

Examining Solid Waste Practices and Littering at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

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THE
UPCYCLE



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The authors of this study, from the University of the West Indies, undertake this research to categorise and identify the patterns of distribution of litter around the university campus. Waste management is a growing issue in Trinidad and Tobago, and this study seeks to better understand waste disposal practices in the campus environment.

The results of the data collected over a 7-day period, categorized the major types of waste material in the litter discovered, with plastics and cigarettes being the top two. The authors suggest consistency in the appearance and colour of bins as a means of encouraging waste disposal.

CESaRE has identified critical areas for consideration stemming from the author's work:

1. Recycling Efforts

As was noted before, the major litter type observed was plastics. The authors suggest specific recycling bins for plastic waste to be placed at hotspots of activity. In Trinidad and Tobago, where plastics are among the major components of landfill waste, recycling plastics can greatly alleviate waste build-up.

2. Bin Colour

Another takeaway from this work is that consistent bin coloration and proper signage could help to encourage waste disposal. The authors identify that

the area with the most litter had bins in different colours to those found elsewhere, making them less conspicuous and therefore, less used.

3. Signage

The final consideration from this work is the role that signage and games can play in encouraging waste disposal. The authors reference other work in this area [1][2], to highlight that encouraging waste disposal requires visual cues and engagement, requiring more than just bins to be placed in an area.



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