

A JOURNEY OF WASTE TO WAGES

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ABSTRACT

An untold story of generating wages from waste is an effective approach towards minimizing and disposing waste with minimal or no impact on environment, generating capital amount for daily waged laborers. Wages from waste is a concept for waste collection by deprived communities; increased livelihood opportunities, for informal sector waste collectors; establishing saving schemes among recycling NGO's; increased knowledge of community residents on waste segregation and plastic recycling. This paper unveils emerging trends of Solid Waste Management (SWM) and suggest recommendations for generating wages. W from W is a now becoming popularly accepted tool in fight against pollution.

Keywords: Wage W, Waste W, W to W, Recyclability, SWM, Informal Sector.

Introduction

There are many ways of creating and generating wages from waste and safeguard our environment. Waste is a natural by-product of the phenomena of life and growth of societies. Waste which is useless for someone is useful for others. Meeting the goals of sustainable development is an outstanding global challenge. So is waste management. It is now recognized that we cannot afford to lose it as mere 'waste'. Instead, it is important to view 'waste' as a valuable 'resource' that can be converted into a variety of useful products. Hence A Journey of Waste to Wages begins.

Types of Waste- Category:

- Hazardous Waste and Non Hazardous Waste
- Biodegradable and Non Biodegradable Waste

This paper discusses the various strategies to be followed for generating livelihood from so-called waste.

Methodology

An untold story of generating Wages from Waste is an effective approach towards minimizing and disposing waste with minimal or no impact on environment, generating capital amount for daily waged labourers. This initiative needs to identify resources which are actually waste that can be converted into earning.

First such Resource we Identified is Plastic

- **Plastic**

We are using plastic for its convenient application. But it is very harmful pollutant for environment. Major cause of animal death is due to improper disposal of carry bags. Waste from the

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plastic industry is thrown directly into the aquatic system. It's very harmful for aquatic flora and fauna. When plastic enter the drain they blocked the pipes and drains causing water logging. If plastics are beings thrown by human in open space, it may cause many disease like malaria and pneumonia. And many more.

But issue is how plastic can be turned into environment friendly source of income. Some of the important applications identified that can turn W into W.

- Aditya Banger, a resident of Bhilwara, Rajasthan, launched Trash to Treasure which recycles plastic bottles, wrappers and covers into fabric for clothes.
- Matee is the founder of Nairobi-based Gjenge Makers, which has founded a novel way of converting plastic waste into sustainable materials. They has created lightweight and low-cost bricks made of recycled plastic with sand—a stronger material than concrete.
- Indian railways: With an aim to ban single-use plastic under the Modi government's 'Swacch Bharat' initiative, Plastic Bottle Crushing Machines (PBCMs) have been installed at five railway stations by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation LTD.

The machine shreds the plastic bottles into pellets and it is sent for recycling by a waste management vendor.

Single use Plastic (SUP)

Single-use plastics have a short span of functional life, less than a week and are not designed to be repaired or refurbished. They are also a major source of pollution. Prohibiting their use and search for an alternative of SUP opens a new area for employment generation. Some of such alternatives are discussed here which will be going to become a milestone in a journey of waste to wages.

