



“Hazardous Waste Management in India”

Collective inputs from over 335,000+ Indian Citizens on

“Swachh Bharat”

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

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Hazardous Waste Management in India

Executive Summary

Lack of treatment and disposal facilities causes hazardous wastes to ravage municipal landfills and open spaces, raising serious environmental threats. Rapid industrialization and adoption of technology over the last few decades has indiscriminately increased Hazardous Waste generation in India

The 335,000+ strong “Swachh Bharat” online community has come together to collectively identify the key issues, root causes and solutions for Hazardous Waste Management in India and the community expects that the Government will work towards implementing the identified solutions.

Issues and Root Causes Identified:

1. Hazardous waste management in India is not done and there is little awareness
2. Old batteries and electronic appliances are thrown into the dustbin
3. Dry cleaning companies dispose their waste in the sewers
4. Factories dispose their residual chemicals into the water bodies like Yamuna
5. Many times, hazardous waste is burnt in open
6. Lead and arsenic material is openly used in different products
7. There is no set procedure for discarding the hazardous medical waste
8. Chinese toys, paints, packaging etc. are highly hazardous
9. It causes diseases and health problems like respiratory problems
10. It affects pregnant women and shows a long term effect on the babies
11. India has become a big dumping ground for hazardous waste
12. People are not aware about which items fall under the hazardous waste category
13. People are unaware about the ways of disposing hazardous waste
14. People are unaware about the bad health effects that hazardous waste can have
15. Many industries/hospitals do not have waste treatment plants
16. Hospitals discard the hazardous waste inappropriately to save money
17. There are no hazardous waste disposal sites made by the Government
18. The Government has also not made any strict rules and regulations against disposing hazardous waste in open
19. There are not enough hazardous waste management specialist in the country
20. The segregation at source is non-existent



21. Some municipal corporations refuse to accept old/fused fluorescent tubes for disposal
22. It has been known that hazardous World War chemical-residues are being recycled to manufacture pesticides and other similar poisonous substances

Solutions Identified:

1. Government should make strict regulations against the disposal of hazardous waste in open
2. Classification of waste generated by industries should be done very carefully
3. Proper hazardous waste treatment facility should be established by the ULB/private operators
4. Burning hazardous waste in open should be stopped and a financial penalty should be applied to it
5. It should be made mandatory for the industries/hospitals to install waste treatment plants
6. Guidelines should be set to dispose medical waste properly
7. Import of low quality Chinese paints and toys which use hazardous chemicals should be banned in India
8. Dumping of hazardous waste in Indian waters by other countries should be made illegal
9. People should be educated about different items that come under the hazardous category
10. Awareness should be spread about the right ways of disposing hazardous waste like batteries etc.
11. Hospitals found discarding waste inappropriately should be heavily penalized, leading to cancellation of license
12. For medical waste , Incinerators must be made mandatory for Hospitals to be set up
13. Segregation of waste at source should be promoted
14. State Government should provide funds for implementation of Municipal Solid Waste rules
15. The ULBs should ensure segregation into biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste and eventual disposal
16. Ship Breaking Units (like Alang in Gujarat) are deadly sources of Hazardous Wastes generation. They should be closed.
17. Government should construct common effluent treatment plants at every industrial cluster
18. A PPP project could be made available for treating medical waste
19. Severe punitive action such as heavy fine, imprisonment, closure of companies which flout the rules



20. A mechanism should be devised for strict vigil and surveillance of toxic substances being discharged brazenly by companies
21. The import of all hazardous waste chemical substances should be banned
22. A list of hazardous waste items must be published in newspapers by the Government after regular intervals
23. Hazardous material like batteries and CFL could be returned back to the seller for safe disposal.

Hazardous Waste Management in India – A few Citizen views

1. In India we have all the rules even some Western countries don't have but our problem is in the implementation. Corruption is of the highest order which makes the officials in charge of the particular department turn a blind eye to all the wrong doing. The pride in our work is not there. The dept. officials have to be educated in what is pride and to go about work without fear or favour – **Kishore Menon**
2. Most important and fastest way to promote waste management effectively is through educating the public at a mass level and making them understand them the hazards of plastic and allied waste for them and the generations to come – **Shradha Raorane**
3. It is very necessary that first waste generation process and its reduction/recycling/reuse process are defined and established or at least clear demonstrated solutions are selected for enforcement. European Union has done a great job in defining and enforcing waste management of electrical and electronic equipments (WEEE) and many countries are adopting similar measures – **Neeraj Goyal**
4. Government or a PPP project should be available for treating bio medical waste, since it may not be possible for a smaller clinic/ nursing home to set up a plant. However the cost can be recovered based on its usage in terms of type of waste, quantum, etc. Secondly bigger hospitals having incinerators can be made as a central incineration point to support smaller institutions around them on chargeable basis. This will facilitate not only waste segregation, but also safe way to dispose of the waste – **Mohanamurli N**
5. Hazardous waste is generated by industries, institutions like hospitals, vehicle service centres, warehouses, handling, and transportation and so on. Presently the pollution control board carries out periodic inspection and that is the way of monitoring which incidentally has several holes – **Saibal Bhowmick**
6. Technology development and investment should be directed for re-use at source. Ability for appropriate conversion should be a prerequisite for permission to generate hazardous waste - **N N Panicker**
7. India is also the dumping ground for Radioactive Material, which has long been overlooked by the government. All the countries of the globe use India as the



Radioactive dumping ground as the Indian Government has no strict rules and regulations of Import or disposal on these kinds of Hazardous waste – **Dheeraj Kochhar**

8. Electronic wastes should come under hazardous wastes category as many appliances contain mercury, lead which is dangerous to environment. – **Abhijit Rana**
9. There is a great potential for business in waste management. But it must be handled properly and the people must be made aware of the waste handling. Electrical and electronic waste can be recycled if handled properly. There must be advertisements for collection and easy ways to disposal of the waste by people to collection centre. Also the waste handling person must be well trained and well equipped – **Makarand Sane**
10. The waste processing and protected disposal requires money. Every one desires to have proper facilities but is not prepared to pay the tipping fees required. Forget about paying tipping fees for treatment & disposal, even the merge Rs 1/day for collection from your door step some people do not pay, and in rich colonies and they just throw their plastic bags with the waste in their lanes behind. It is important to understand that Swachh Bharat shall cost money and since it provides a better environment to the citizens, then they have to pay for it. The sewage charges have to be increased multi fold and MCD has to start using the same not for paying salaries without proper return by for getting things done. The MCD administration has to be improved and they should be held accountable – **Ramesh Suri**