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The Role of Rag Pickers and Kabariwalas In Solid Waste Management In Dumka District

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ABSTRACT

In the current scenario solid waste management is one of the burning and challenging problem all over the globe. The generation of the huge amount of the waste and its management is Hercules task for the administrators of the ULBs of the cities and towns. The local body in managing the towns waste due to various reasons is facing immense problems. A substantial quantum of solid waste is left behind and remains uncollected. Collection of waste presents peculiar problem as these waste are thrown discriminately and not collected properly. About 78% of waste are biodegradable in nature and can be easily composted and can be used in various agricultural purposes. On other hand only 12% of waste are inert in nature or recyclable, which needs to be disposed in a proper manner. The rag pickers and kabariwalas play an important role in reducing the burden of the waste going to the dump sites. They not only collect and segregate the waste from the primary dump site, they collects the rag from the road sites which includes glass, plastic, brocken steel, iron, tin, batteries, fibers, PET bottles papers, cartons etc. and reduces the burden of dump site. These wastes or rags are sold in the large kabarias and finally sent to the recycling industries ultimately reduces the burden on natural resources and helps in conservation. In this way the rag pickers and kabariwala plays a vital role in city waste management. Hence there is need to organize them to render their services for managing the city waste. In the present communication the role of ragpickers and Kabariwalas in city waste management has been discussed.

Keywords: Solid waste, Biodegradable, Rag pickers, Kabariwalas.

INTRODUCTION

Two vegetable markets are at Dumka one is daily vegetable market at Tin bazaar and another is at Gandhi maidan which sits on Monday and Friday twice in a week market of all kind of vendors like carpenter, blacksmith, potter, goat seller, sheep seller, rope seller, fish seller, chicken seller, pigeon seller.

Beside cows, buffaloes and other cattle are also sold in this local hatia. The cattle in the market produces huge amount of cow dung which are left unclean, the area remains dirty and gives ugly look, causes problems to the common mass, these waste produce a foul odor too.

Beside in Dumka there are two govt. hospital and one TB hospital, Beside there are about 10 nursing homes. The day to day activities of the people generates huge amount of waste in the Dumka Nagar Parshad area. The above activities are responsible for the waste generation in the Nagar Parshad area.

In Nagar Parshad the city waste manager are responsible to manage these waste in a proper way for the same purpose the department of Urban development of the state government provides resources for the same. The local ULBs also generate funds from the activities and manages the waste and keeps the city clean. But there is an unorganized who plays the vital and important role in managing the city waste by segregating the waste at primary dump site acting as a agent of recycling the natural resources, conserving the resources, reduces the cost of transportation of the waste from the town to the dump site, thus saving the resources of the ULBs. Beside the rag pickers the thela kabariwals also play an important role, theyvisit door to door and collects

and purchase the rags and involved in the economic activities.Thosands of families are involved in rag picking as well as kabari sales and purchase activities.

As far kabari walas area concerned around more than 35 kabarias have their own thelas who sales and purchase the rags. Around 175 rag pickers collects the rags from the streets mohallas and dump sites and sold in the kabarias, that numbers in 7-10 in Dumka. A profile of Dumka Nagar parshad ahs been given below to understand the waste management practices.

PROFILE OF DUMKA NAGAR PARISHAD

Total Population-48736

Total area-24.30 sq.km.

Total Wards-23

Total office Staff-12

Field Staff- 70

Tractor-10

Dustbin-150 small and 50 big

Dump site identified-Yes

Current status of waste dump-Erratic

Door step collection-nil

Types of dustbin-4 types

Safety gauges –Purchased but not using

City Manager appointed- Yes

Material and Methods

Study area

Dumka, the headquarters of the Dumka districts and Santhal Pargana region is a city in the state of Jharkhand, India. It was made the headquarters of the Santhal Pargana region, which was carved out from Bhagalpur and Birbhum districts after the Santhal Hool in 1885.The Area is about 4404 square kilometer. DMS latitude and longitude of Dumka is 24.2685 degree North and 87.2488 degree east.In 1865 Dumka was made an independent district and in 1872 Headquarters of whole districts of santhal Pargana.1902 the first municipality was established. At present Dumka districts consists of only 10 blocks.As per the census report 2011 Dumka is a Nagar Parisad divided into 23 wards with a population of 47,584 of which 25,364 are male while 22,220 are females. Female sex ratio is 876 against state average of 948.Literacy rate is 89.92% of state average 66.41%.Male literacy is 93.46 and Female literacy is 85.87%.

