



“Waste Recycling in India”

Collective inputs from over 250,000+ Citizens in circle

“Swachh Bharat”

(Current state, Issues, Root Causes and Proposed Solutions)

April 18, 2015

Waste Recycling in India

Executive Summary

The Swachh Bharat Mission aspires to bring a mindset change in the way Indians perceive cleanliness and civic sense. It is critical that sustained changes are made in the way citizens, businesses and most importantly civic bodies go about waste management and recycling.

Tonnes of waste are produced in India everyday which can be used in several constructive ways, but it does not happen due to the limited capacity/lack of waste recycling plants in India.

The 250,000+ strong “Swachh Bharat” online community has come together to collectively identify the key issues, root causes and solutions for Waste Recycling in India and the community expects that the Government will work with the various stakeholders towards implementing the identified solutions.

Issues and Root Causes related to Waste Recycling:

1. Plastic bags are used widely
2. Availability of plastic bags is very easy
3. Lack of enough number of waste recycling units
4. Waste collection people are lethargic
5. Waste is not segregated properly at source
6. Separate dustbins are not installed in different places
7. Lack of knowledge in people about waste management
8. Lack of technology and infrastructure in this sector
9. No information / guidelines for recycling available
10. Waste recycling is not a priority for the Government
11. No focus on R&D in waste recycling
12. New inventions in this field are not given any importance
13. India lacks the latest technologies for effective waste management
14. Recycling of waste is completely managed by Government corporations which do not allow public/private enterprises to set up waste recycling units on a large scale and sustain them
15. Lack of trade agreements with other countries to who India could export its waste materials.

Solutions Identified:

1. Manufacturing of plastic bags above the prescribed limit should be completely banned
2. More waste recycling units should be established in rural as well as urban India
3. Waste recycling should be recognized as an industry
4. Public enterprises should be allowed to set up waste recycling units
5. Research and development facilities should be established to find newer breakthrough in waste recycling
6. Municipal employees collecting waste should be effectively trained
7. Separate dustbins should be installed for recyclable and non-recyclable waste in different places
8. Citizens should be educated about waste management through awareness campaigns
9. Citizens should be trained to segregate waste at home
10. Citizens should be educated to practice home compost to reduce the amount of waste that goes out
11. India should collaborate with other countries who have been pioneers in waste recycling
12. Latest equipment should be acquired to assist in waste recycling
13. Indian Government should promote the technology to convert waste to power
14. Recyclables should be picked up from door to door
15. While giving license, for new industry or builders, recycling should be made compulsory
16. A few model programs must be set up across major cities of the country
17. The drainage water should be treated before letting it into the rivers
18. NGOs and RWAs should be roped in to create awareness amongst people about waste management

Waste Recycling in India –A few Citizen quotes:

1. Waste is simply a misplaced resource. By ignorance, we destroy value of what we waste. We need a new attitude which is to permit what we waste to continue to have its value and join a process stream which enhances its value, for the greater good of society – **Shantharam Shenai**
2. It is time we change our mind set. We should look at waste as a source of energy, which is exactly how European countries treat their waste. Some of the countries are proud to say that we are zero waste country, since entire waste is recycled for reuse – **Sridhar Manure**
3. I guess proper collection of waste should be stream lined first. We see lot of waste thrown off the streets which is first causing the worst. We need to collect the whole

waste of the city and analyse on what is the major stake of the waste and then see how we can best make use of that – **Chalam Buddha**

4. When u ask for recycling we must built huge plants to recycle waste. Pop up machines like ATMs to collect waste, but before we head in that directions lets curb the use of plastic. You can complete plastic production with recycling plants; any number of plants won't take tonnes of waste of plastic. Ban plastic first like the local veg n grocery vendors, n many such unnecessary areas where ban can be implemented make stricter laws, let the corporate having huge malls use paper bags, they charge clients 5 n 7 rupees for a bag, but clients who spent thousands don't mind spending 5 n 10 bucks on plastic carry bags. So first implement bans, n then we can talk recycling plants – **Yogini Mehta**
5. The sewage sludge can be treated with advanced method like Gamma irradiation to get completely hygienised product which can safely be used in the fields as organic fertilizer – **Vinit Kumar Mishra**
6. Central Government must come out with Waste to Energy policy, just as it has for Solar Energy, Wind Energy. Recent planning commission report specifically states the need for viability gap funding for waste management projects. Hope government make the provision in the next budget – **Raci Kalantri**
7. Now cleaning has to be made more regular. We produce a lot of waste. This can be taken in two ways. We can bang our heads thinking what to do how to clean or we can be happy as we just produced more resources in form of waste. The attitude will matter at all levels. It must become a necessity and not a head ache. A way of living and that's only possible by educating. We can seriously look into private sectors in big time waste management. Why can't the power sector guys get into waste management when we know we can make power from waste – **Anurag Singh**
8. By involving the corporate in this competition you can automatically clean a whole city in one go. If the big players can do charity lets show them this as charity that will be followed by rewards. Yes monetary rewards in form of huge contracts of waste management for whole cities, or big chunks of city. The standards set during the event will be the overall standard to be achieved while executing the contract. No slacking there or we will be back to zero. Once technology is here that can provide results out of waste, many corporates will join – **Jayan Pathak**
9. We were instructed by the Government authorities to segregate waste into recycled and other waste. Although we are segregating the waste as directed, it is not kept separately in the trucks which collect the waste – **Uma Maheshwar Sharma**
10. Littering of recyclable waste should be banned. Area-wise agents should be appointed to collect the same from households at some reasonable cost. They in turn should handover the same to waste processing plants with proper equipment and know how. R & D should be encouraged in processing waste and use for recyclable waste should be found – **Brijratan Mundra**