- **Plastic Straws:** The journey of plastic straws ends to a landfill. Since they are lightweight, so when dropped or discarded, plastic straws easily enter into waterways and enter our oceans. Once in our oceans, they are extremely dangerous for our marine wildlife. There have been instances where sea turtles have had plastic straws lodged painfully in their nostrils.
- **Alternative Searched:** Rice straws, bamboo straws, paper straws, reusable silicone straws that provide flexibility are the options from where wages can be generated.
- **Plastic Drink Stirrers:** Cocktail stirrers are a fun making requirement for drinks, but most are made from plastic and used only once . They end up in the refuges, on our beaches and in our oceans.
- **Alternative Searched:** Making of bamboo stirrers, stick of carrot or cucumber provide the options from where wages can be generated.
- **Balloon Sticks:** Balloons provide beautification for any social functions. They are one of the harmful plastic remains for seabirds. Balloons along with their plastic sticks are too deadly.
- **Alternative searched-** Foremost thing we should try to avoid balloon decoration. Paper lanterns, Recycled bunting, Floral decoration etc., opens area for employment.
- **Plastic Cotton Buds:** Disposed cotton buds end up in our oceans. Once the cotton tips dissolve, a small, rigid plastic stick remains which is easily ingested by birds, fish and other marine wildlife leads to their destruction.
- **Alternative Searched:** Bamboo cotton buds, organic cotton makeup pads or a reusable silicon swab opens area for employment.
- **Coffee Cups and Lids:** A huge waste of coffee cups end up in landfills each year. Moreover, most takeaway coffee cups are non-recyclable as they had a plastic lining.
- **Alternative searched:** Reusable glass Keep Cups, porcelain mugs creates an area for wage generation.
- **Plastic Cutlery:** Plastic cutlery and plastic bags are frequently used while eating out and getting takeaway mainly for food and drinks. Plastic cutlery can't easily be recycled and end up in landfills and take years to degrade.
 - **Alternative Searched:** Bamboo utensils, banana, palm, other tree leaves utensils with beautification, art might open a broad area for wage generation.

- **Plastic Containers:** Worldwide, more than 88 million metric tonnes of plastic packaging is produced every year and it's assumed that plastic production will increase by 40% by 2030. The packaging industry is the largest converter of plastics, and many of these are only used once for food packaging, shopping bags and beverage bottles.
 - **Alternative Searched:** Government must help encourage hotel industries and other small chain cafes and restaurants to switch to eco-friendly and compostable alternatives which opens newer area for wage generation.

Next such Identified Resource is Sewage

- **Sewage**
Sewer, is the wastewater collected from homes, businesses, and many industries. Sewage treatment plants were built to clean wastewater for discharge into streams or other receiving waters, or for reuse. Solid Waste Management is utilising the concept of generating Wages from Waste. Reclaimed Water, Biofertilizers are the output of Solid Waste Management.
- **Waste Pickers**
In some countries, waste pickers provide the only form of solid waste collection, providing widespread public benefits and achieving high recycling rates. Waste pickers provide reusable materials to other enterprises. And earn money for their livelihood.
- **Paper**
 - The recycling of paper is the process by which waste paper is turned into new paper .
 - Waste paper from occupying homes of people and producing methane as it breaks down.
 - By recycling the waste paper we saves many trees.



- **Reduce:** Buy only what you need because a better way to reduce waste is by not creating it.
- **Reuse:** If you have to acquire goods, try getting used ones or obtaining substitutes.
- **Recycle:** When discarding your waste, find ways to recycle it instead of letting it go to landfill.
- **Monuments**
There are many ways of generating Wages from Waste and save our environment. Chandigarh Rock garden is also famous for being one of the most eco-friendly gardens in the country, as it is has been built solely by home-waste and other industrial items.
- **Movements**
Prime minister's Swatachata Abhiyan, Nirmal Ganga Project are some of the initiative in this movement. Many people are employed under these schemes of removing waste from land or water.
Indore is continuously getting a glory of India's cleanest city in the results of Swacha Bharat Mission in the Central government's annual cleanliness survey.
- **E-garbage**
The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations came into force in January 2007 and aim to reduce the amount of this waste going to landfill and improve recovery and recycling rates. Items such as kitchen appliances, mobile phones, computers, TV's, electrical and electronic tools can all be either recycled or reused.

- **Bio-Fuels**

Renewable sources of fuels are on verge of extinction. Biogas is produced by converting organic waste matter as cattle dung , leafy, loose matter into a low carbon content fuel which can be used for cooking, electricity production , lighting etc. Remains that is again a waste from waste serves as a organic fertilizer and source of “wage”.

