

Hazardous Waste And Public Health: International Congress On The Health Effects Of Hazardous Waste

IMPACT OF SOLID WASTE ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract- Urbanization and population growth are solely responsible for high increasing rate of solid waste and its proper management is a major problem of Municipal Corporation. In this study, the sources and components of solid waste were identified, type and the quantity of solid waste disposed, methods of solid waste disposal and impact of improper waste management on health were highlighted. The result shows that excreta and other liquid and solid waste from households and the community, are a serious health hazard and lead to the spread of infectious diseases.

I. INTRODUCTION

Improper MSW disposal and management causes all types of pollution: air, soil, and water. Indiscriminate dumping of wastes contaminates surface and ground water supplies. In urban areas, MSW clogs drains, creating stagnant water for insect breeding and floods during rainy seasons. Uncontrolled burning of MSW and improper incineration contributes significantly to urban air pollution. Greenhouse gases are generated from the decomposition of organic wastes in landfills, and untreated leachate pollutes surrounding soil and water bodies. Health and safety issues also arise from improper MSWM. Insect and rodent vectors are attracted to the waste and can spread diseases such as cholera and dengue fever. Using water polluted by MSW for bathing, food irrigation and drinking water can also expose individuals to disease organisms and other contaminants. The U.S. Public Health Service identified 22 human diseases that are linked to improper MSWM. Waste worker and pickers in developing countries are seldom protected from direct contact and injury, and the co-disposal of hazardous and medical wastes with MSW poses serious health threat. Exhaust fumes from waste collection vehicles, dust stemming from disposal practices and the open burning of waste also contribute to overall health problems. People know that poor sanitation affects their health, especially in developing and low-income countries, where the people are the most willing to pay for environmental improvements (Rathi, 2006; Sharholy et al., 2005; Ray et al., 2005; Jha et al., 2003; Kansal, 2002; UDSI, 1999; Kansal et al., 1998; Singh et al., 1998; Gupta et al., 1998; Tchobanoglous et al., 1993).

II. CHARACTERIZATION OF WASTES

Solid waste are characterize on the basis of following parameters [1]

- Their sources
- By the types of wastes produced
- By generation rates and composition.

Accurate information in these areas is necessary in order to monitor and control existing waste management systems and to make regulatory, financial and institutional decisions.

III. TYPE OF SOLID WASTE

Depending on their source the solid waste may of different type such as[2,3]
Residential waste

- Industrial
- Institutional
- Construction and demolition
- Municipal services

IV. CHARACTERISTICS OF SOLID WASTES

- Corrosive: these are wastes that include acids or bases that are capable of corroding metal containers, e.g. tanks[3]
- Ignitability: this is waste that can create fires under certain condition, e.g. waste oils and solvents
- Reactive: these are unstable in nature, they cause explosions, toxic fumes when heated.
- Toxicity: waste which are harmful or fatal when ingested or absorb.

V. SOLID WASTE TREATMENT

Current treatment strategies are directed towards reducing the amount of solid waste that needs to be landfilled, as well as recovering and utilizing the materials present in the discarded wastes as a resource to the largest possible extent. Different methods are used for treatment of solid waste and the choice of proper method depends upon refuse characteristics, land area available and disposal cost they are as follows [3,4].

- Incineration

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eaten by people, with particularly negative effects on children. Aware of the risk of damage to human health and the environment caused by hazardous wastes, the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision III/1 at its third meeting to amend the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal in this Convention or any protocol thereto in accordance with the relevant international law of the sea. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on 22 March by the Conference.

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