

Urban Waste Management in India – The Indore Model

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INTRODUCTION

Urban waste is waste that comes from residential and industrial areas of cities and towns. It can include a variety of materials like plastics, metals, and electronic waste. Urban areas may be at the forefront of development, but they have many problems that contribute to increased waste. Generally, two kinds of urban waste are generated, solid and liquid waste (Singh, 2021). As defined by Robinson (1986), solid waste is the residual material from a household or commercial undertaking that has no use to the owner anymore but may be useful to others. India's approach to waste management has evolved over time, reflecting the country's growing urbanization and industrialization.

During the pre-independence era, waste disposal was primarily a local responsibility, with limited centralized coordination (Sharma and Jain, 2020). Waste management was often haphazard, with little consideration for environmental impact or public health implications. In the post-independence period, the government began to recognize the need for a more comprehensive waste management strategy, leading to the enactment of the Solid Wastes Rules (Government of India, 2000). This legislation aimed to establish a framework for the gathering, transportation, and removal of municipal waste, with a focus on promoting environmentally sound practices.

However, implementation challenges, such as inadequate infrastructure and limited public awareness, have hindered the effectiveness of these policies (Annepu, 2012). The lack of sufficient infrastructure and manpower to manage the growing volumes of waste, especially in rapidly urbanizing areas, further compounds the issue. This nationwide initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission launched in 2014, focused on enhancing waste collection, promoting source

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