Strategies adopted by a municipal council to obtain the community participation for solid waste management activities: a sociological study with special reference to Kandy municipal council in the central province of Sri Lanka

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Solid waste has become one of the most serious problems around the world mainly due to rapid urbanization. In Sri Lanka, it is a growing problem in urban areas as it creates most severe environmental, health and social problems. With huge amounts of waste generation every year, Local Authorities in Sri Lanka are facing difficulties in its' systematic management. Solid waste management is one of the activities where community participation is key to success.

The study was carried out in order to achieve two primary objectives: to examine the strategies used by the Municipal Council to get community participation for solid waste management activities and to examine nature of community participation for the strategies. The study was carried out using qualitative data collection methods in Kandy Municipal Council in the Central Province, Sri Lanka.

As the study revealed, several strategies have been taken by Municipal Council to get the participation of community for solid waste management activities. Conduction of awareness programs, popularizing composting, introduction of community friendly waste storing methods and events, formation of environment committee, introduce labour benefits, service of community health assistants and environment police are the main strategies used by Municipal Council. Community participation is higher to forceful strategies than voluntary strategies due to its nature of obligatory. Therefore the study suggests the important of improving the environmental education among community from kindergarten level in order to increase the voluntary participation.