- **Organic Agriculture**

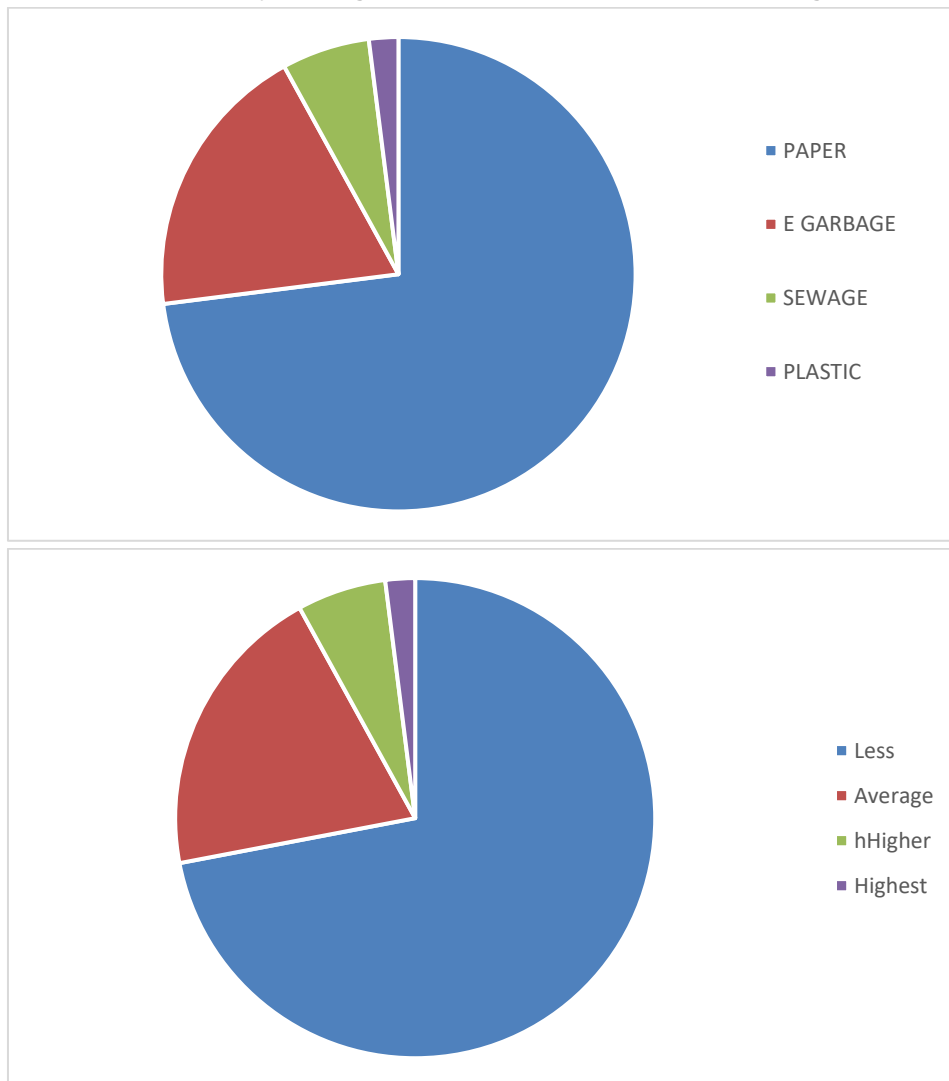
Chemical fertilizers and pesticides enter into food chain posing a danger for animal life as well as soil quality. Organic method of farming is becoming popular which involves green manure, compost and bone meal as key ingredients.

An ASSOCHAM report says Indian Organic Food Market has done a business of Rs 3350 crore in 2016 and is increasing exponentially. Again justifying wages from waste.

Course Study-Finding A Relationship between Waste and Wages

A case study was done on a sample of 100 rag pickers who were collecting waste and transferring to various segregating units. We found a relationship between type of waste generated and output in form of income collected.

Course Study-Finding a Relationship between Waste and Wages



Conclusion

Waste to Wage- A game changer in preventing Pollution. A lot of research is awaited in this area which is a gateway for source of income.

- Wages from waste is a concept for waste collection by deprived communities.
- Increased livelihood opportunities.
- Establishing saving schemes.
- Increased knowledge of community residents on waste segregation.
- Bharat Swatachata Abhiyan, Chandigarh Rock Garden are some of the relevant examples.

It's our own perspective to visualize the waste. It's just like two faces of a coin. Our mother earth is dumped on huge garbage that we have created. This garbage is to be converted into garland. Hence A Journey of Waste to Wages requires more exploration.

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