

# **Assessment of the Separation of the residential Solid waste at some of the neighborhoods of Ramallah City and Evaluation of its Socio-economic Impacts**

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## **Abstract**

This study has been conducted between May 2018 and March 2019 with the objective to assess the status of the separation of residential solid waste at some residential areas in Ramallah City. These residential areas are Al Tira, Al Rihan and Baten Al Hawa. The study also aimed at evaluating the socio-economic impacts of this solid waste separation in these areas.

The increase in world population is one of the main problems facing municipalities because it means a subsequent increase in the generation of solid wastes. Ramallah city is facing this problem. The best solution is to implement integrated management approach for solid waste issues. Solid waste source separation is considered one of the most important elements in the integrated solid waste management, however, this element is still absent to a large extent from the integrated management of solid waste management in Palestine. In addition, separation of solid waste in Palestine is still suffering from lack of mechanism of encouragement, regulations and institutional dimension to identify its tradeoffs and benefits to the Palestinian environment and society in a way to achieve sustainable development with positive socio-economic and environmental impacts.

The study group addressed 365 household families living Al Tira, Al Rihan and Baten Al Hawa residential areas of Ramallah city. A random sample of 276 families has been selected.

In order to achieve the objectives of this study, the descriptive analytical approach was applied through conducting field surveys (to fill a questionnaire designed specifically for this study), interviews, and meetings with focused groups in addition to field observations. About 340 questionnaires has been distributed to Ramallah households. Of the total

number of questionnaires distributed to families, 151 have been received and were valid to be analyzed using the social sciences statistical Packages Programme (SPSS).

The results of the study showed a high level of awareness and acceptance of citizens to separate household solid waste. The socio-economic dimensions has also been the first place in the tendencies of citizens towards the separation of solid household waste in the city of Ramallah. The results showed a strong and positive correlation between the level of evaluation of the separation of household solid waste and its socio-economic implications. The assessment of the reality of household solid waste was also not different between the neighborhoods that practiced the separation of wastes and those that did not exercise segregation.

The most important results of the interviews with citizens, local government ministers and the municipality of Ramallah can be summed up in the need to implement an integrated and sustainable solid waste management system and the need for complementary roles of stakeholders involved in solid waste separation projects. In addition to the interviews resulted that there is a lack of legislation and laws and weak enforcement of solid waste separation.

This study recommended the importance of conducting awareness campaigns about solid waste separation that address all citizens regardless their ages, income, or level of education. The study also recommends translating all strategic plans about solid waste management into real activities and programs that encourage solid waste separation through providing the municipalities with the authority to enforce and implement laws about solid waste separation. This study also recommends involving the citizens in the decision-making process and planning for solid waste separation by proving incentive and encouragement measures.