

**ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND
CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISPOSAL OF
MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AT THIRUPERUNTHURAI,**

BATTICALOA



BY

SRIRANJANPAYSON MAHINTHPAYSON



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Department of Agricultural Engineering

Faculty of Agriculture

Eastern University, Sri Lanka.

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ABSTRACT

Solid waste disposal is a major threat to environment of developing countries since most of the solid waste generated end up directly in open dumps. This study was conducted to assess the environmental problems and challenges associated with the disposal of Municipal solid waste in the Thiruperunthurai, Batticaloa. Municipal officials and 100 householders were interviewed to examine current practices and related environmental problems. Householders were divided into two strata such as nearby householders (<600m) and far-away householders (>600m) from the disposal site. In order to achieve its objectives, a comparison between the nearby and far-away residents was done. Predictive analysis was employed to find out the level of awareness of householders about environmental issues of ineffective management of solid waste and problems faced by them. Mean level of awareness of householders about environmental issues of ineffective solid waste management was 3.94. The predictive analysis revealed that both residents were affected by the location of the dumpsite closer to their settlements. Results revealed that ground water pollution from leachates was major problem associated with solid waste disposal. Mean level of ground water pollution for nearby and far-away households was 4.94 and 3.28 respectively.

Solid Waste Management (SWM) was the main challenge faced by Batticaloa Municipal Council (MC). Existing income opportunities from garbage are not fully utilized. Different waste types need diversified approaches. There were many problems associated with waste disposal; lack of waste collection equipment, shortage of sanitary workers, littering of waste by public, outdated equipment and vehicles, lack of treatment facilities, lengthy transportation for waste treatment and landfilling, lack of technical facilities, insufficient land for treatment and disposal and lack of

professionalism in management were the main problems faced by the Batticloa MC. It is recommended that householders should be educated on effective solid waste disposal through regular sensitization programmes by a collaborative effort of key stakeholders in the SWM.

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