

The emphasis on solid waste management under smart city mission must focus on segregation of waste rather than investing in compactors. Justify.

Solid waste management is an important component of Swachh Bharat Mission. To tackle the waste generation and handling, Government had called for Solid waste management rule 2016. It calls for source segregation, treatment and recycling from all the stakeholders of the community. However, the latest measures under smart city mission is trying to out do the community / individual responsibility.

It has been reported that nearly 60% of the waste are not properly handled. They are directly led into drains causing environmental problems.

1) Smartcity mission and its incentives:-

Urban dwellers in a community can enter into a private contract for waste collection separately. Since, the waste incentive for transportation is based on tonnage, the collectors have resorted to mix the segregated components. Handlers find difficult to treat them.

2) waste to energy treatment plants:-

Promotion of compulsory WTE plants in smart cities is contributing to pollution, since incineration is the only option for treatment.

3) COMPACTORS and their concerns:-

Compactors encouraged are antithesis to segregation.

- (i) Mixed components unfit for usage.
- (ii) Metal extraction not possible
- (iii) Release leachate, polluting water bodies, soils.
- (iv) Decomposing in landfills release methane, which is a greenhouse gas.

4) Space crunch:-

Since the mission focuses on 'look clean' city, it is only pushes the waste collectors to fill them in landfills.

Local government participation remains minimal due to SPV's of smart-city mission landfills, in fringe areas pollute environment

Thus, there is a requirement for waste management to shift its focus from compactors to segregation. Several such units have sprun across city. Further encouragement can be made possible by

- (i) Community awareness and behavioural change - Swachhta Pakhwada
- (ii) Minimising plastic waste usage
- (iii) Encourage kitchen Garden using grey water treatment
- (iv) Taxation benefits to private sectors encouraging clean disposal.

Solid waste management is central to maintain clean environment, healthy lifestyle.