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Municipal sanitary workers opinion about the public's on municipal solid waste management practices in Bengaluru city

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Abstract
The paper explores the solid waste management issues in Bengaluru city. As of 2014, Bengaluru is the third most populous city of India, experiencing a huge growth in its massive population. The present population of Bengaluru city is 1,01,78,146 (As per 2011 census - males 4,401,299 and females 4,024,671 totalling 84,25, 970). There are 198 wards under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Every day Bangaloreans produce 35,000 metric tons of solid waste. There are different ways and means to collect the solid waste in the city. In Bengaluru city, every day 16,000 Garbage Disposal workers are paid by the BBMP. At present, many private agencies are also working in managing solid waste.
The present study is exploring about the opinions of the municipal workers regarding the public's Municipal solid waste management practices in Bengaluru city.

Keywords: Municipal Sanitary workers, solid waste management, garbage, disposal, health, civil society.

Introduction
Urban centers are becoming a hub of wastes. Due to speedy urbanization and industrialization, urban wastes are increasing rampantly. Solid waste management is the basic service provided by the municipal administration. The quantity of waste generation in India is comparatively less than other under developed countries and much lower than the developed countries. Population size and geographical characteristics determine the waste production in India. The major reasons for the inadequacy and inefficiency in the waste management services are apathy of municipal authorities, no system of primary collection from the doorstep, irregular street sweeping (the sanitary workers have been forced to follow traditional method of short broom usage, hand carts, tricycle, etc.), waste storage depots (the traditional methods do not match with the primary collection and secondary waste storage system), improper waste transportation, and absence of community participation. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has estimated that waste generation will exceed 260 million tons / year by 2047, and it will be more than five times the present level. Only in a few cities of India, the waste processing done properly. The majority of Indian cities do not follow the waste processing scientifically. The processing is done without segregation. In some of the towns, it would be appreciated that vermicompost is being produced from the processed waste. In fact, neglect of waste disposal leads to environment pollution and health hazards to the community. Various techniques and technologies exist for proper solid waste management in India. One of the oldest method followed in India is composting or vermin composting (through this natural organic manure is produced). The largest vermin compost plant in India is located in Bengaluru and produces 100 metric ton /day. The household collection of garbage and disposal is the long- term responsibility of the Bengaluru City Corporation. However, from the year 2000 onwards, Bengaluru City Corporation has instituted door - to - door collection of garbage by sanitary workers. In some localities, both door- to- door collection as well as municipal bin system is followed. To avoid garbage collecting on the roads, it is removed to the dust- bins in the localities and door-to-door collection of garbage is encouraged. The latter practice has been made mandatory by the BBMP. Therefore, majority of the household waste is collected on a daily basis.

Community response and behavior plays a vital role as far as waste collection is considered. Household behavior also plays a key role in the success of the garbage collection and disposal system, which was very recently copied by the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) called as the "Dohla" system, (Asnani 2006) [1].

The people of Bengaluru city have expressed a dual opinion about the door-to-door waste collection. The solid waste collection and management system is properly maintained in residential service areas than low- income and slum settlements. In the slum areas, there is no proper or formal method of waste collection. Hence, the slum dwellers are vulnerable to environmental and health hazards. In the slum and low- income households, it has been observed that waste is disposed in public municipal bins located in their area or on private lands from where it is cleared the next morning. Whereas, in important areas, a formal system of solid waste collection and management is followed by the BBMP. Many NGOs, CBOs, and other voluntary associations also contribute for effective solid waste management practices. Throughout Bengaluru city, better access is available for High (54 per cent) and Middle- income areas (43 per cent), while only 23 per cent Low- income households and 21 per cent of slums are satisfied with the regularity of the domestic waste collection. The irregular and untimely collection of waste results in spillover and dumping of wastes in drains and streets, which leads to environmental and sanitation problems. Meanwhile, the High- income and Middle- income people are equally not satisfied with the present system of waste management followed by the officials. From 2000-01, solid waste has been collected following the door-to-door collection system. Hence, rag pickers have started to depend more on intermediaries to collect waste from industries, hotels, etc., which directly affects their income (Smitha K, 2011) [3].

