



Revisiting Solid Waste Management (SWM): a Case Study of Pakistan

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Abstract

Pakistan is the second largest country in South Asia, inhabiting a population of approximately 180 million and ranking 6th largest one in the world. The question rises here whether the tools of Solid Waste Management (SWM) are sufficient for the large population and whether the management of solid waste in the country is up to the recognized standards and whether can it sustain a 6th largest population of the world? The impact of certain actions of a nation causes worldwide effects, no matter these are economic or environmental. The environmental effects are global, and every one sharing world's resources have to face the consequences of their actions which disturb the natural environment, SWM being a neglected issue, lacks proper attention, hence, it causes health and pollution problems. Effort has been made in this review paper to focus on resulting impacts of SWM in the country including, increase in Carbon Foot-Printing, dumping and its consequential issues such as some waste takes much time to decay, ground water pollution and its hazardous impact on the environment. Common methods used for dumping include the landfills, size reduction and screening. Industrial recycling has also been introduced, though at very thin level. The author, in this regard, has reviewed analytically the initiatives taken by the federal and provincial governments and their role. Privatization of SWM and to declare it as an industry can be an actionable option to mitigate the harmful impact of SWM due to mishandling of waste. Most importantly, illiteracy is another factor in mismanagement of SWM. This should be encountered on war footings as illiteracy is root cause of many other nationwide problems.

Keywords: Solid waste management; carbon foot printing; incineration; household waste; industrial waste.