

PROBLEMS WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTE

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The following problems and issues are being faced manage solid wastes in the city:

Absence of Waste Management Documentation: The municipal administration is working without a properly documented waste management plan, which may provide guidelines to the officials for the exact estimation of the generation, collection, transportation and disposal methods, and resource recovery of waste.

Spatial Disparities and Ineffective Resource Management: The equipment, machinery and labor allocated are not based on the calculated population characteristics and the area requirements. Hence, collection remains inadequate and consequently further activities are affected. Mostly waste remains uncollected in the inner city as streets are narrow and it becomes difficult for vehicles to enter there. Further, the vehicles available are open body vehicles, and normally the solid waste gets scattered along the way.

Making Multiple Problems: Waste at one time does not portray one kind of problem but the whole management process sometimes creates other unmanageable problems. For example, as there is no sanitary landfill site available for waste disposal, the Department is forced to dump the waste in the depressed areas within and outside the city limits making another environmental problem for the nearby residents. Burning of the waste at landfills and in residential areas is a constant source of nuisance for the nearby inhabitants as well a permanent hazard for the urban environment. The stench emanating from the open dumps is another problem that is unbearable for the local communities.

Operation and Maintenance: The Solid Waste Management Department (SWM) has no mobile workshop to repair the vehicles if vehicles get punctured or face some other mechanical failures during their operation. The Department has insufficient parking space. So it always becomes a problem for the department to park the vehicles in different places of the city.

Dangerous Work Environment: The lives of the workers of the SWM Department of the municipal administration face risks in the absence of precautionary measures dealing with the waste. For example, the filth transit depots are the most risky workspaces for the personnel of the department, scavengers, and for the general public. Scavenging is done in an unsafe way. There is no policy restriction or facility to the scavengers for resource recovery.

Waste Mixing: Medical waste is being treated with the municipal solid waste and its resource recovery is done in the most dangerous way. The mixing of some of hazardous wastes such as chemical waste in the SWM is another serious issue, which needs careful attention by the civic agencies.

Wasteful Use of Waste: The city presents a gloomy picture of the deteriorating urban environment of the world's historical city. The willing dumping of waste on private lands is a serious environmental problem as the dumping sites of the municipal administration are privately owned.

The SWM Department lacks professional staff such as environmental planners, environmental engineers, and professional solid waste managers. The present solid waste management is based on unplanned and haphazard service delivery mechanisms due to the absence of managerial and planning skills in the concerned people and the city government. No professional waste manager is working in the department in order to link various activities from generation to disposal through proper utilization of available sufficient resources.

The SWM Department of municipal administration lacks adequate data in order to provide facilities according to the needs of the city. The existing collection is without proper route designing. The present transfer stations and disposal sites are not designed on a scientific basis due to the lack of technical know-how in the officials of the Department. The Department has no plans to keep pace with a modern world. The elements of community participation are missing in the present solid waste management hierarchy of the department. It appears that the officials are lacking adequate training for future vision and insight in the specialized field of solid waste management.