

## **Public Participation in Solid Waste Management in Kolonnawa Urban Council in the Western Province in Sri Lanka**

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Household Solid Waste (HSW) is the major primary source of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in urban areas. Management of HSW at source contributes for resource recovery within the household premises and in turn reduces the need for a landfill space. A survey was carried out among 52 randomly selected households in 512-Kolonnawa Grama Niladhari (GN) Division to understand the current practices, participation and attitudes in HSW management. Results revealed that about 61.5% of the households segregated waste at source while 34.6% of them practiced composting at household level. The Binary Logistic Regression showed that composting at household level is significantly affected by waste segregation. On average, 86.5% of the households indicated that the Urban Council practices door-to-door collection method in waste collection. Hence, about 94.2% of the households handed over segregated polythene directly to the Urban Council crew. Results further revealed that participation in solid waste segregation activities depends on the level of awareness of recycling activities in the area, educational level and gender. Among the households, housewives (71.5%) are actively involved in HSW management; 70.3% of them have the education level of G.C.E (Ordinary Level) or above. Though 96.2% of households are satisfied on HSW management in the area, about 65.385% of them believed that Kolonnawa cannot be converted into a waste free suburban area. The results signify that the implementation of a proper HSW management plan is necessary to enhance the existing household management practices in the area.

**Keywords:** Household solid waste, composting, waste segregation