Managing Karachi's Solid Waste A Way Forward

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> Farhan Anwar Urban Planner Executive Director, Sustainable Initiatives



A crisis having multi-faceted alarming dimensions such as public health concerns

Solid Waste (Minus!) Management, Karachi City

A crisis of long standing

The Problem Box!

The Knowledge Gap

- <u>Nobody</u> knows how much waste is generated in Karachi on a daily basis
- Nobody knows exactly, the nature and composition of the waste
- <u>Nobody</u> knows how much waste is collected transported, dumped on the way, or ultimately dumped and burned in the 'so called' landfill sites
- <u>Nobody</u> knows how much waste remains uncollected, where it is dumped, how much is openly burned, how much is played with by children in the streets, how much ends up in the drains, sewers, parks, roadsides etc.
- <u>Nobody</u> knows about the scale of the 'public health' implications of a pathetically inefficient solid waste management system
- <u>Nobody</u> knows about the extent of 'financial loss' by not considering 'solid waste' as a financial resource capable of providing both direct and in-direct dividends

One probable reason – <u>nobody</u> knows how many people live in the city!!

The Institutional Crisis

- There is no 'organized' institutional arrangement for managing the city waste
- The shoddy set-up that exists is financially bankrupt
- There is almost total 'non-regulation' of the sector in terms of setting of standards, ensuring transparency in functions and having some set 'plans' or 'goals' or 'indicators' for measuring progress and trends
- There is no attempt to realize that 'solid waste management' is an integrated process (from efforts at limiting the levels of generated waste to implementing multiple methods of ultimate waste recycling, reuse or disposal) that requires planning, innovation and partnership building

The 'solution basket' (if one exists!) finds no relevance to modern understanding and innovations in solid waste management

There is no understanding that solid waste is actually a 'resource' and not 'waste'! At the official level, no **sincere effort** has been made to:

- Initiate a drive for reducing levels of generated waste
- Initiate processes such as 'recycling', 'composting', 'employing energy to waste and co-generation' options
- Provide an enabling space for the private sector, civil society groups and communities to engage with the government agencies
- Assess the financial, environmental and public health gains of employing such possible and widely used options (at a global and regional level)

The coming challenge: prepare for a waste deluge!!!!



PHENOMENAL URBAN SPRAWL



Source: Karachi Strategic Development Plan 2020, August 2007, CDGK

THE POTENTIALS

WHY NO COMPOSTING??

Why is there no effort to initiate 'composting' that can be linked with a comprehensive 'urban organic farming and agriculture' program for Karachi City



WHY NO WASTE TO ENERGY (BIO-FUEL)PROGRAM?





Dumping instead of layering

Why no properly 'engineered' landfill site where 'methane' recovery and capture can lead to a 'cogeneration' option?

What to do?

Create an enabling space for the private sector, civil society groups and communities to join hands in initiating a well researched and comprehensive 'solid waste management' program for Karachi city as the government has neither the finances, nor the capacity and above all a complete lack of will to take the desired actions.....

There is no dearth of 'models' and no absence of a willing private sector and finances in the city to invest in a solid waste management program that offers both financial benefits for the private sector and environmental and public health benefits for the citizenry of Karachi City....