at present. No proper data base on MSW, no covers for the waste collecting tractors or lack of compactors, no site separation of mixed waste collected and the poor quality compost stock at the Manelwaththa compost unit were identified as some weaknesses in the waste management process. In addition, interferences from some external parties have been a threat in improving the existing process in the Pradeshiya Sabha. Effective capacity mobilization programmes would be beneficial in minimizing future waste accumulation at dump yard of the Pradeshiya Sabha.

Keywords: Segregation, dump yard, composting, waste management practices