



Addressing garbage crisis in urban India- urban waste management policy & its implications

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Abstract

Urban India is facing a garbage crisis. There has been an unpredictable increase in both industrial and domestic wastes. The government and Municipal corporations have been planning in innumerable ways to reduce the urban waste & to project a waste management policy. Governments across Indian states are demanding heavy budgetary funding to divert waste scientifically. Several waste management projects are being offered. Municipal solid waste management is quite a complex process, which clearly means a lot of investment in infrastructure, technology, and planning. This paper analyses the procedural lacuna in urban waste management & addresses the issue through several integrated strategies which might prove beneficial for policy makers in drawing a cognizant urban waste management policy.

Keywords: urban waste, strategies, stake holders, government

Introduction -In India urbanization is costing heavily on people as rise in urban centers is leading to several problems such as housing, water health, education, civic amenities & disposal of waste. Especially disposal of urban waste has been a very vital issue that governments across India are bothered about. Municipal waste is very different from the rural waste which mostly comprises of agricultural and organic matter. The total waste in rural areas is dispersed across a wider land area, which makes it more manageable. Since the urban population is increasing in multiple

folds while compared to rural population, waste management becomes a very challenging task. (Report on The Urban Waste Management In India 2013).

The concept of urban waste

Residential and commercial wastes are mostly in semisolid and solid forms. Even the bio-medical wastes, which have been treated, fall in to this category. Industrial waste on the other hand is not included in this category. (Report On The Urban Waste Management In India 2013).



Classification of urban waste

The urban waste are classified mainly as

1. Commercial waste from the market areas
2. Dead animals waste at slaughter houses
3. Demolition and construction wastes
4. Institutional waste
5. Sludge from industries
6. Treated bio- medical waste
7. Waste derived from horticultural processes
8. Waste due to drains and outlets
9. Wastes which gets accumulated on the roads

Waste management so far was opportunely completed by discarding waste in rural areas, which gave rise to a larger hazard called as "pollution sinks". Rural people started feeling the grunt of urban waste & there were several protests & marches against urban waste dumping in rural areas. There was a need for scientific clearing of urban waste. The ecologists & environmentalist started voicing against all management of urban waste.

The governmental strategy

Municipal solid waste management in urban areas is a multifaceted process, which requires large scale investment in infrastructure, technology, and planning. (Report

On The Urban Waste Management In India 2013). All these processes have to be handled on a large scale, which is why the government of India has come up with many infrastructure improvement plans. JNNURM program (Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission) is designed to create equitable, responsive, efficient and productive cities. The issues of urban waste have been treated differently from rural waste & the challenges of management also differ.

Stakeholdership

Urban Local Bodies such as municipalities, metro corporations, City municipal councils and the state governments are actively working towards bringing about an urban revolution towards hazardless waste management. Most of the reforms are aimed at infusing highest sustainability towards infrastructural developments. Hence, solid Waste Management sector in India has become a very lucrative sector for new investors. Millions of tons of wastage are sent to the landfills near most of the metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Ahmadabad, Delhi, Bhopal, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Chennai, etc. These undertakings are managed and run by both regional governments and private enterprises.

Solid waste management projects

Solid waste management projects taking place in some Indian cities



needs a new glance as the challenges are multi faced & multi-disciplinary approach is needed. Some of the areas where foreign companies can play an integral part are

1. Biological waste treatment
2. Composting technologies
3. Dumpsite treatment with choosing location
4. Engineering services for waste collection at sites
5. Landfill treatment
6. mechanical waste treatment
7. Mechanical waste treatment
8. Operation and maintenance services
9. Performing feasibility studies
10. Sewage sludge treatment
11. Technical consulting
12. Transportation and waste collection
13. Treatment and recycling
14. Waste treatment plants

In India , local governments & municipalities have focused on providing solid waste management services . Provision of urban solid waste services, including waste collection, transfer, recycling, resource recovery and disposal , is separately discussed as a key urban service directly under Urban Development . That discussion includes key elements of institutional and financial arrangements, regulatory frameworks, economic instruments, privatization, technology choices and occupational

health and safety of solid waste workers. Increasingly, municipalities additionally address urban environment issues related to solid waste management. Public concern and sensitivity to environmental issues is driving this expanded agenda. These include:

1. health and environmental impacts of accumulated uncollected waste and clandestine disposal sites
2. health and environmental impacts of solid waste facilities, including transfer, composting and landfill facilities
3. air emissions from waste collection and transfer vehicles
4. Special handling and disposal of hazardous wastes, including healthcare and industrial hazardous waste.

Urban environmental management of solid waste responds to the local regulatory framework that is typically articulated within municipal ordinances and the national public code. Municipalities should awaken to the issues of waste management & they have to address national environmental policies and regulations. (Report by the Ministry Of Urban Poverty Alleviations 2014).

Strategies

1. There is opportunity for cities / urban centers to motivate environmental improvements



in solid waste management through economic instruments.

2. Such instruments provide incentives and disincentives for polluters to reduce emissions and recycle wastes beyond regulatory requirements. (National Institute Of Urban Affairs – Research Journal 2014).
3. Clandestine solid waste accumulation and official solid waste dumping facilities raise public concerns because of potential smoke from open burning, odors, insects, rodents, gaseous emissions and water pollution that might result (National Institute Of Urban Affairs – Research Journal 2014).
4. To successfully develop new and improved solid waste disposal facilities under Bank projects requires strong commitment to public consultation and consensus building. (Kamaldev Narayan Singh – Urban Development In 2013).
5. the transfer and treatment facilities also trigger public concerns, often about truck traffic, and require public consultation as part of project development. (Kamaldev Narayan Singh – Urban Development In India 2013).

Role of Community

There are numerous opportunities for community to involve in waste management process. They can help in solid waste primary collection, recycling and composting systems. They can involve in activities of neighborhood and non –government organizations working with waste management. Ultimately, successful waste management relies on public consultations that enable local government to understand the public's service preferences and willingness to pay. (National Institute Of Urban Affairs –Research Journal 2014).

Conclusion: urban waste management can be tackled with an integrated multi-faceted strategy. All the stake holders are needed to understand the severities of the issues & attend to priorities immediately. Even governments should pay attention & priority schedule the waste in all focal points. The community can help in solid waste primary collection, recycling and composting systems in an innovative way. They can join hands government & NGOs with involving in activities of waste management which can boost not only hygiene but also self-esteem. Waste Management should be attended before it leaps out of hands or makes India bow to global criticism.



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