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Status of solid waste & society in India: Challenges for future

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India is rapidly shifting from agricultural-based nation to industrial and services-oriented country. About 31.2% population is now living in urban areas. As per census 2011, over 377 million urban people are living in 7,935 towns/cities. India is a vast country divided into 29 States and 7 Union Territories (UTs). There are three mega cities - Greater Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata—having population of more than 10 million, 53 cities have more than 1 million population, and 415 cities having population 100,000 or more. Rapid industrialization and population explosion in India has led to the migration of people from villages to cities, which generate thousands of tons of MSW daily. Municipal solid waste management (MSWM) is one of the major environmental problems of Indian cities. Improper management of municipal solid waste (MSW) causes hazards to inhabitants. Various studies reveal that about 90% of MSW is disposed of unscientifically in open dumps and landfills, creating problems to public health and the environment. Lack of awareness, inappropriate technical knowledge, inadequate funding, unaccountability, implementation of legislation and policies are major reasons for the failure of MSWM. Issues like proper site selection, adequate financial support, and improper human resource management, can be overcome with enhanced capacity, improved procedures and training. The solution to the problems associated with development and adoption of appropriate technologies and lack of trained manpower will require a realistic time frame and not only central government bodies, but state governments also have to take various actions for strengthening MSWM in the country. Open dumps are responsible for so many negative environmental impacts in different cities of India. Due to lack of funding and unscientific management the existing solid waste management system is not working successfully in the city. Due to shortage of storage bins, collection efficiency is very low which has severely damaged the environmental condition and also induces to stray dog population phenomenally. The acute absence of waste segregation at the source all types of Materials are being disposed along with municipal solid waste which make waste handling very risky especially dumping and disposal points. There is special a need to develop a methodology of research for developing interactive techniques for system's design and operational control.