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Sustainable Solution for Solid Waste Management for Bangalore city, India

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ABSTRACT:

The increasing pace of urbanization coupled with an increase in per capita waste generation driven by changing urban consumption patterns in view of economic growth and improved living standards is exerting significant additional pressures on already stretched Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM) systems across cities in India. This challenge is further aggravated by the lack of adequate capacity, institutional, financial capabilities and skilled resources in collection, transportation, processing and final disposal. Solid Waste Management is one among the basic essential services provided by municipal authorities to keep the urban centres clean. However, it is among the most poorly rendered services in the basket--the systems applied are unscientific, outdated and inefficient; population coverage is low; and the poor are marginalized. Waste is littered all over leading to insanitary living conditions. Municipal laws governing the urban local bodies do not have adequate provisions to deal effectively with ever-growing problem of solid waste management. With rapid urbanization, situation is becoming critical. This enormous increase in MSW will have significant impacts in terms of land required for disposing this waste as well as on methane emissions. The ULB undertakes the task of solid waste service delivery with its own staff, equipment and funds. In a few cases part of the said work is contracted out to private enterprises. The management of municipal solid waste is one of the most important obligatory functions of the urban local bodies, which is closely associated with urban environmental conditions. The present paper highlights the current practices of solid waste management in Bangalore city, India. The study provides the current collection segregation and treatment practices and a comparison of same with the best initiatives in the country. The current interventions of stakeholders for improving the condition of the city has been analysed and accordingly suggestions for improving the municipal solid waste management system has been provided as an approach towards sustainability.

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