

STRATEGIES OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN SRI LANKA: A CASE OF KANDY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

Solid Waste is a growing problem all over the world, especially in the developing world where solid waste can be seen as a multidimensional issue threatening the physical environment as well as social environment. In Sri Lanka with population expansion and resultant urbanization, development of infrastructure facilities and industries and with changes of people's consumption patterns solid waste generation is increasing rapidly. Today it has become one major problem affecting the country, especially in urban areas, and this is mainly due to the lack of proper mechanism to manage solid waste. Therefore in Sri Lanka, solid waste management is one of the priority items in the development agenda.

According to Local Government Act of Sri Lanka waste collection within their territory and waste disposal are a responsibility of the Local Authority. There are three types of local authorities in Sri Lanka namely, Municipal Council, Urban Council and Pradeshiya Saba. In addition Central Environment Authority and National Solid Waste Management Support Centre also are involved in this task.

This paper examines the strategies that are used to manage municipal Solid Waste in one of the Local Authorities, namely in the Kandy Municipal Council in the Central Province in Sri Lanka. The data for the study was collected mainly from secondary sources such as reports available in the Municipal Council and discussions with officers who are responsible for Solid Waste management activities. This paper reveals that Kandy Municipal Council has given high priority to integrated solid waste management approach that is based on 3R concept (Reduce, Reuse, Recycling) to reduce waste. In this task they have made good progress in getting community participation. In addition they have made several administrative provisions in the implementation of Solid Waste Management activities through by-laws.

KEY WORDS : Solid Waste , management , Local Authority , 3R concept