

City: Hyderabad

Area: Kondapur

How have you conducted research: Internet research and questioning locals

Findings from research:

- Hyderabad produces 751,000 tonnes of trash
- Only 20% of which is recycled
- Remaining thrown into landfills
- Lack of infrastructure
- Only 10% of wet waste can be separated
- Due to wet waste being mixed at home
- nearly 20% of methane gas emissions in India is caused by landfills
- The trash dumped in landfills is prone to catching fire due to the heat generated by the decomposition of waste
- severe effect on not only human life but also marine life

Observations:

- Lack of awareness on how to throw waste away in an efficient and the most environmentally friendly way

Waste separation methods:

- Kerbside collection
 - The system in many other countries such as Australia, Austria, Canada, United Kingdom, etc. A service of collecting and disposing of recyclables and household waste from containers that are acceptable to, or prescribed by, the municipality and are placed on the kerb (the edge where a raised sidewalk meets a roadway). These containers are picked up using specially built vehicles
 - Kerbside collection of recyclable resources is aimed to recover purer waste streams with higher market value than by other collection methods, and to decrease costs of recycling as the families disposing of their materials start the recycling process
 - But if the household residents incorrectly separate the recyclable materials, or put the wrong items in the recycling bin, the whole vehicle load of recycling will have to be rejected and sent to landfill or incineration if it is deemed to be contaminated
 - Kerbside collection and household recycling schemes are also being used as tools by many local authorities to increase the public's awareness of their waste production
- Mechanical biological treatment (MBT)
- A mechanical biological treatment system is a type of waste processing facility that combines a sorting facility with a form of biological treatment such as composting or anaerobic digestion. MBT plants are designed to process mixed household waste as well as commercial and industrial wastes

Challenges faced by people in your localities on an everyday basis because of Waste?

Systems to collect and dispose of waste in a safe manner. Waste is full of germs and the majority of people under the poverty line can't dispose of waste properly and the landfills where this waste is disposed often have people living very close to them.

The majority of people over the poverty line do not have to live near landfills but waste collection is still a major problem as some areas have very poor waste collection systems.

Why does the waste collect in these places and what happens because of it?

wastes collect in these places due to improper waste management and lack of infrastructure to process, recycle and safely dispose the waste. From what I've seen and read, observing when the waste is collected, where and what they do with it. First of all the waste is usually dumped from vehicles carrying truck loads of garbage and is dumped. Sadly this isn't just a landfill but also a slum with multiple families and growing children. Waste is usually in garbage bags and is either left there or usually burnt. I noticed they burn their waste at mid day, a little past 3 o'clock. This is very bad for both the environment and the people living there who inhale these harmful fumes. It's hard to blame these poor individuals who either don't know what greenhouse gases are or don't have a choice, as they either burn their trash or it takes up their living space.

What can you as citizens of this country do to ensure that the people in your locality are made aware of this problem?

The majority of people are aware of the problem but the issue is old habits and most people don't want to change habits unless forced to. A method many apartments use is household segregation and so by forcing households to segregate their waste it can help recycling.