

ABSTRACT

WASTE SEGREGATION

In recent times, garbage disposal has become a huge cause for concern in the world. A voluminous amount of waste that is generated is disposed by means which have an adverse effect on the environment. The common method of disposal of the waste is by unplanned and uncontrolled open dumping at the landfill sites. This method is injurious to human health, plant and animal life. This harmful method of waste disposal can generate liquid leachate which contaminate surface and ground waters can harbour disease vectors which spread harmful diseases and can degrade aesthetic value of the natural environment and it is an unavailing use of land resources.

In India, rag pickers play an important role in the recycling of urban solid waste. Rag pickers and conservancy staff have higher morbidity due to infections of skin, respiratory, gastrointestinal tract and multisystem allergic disorders, in addition to a high prevalence of bites of rodents, dogs and other vermin. Dependency on the rag-pickers can be diminished if segregation takes place at the source of municipal waste generation. The economic value of the waste generated is not realised unless it is recycled completely. Several advancements in technology has also allowed the refuse to be processed into useful entities such as Waste to Energy, where the waste can be used to generate synthetic gas (syngas) made up of carbon monoxide and hydrogen. The gas is then burnt to produce electricity and steam, Waste to Fuel, where the waste can be utilized to generate bio fuels.

When the waste is segregated into basic streams such as wet, dry and metallic, the waste has a higher potential of recovery, and consequently, recycled and reused. The wet waste fraction is often converted either into compost or methane-gas or both. Compost can replace demand for chemical fertilizers, and biogas can be used as a source of energy. The metallic waste could be reused or recycled.

Even though there are large scale industrial waste segregators present, it is always much better to segregate the waste at the source itself. The benefits of doing so are that a higher quality of the material is retained for recycling which means that more value could be recovered from the waste. The occupational hazard for waste workers is reduced. Also, the segregated waste could be directly sent to the recycling and processing plant instead of sending it to the segregation plant then to the recycling plant.

Currently there is no system of segregation of dry, wet and metallic wastes at a household level. J.S. Bajaj has recommended that a least cost, most appropriate technological option for safe management should be developed. The purpose of this project is the realization of a

compact, low cost and user friendly segregation system for urban households to streamline the waste management process.



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