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**A study of the effectiveness of household composting through an evaluation of ongoing composting programs**

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This study was carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of three on-going household composting programs in Sri Lanka. Major objectives of this study are to identify the drawbacks of household composting programs and to give necessary guidelines to improve the effectiveness of such programs. In order to collect the data for the given aims, first a questionnaire survey was carried out in three areas namely Katugoda and Magalle in Galle district and Bandiyamulla-East in Gampaha district where composting programs are implemented. A sample purposively selected households were used to take necessary data and observations.(i.e. Educational level, monthly income, involvement of the program, Grade of separation, Grade of compost, type of waste inside the bin etc.).The evaluation of the programs was done by field observations, graphical analysis and MINITAB statistical software. The best program implementing area was selected by overall analysis of the data.

Being an owner of a house motivates people in making compost from the household waste as they own plant and flower beds in their land rather than a tenant. Household income level affects level of involvement in a household compost making program. Households with a high income levels are less likely to get involved in such a program. The separation of waste and collecting non biodegradable materials apart from the bin leads to make a good grade final compost product from the bin. One person involvement on dumping the waste into the bin makes the bin much free from non-degradable materials been added to the bin. Educational level does not influence the level of involvement in the program but on the grade of the compost. Bins being installed close to the house affect on making usable compost as the people are more likely to pay attention to the bin. Use of the labeled three bags for each category of recyclables makes the waste separation a successful exercise rather than using one separate bin for all type of recyclable materials.

With a high amount of good grade waste separation and good grade final compost products, Bandiyamulla-East area has the best program and their waste separation strategy has influenced on their success.

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