Dumka district ranks eleventh in terms of total population in the state and nineteenth in regard to decadal population growth rate (2001-11) among the twenty four districts. With a sex ratio of 977, it ranks seventh in the state. The district comprises of ten blocks, namely, Saraiyahat, Jarmundi, Ramgarh, Gopikandar, Kathikund, Shikaripara, Ranishwar, Dumka, Jama and Masalia. As per Census 2011, the district has 2688 villages and 5 towns distributed in four assembly constituencies. Census 2011 figures indicated that the percentage share of scheduled caste population to total population was 0.62 percent, while that of scheduled tribes was 43.22 percent. Based on the number of total rural households in Census 2011 and BPL Revision Survey of 2010-11, the percentage of BPL households in rural areas is 56.86 percent.

Methodology

Earlier Study conducted on quantity and composition in ULBs of Santhal Pargana, (Kisku and Mukherjee 2017) reveals that the per day per capita waste generation is 244 grams. Roughly it estimate (47,584*244) grams /day/capita. The generated waste are thrown here and there on the road. As per the compliance criteria of Central pollution control Board every ULBs should have identified dump site for the proper disposal of waste generated from the city. Dumka being the sub capital of Jharkhand the private or government organization are not fulfilling the norms of waste disposal till date. Solid waste management is a serious threat for the city administration in Santhal Pargana in Dumka district.

A survey conducted to know the role of Kabariwals and rag pickers to know their role in waste management, beside the type of rags they pick and sales, the rate in which they purchase the rags and

sales.The numbers of rag pickers and kabariwalas and large kabarias.

Results and Discussion

The survey reflects that the role of rag picker and kabariwalas are very important in our day to day life as far as management of waste is concerned. They collects the rags from roadsides, garbage bins and dumpsites, sells with the kabarias, helps in reducing burden on natural resources, act as an agent of recycling, helps in conservation of natural resources, reduces the cost of transportation of garbage, helps waste segregation, reduces garbage heap in the dump site. They play a major role in low cost waste management system. They picks waste from here and there and through garbage bin. They sells all these recyclable materials to retailers they in turn sell it to the large kabarias and finally it goes to the industries for recycle.

The main items of collection are plastics, paper, PET bottles, cans, batteries etc. Certain things that are not in use are kept aside and sold to kabariwalas like newspaper, used bottle, magazines, old text books, oil cans etc. certain items are not degradable but can be recycled.

As far kabari walas area concerned around more than 35 kabarias have their own thelas who sales and purchase the rags. Around 175 rag pickers collects the rags from the streets mohallas and dump sites and sold in the kabarias that numbers in 7-10 in Dumka. (Table- 1).

The types of waste material picked by the rag pickers and kabariwalas and their probable rates area furnished in (Table-2).

Conclusion

Rag pickers and kabariwalas plays an important role in disposal of solid waste management in ULBs .They are very useful in enhancing the healthy atmosphere and at the same time helps in proper management of waste. There is only need to develop a proper plan for betterment of these said rag pickers and environment beside streamlining them into system.

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Table-1: Rag pickers and Kabariwalas and their number involves in rag picking

S.N.	Types	No.
1	Rag Pickers who collects Rag and sells to large Kabarias.	175 Males and females
2	Thela Kabari walas visits door to door to collects /buy the rags and sells to large kabarias	35 Mostly Males
3	Large kab arias who purchased the rags / recyclable goods and sends outside for recycling industries.	Males 7-10

Table -2 : Types of waste material picked by the rag pickers and kabariwalas and their probable rates.

S.N.	**Types of Rags**	**Rates**
1	Plastics	Rs. 15 per KG.
2	PET bottles	Rs. 20 per KG
3	News Paper	Rs. 14 Per KG
4	Batteries	Large Rs 300/small Rs 70Pc
5	Old magazine /books	Rs.10 Per KG
6	Cartons	Rs. 3 Per KG
7	Tin	Rs.8 Per KG
8	Iron	Rs.12 per KG
9	Bottle/Glass	RS.6 Per KG
10	Old text books	