

A STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
SOCIO ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF
URBAN RESIDENTS AND THE QUANTITY OF
WASTE GENERATED IN THE BATTICALOA
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AREA

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The problem of waste generation and its management are well understood and very popular today. Increasing rate of waste generation and the limited availability of new landfills are very critical issues in this regard. There should be an obvious relationship between socio economic characteristics and quantity of waste generated in residential areas.

A study was conducted with the objective to find out the relationship between quantity of waste generated and socio economic characteristics of urban residents in the Batticaloa Municipal Council area. The relevant information was collected by using a pre-tested structured questionnaire. The data were collected by personal interviews with selected 80 household heads.

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The results indicated that there is a linear relationship between quantity of waste generated and socio economic characteristics of urban residents in the study area. The degree of relationship was high with family income and followed by family size and average age of the family. The per capita waste generation in the study area was about 0.5 kg per day.

About 60% households in the study area rely on Batticaloa Municipal Council for their waste disposal and the rest dispose on their own or in combination with Batticaloa Municipal Council collection service. The main sources of waste were food, kitchen refusal, garden refusal, and wrappers. The composition of waste mainly consists of garbage, paper, kitchen refusal, polythene bags, cloths and glass pieces.

Suggestions to improve waste management include combating improper disposal, improving the quantity and quality of vehicles and other facilities, providing black polythene bags for temporary storage of waste and practice possible recycling procedures.

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