

Theme 14: Solid waste management – Approaches (at home, city, state)

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COMMUNITY-BASED SWM INITIATIVES: AN INDIAN OUTLOOK

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In an attempt to accelerate the pace of its industrial development, an economically developing nation like India has failed to pay adequate attention to solid waste management. Due to rapid urbanization in India, the Government is unable to cope with the increasing demand for solid waste management. The paper aims to analyze judicial pronouncements made by various Indian Courts with regard to Solid Waste Management and the right to live in a clean and safe environment. Government of India has put in place necessary legislative and regulatory measures for protection, conservation and development of environment to harmonize the demands of development and environment which has been dealt by the authors in the paper. The paper suggests a series of measures that can be taken to bring about a change in public behavior through public awareness programs like R-R-R of Waste, mass education programs, welcoming participation of NGOs and media to foster economic, social, environmental and health benefits. Ways must be found to integrate livelihoods and waste management issues in a socially just manner by imposing sanctions whenever appropriate and by payment of incentives/subsidies for services rendered.

Looking at the present solid waste management condition of India, there is a need for involving people from every strata and community and the paper analyses the possible ways of doing the same.