

Pro-environmental Behaviour Regarding Solid Waste Management in Householders of Kalutara Urban Council Area: A Case Study

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Abstract

Problems generated by solid waste have become a major national issue in Sri Lanka due to high levels of economic growth and consumption. Inappropriate management of solid waste may generate many problems such as environmental pollution, public health, social and economic problems as well as aesthetic issues. Therefore, this problem needs immediate attention not only for the management of waste, but also for the study of individual behaviour related to solid waste production and use. This research was carried out as a case study in Kalutara urban council area, where behaviour that is related to the production and management of waste is analysed. To achieve this, a questionnaire survey was done for the householders of Kalutara North, Kalutara South and Katukurunda. The householders' descriptive, inferential and informative beliefs were identified where they express agreement or disagreement regarding the final disposal of waste. In total 100 householders completed the questionnaire. This work approached the behavioural aspect of the problem by considering the attitudes towards the environment and the beliefs about the environment. In addition, knowledge of environment and the problems raised have been considered for prediction of environmentally protective behaviour. In this investigation, the classification of beliefs were considered in terms of austerity or limitation of consumption, conservation and material beliefs or material squandering. Further, the environmental attitudes were considered as emotional, cognitive and behavioural. Based on the preliminary results of this study, it can be concluded that beliefs show a certain level of relation with the attitudes of the householders. The questionnaire survey was useful to highlight the solid waste problem that exists in the area and to indicate the trends of attitudes and behaviour among the solid waste management. Further, by considering the findings of this study, an environmental education program to promote pro-environmental behaviour in solid waste management must be established to change non-effective waste management practices and to promote the householders to use the waste as a resource.

Keywords: Pro-environmental behaviour, Solid waste management, Individual behaviour, Environmental attitudes, Kalutara Urban Council