Manasi, *et al.* (n.d) [2] are of the opinion that, E - waste production is a burning issue in Bengaluru city. A hub of information technology, Bengaluru is producing large quantities of e-wastes, which are not properly recycled. The informal recyclers purchase these from companies, institutions, and households in bulk. E-waste recyclers have a better future in the e-waste business. Authorized dealers receive e- waste from corporate companies for scientific recycling. In Bengaluru, there are currently 16 recycling units. The formal recyclers also involve the NGOs and schools to create awareness on e- waste. They are supposed to abide by the rules and regulations in the processing of e-wastes; this includes the safety of their employees. The roles and responsibilities of institutions regarding e-waste management are still unclear. Most of the e-waste consumers are unaware of its effect on the health and environment. However, major corporate houses have given much attention about the impact of e-waste after it is sold as scrap. Their general view is that the government should regulate the scrap trade by weeding out unauthorized dealers. However, there is the existence of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), whereby the producers have to take up the responsibility of disposing off their products after the expiration of its shelf- life. Various initiatives have been taken to introduce policies and guidelines for managing e-waste in India. As a result, in March 2008, the Ministry of Environment and Forests in association with the Central Pollution Control Board drafted guidelines for the environmentally sound management of e-waste.

Objectives of the study

1. To know about the socio- economic aspects of the municipal workers.
2. To know the municipal workers opinion regarding the public's solid waste management practices.

Methodology/ Approach

These studies have been conducted within the limits of the Bengaluru city corporation. The researcher collected information through the interview schedule. Snowball sampling methods of data collection have been followed.

Key findings about Municipal Sanitary workers status in Bengaluru city

- The solid waste collectors are from a very poor socio-economic background. Their literacy rate is very poor, but they would like to educate their children.
- Ninety per cent of the waste collectors do not avail the services of the public distribution shops because they are not enrolled. They would have to furnish the relevant documents to be enrolled, which they do not possess.
- Ninety per cent of the respondents do not have two or four wheelers at home, whereas 80 per cent of them have Television, 98 per cent have Mobile phones, 15 per cent have Refrigerator, no one has a Washing machine, 25 per cent have Mixer grinder, and 46 per cent have a Gas connection.
- None of the respondents is happy with their profession; in fact, they regret their profession. Overall, 100 per cent of them have chosen this profession because they had no other job opportunity.
- Every respondent is aware about the health hazards; they realize that it is effecting on their health very badly, but since they have no other alternative they are continuing in the profession. Even though, it is having a negative impact on their health they are depending on the waste collection profession for their livelihood.
- For recreation, they watch television, while 90 per cent of the waste collectors turn to alcohol.
- They are paid on a weekly basis in cash. They do not receive any bonus from their employers.
- The respondents have no form of savings. About 40 per cent of the respondents have opened bank accounts under the "Jan Dhan scheme" of the Govt. of India.
- Around 95 per cent of the respondents are members of SHGs. The remaining 5 per cent are not members of any association.

Key findings about the municipal workers opinion regarding the public's solid waste management

- Ninety per cent of the respondents say that the public is not aware about solid waste management, while 10 per cent say that though they are aware they are not doing the segregation properly.
- All the respondents (100 per cent) are of the view that the public lacks civic consciousness, 90 per cent opined that public support for waste management is poor, and 10 per cent said that the public gives good support. In fact, no respondent said either very good or excellent.
- Ninety- five per cent of the respondents said that the public does not segregate the wastes properly, only 5 per cent said that the public by segregating smoothens their work. The overall view of the waste collectors is that if the public would segregate the wastes it would be a great

help to their profession. Since there is no form of punishment for the public for not segregating the wastes, they tend to lump it in a common form.

- According to the respondents, 96 per cent of the public is not aware about the management of waste, and are not bothered about it. They throw the waste at a distance from their doorstep.
- The public is happy if the waste collector collects from their doorstep.
- Ten per cent of the public give extra reward for the service.
- Ninety- nine per cent of the public has no respect for the waste collecting community.
- About 95 per cent of the public are not at all happy/ satisfied about the services provided by the municipality.
- If the public segregates the waste, it would reduce the health issues of the sanitary workers in greater extent is the opinion given by the publics.

Conclusion

Waste management is a burning issue in most of the developing economies. Along with the fast growing economy, the quantum of waste is also growing rapidly. Hence, there is a need of appropriate technology adaptation with the creation of civic consciousness, along with the government's effective participation. Majority of the reviewed articles highlighted the waste management system, but there is a need to study about the responsibility of the civil society towards effective waste management.

Bengaluru is globally known for its Information Technology and Biotechnology, but it is very sad that the civil society is not well aware about the waste management practices. In India, the Municipality Solid Waste Management Rule had been enacted in 2000, but it has not been effectively implemented. There is a need for people to be educated about the practices of solid waste management, and the adoption of new technology with the participation of the people would be a panacea for all existing problems.

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