

Management of Organic Solid Waste & Plastic Waste by PRIs: Experiences, Challenges and Way forward

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A problem to be solved

- Waste is a mounting problem not only in Corporations and Municipalities, but also in rural areas.
- The Solid Waste Management Rules amended in 2016 has brought in Gram Panchayats also in its purview.
- It has assumed greater significance because the SBM-G in phase-II one of the main focus areas is setting up SWM Units in GPs.
- A system for scientific management of solid waste

A management system to go on and on

- We must understand that getting involved in waste management - unlike provision of Individual Household Latrines - is not a one-time affair.
- This is an endless affair, which will have to go on and on on a daily basis.
- We find in some of GPs, they start SWM Units with all fanfare – technologies, VIPs flagging off.
- Within in 6 – 8 months we witness that things start taking a retrograde and is back in square one.
- Why is it so?

The Issues

- Given the capacity of Gram Panchayats in most states, maintaining the general cleanliness of villages (as a mandate as per XI Schedule of the constitution) is happening in most GPs in India.
- However, the question are: Is scientific management of waste taking place? Is there a system in place for proper treatment of waste in respective waste streams – technically talking? From where are the GPs supposed to meet out the expenses incurred on waste management? How do the rural households view this whole exercise? Is there a community buy-in?

The Issues are

- Institutional capacity to handle (for GPs)
- Technical / technology appropriateness
- Special wastes such as plastics, and sanitary wastes
- Financial – capital cost and O & M of facilities
- Behavioural / social
- Training / lack of guidance in planning and preparation of DPRs
- Lack of models or very few models to learn from
- Possibly, our panel members might point to some policy gaps too, if there are any.
- Last but not least, what's your view on: '*waste to wealth*'?

I have an excellent panel here

1. Mr Maganti J Muthukumaraswamy, KCG Consulting, Andhra Pradesh
2. Archana Tripathi, CEO, Saahas, Bangalore
3. Mr Gaurav Nigam, SBM-G Indore
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Each one of them have 12 – 14 minutes to make their points.

The audience are requested to post questions in the chat box.

We shall once again call each member of the panel to respond and sum up in three minutes each at the end.