

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

“Achieving sustainable industrial development in Bangladesh with a focus on waste management”

Forum: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Issue: Achieving sustainable industrial development in Bangladesh with a focus on waste management
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Context & Historical Background

Waste management in Bangladesh has been a serious problem, especially in the capital Dhaka. This includes both industrial waste as well as municipal solid waste. There is no or very little effective waste collection system in place, causing serious damage to the environment and the health of the population. This hinders Bangladesh in achieving many of the sustainable development goals.

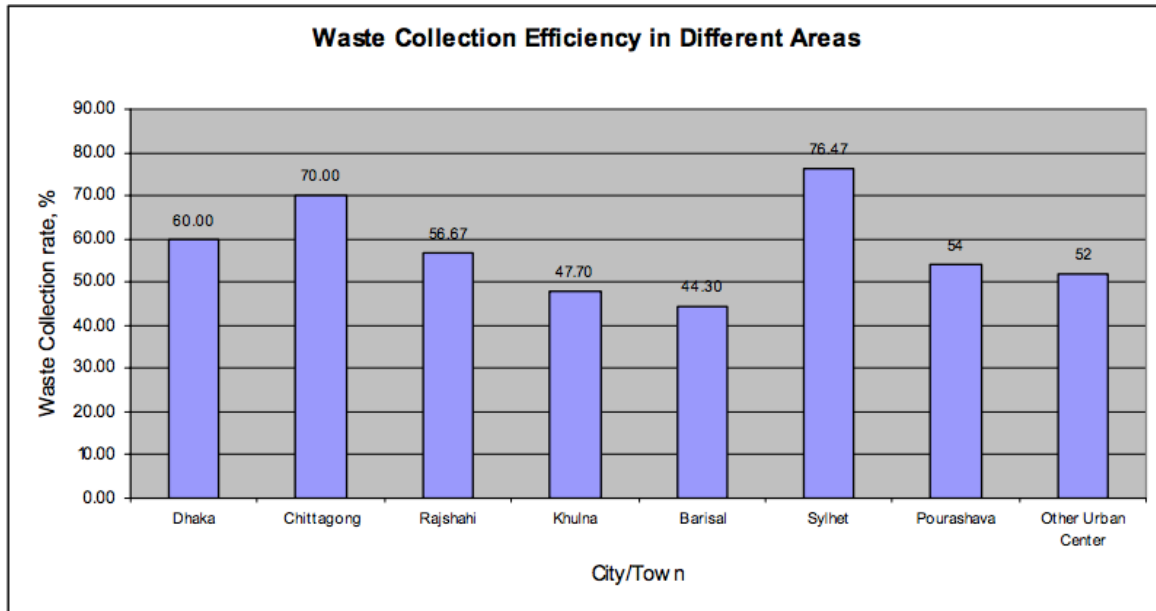
The issue of waste management has always been a problem in Bangladesh, without any waste collection system in place, but with high population growth the waste generated is increasing. In addition to this, the development of the textile and apparel industry has worsened pollution due to the hazardous chemicals involved in the process that are released into the rivers.

Over time, the government as well as NGOs have involved themselves in the issue, notably Waste Concern and Water PaCT: Partnership for Cleaner Textile, in order to attempt resolving the issue. However, not all of their actions have been successes. For example for municipal solid waste, there was an attempt in placing small garbage bins next to roads in an attempt to keep roadways clear in 2016, involving the implementation of 12,000 bins with almost 100 USD spent on a bin in average. This ended in the bins being stolen as well as residents not using it effectively due to their conscience and habit of just leaving the trash.

Currently, the practices of Waste Concern is spreading slowly, and waste management in the bigger cities are improving. However, Bangladesh's EPI (Environmental Performance Index) is at 25.61/100, ranking 169th out of 178 countries, showing how their environmental situation is in need of immediate action. Waste management is critical in dealing with pollution and moving towards more sustainable development especially in the textile sector, said to be accountable for 60% of the pollution in rivers near Dhaka. However, due to the fact that the apparel industry composes 80% of Bangladesh's exports and 5% of the GDP, it is necessary to proceed with precaution and consider the repercussions the different approaches can have on the economy.

As Bangladesh is one of the main exporters of textile, it is important that this industry becomes sustainable so that other nations can continue benefitting from it. In addition to this, because Bangladesh's rivers flow out to the Bay of Bengal which eventually leads to the Indian ocean, water pollution due to textile could seriously harm the environment around the countries surround it, causing damage to not only the environment but also to marine life and even human health. Therefore, the matter of preserving the climate and ensuring the health of the residents will become important.

The goal of the resolution is to effectively combat the problem of waste management in Bangladesh both in the industrial and municipal area in order to be able to achieve sustainable industrial development in the country.



Average collection efficiency in Bangladesh is 56%

United Nations Involvement

Although the UN has not tackled the issue directly, it has taken actions to solve similar problems.

The United Nations Environment Program has created the Global Partnership on Waste Management. It is an open-ended partnership for international organizations, Governments, businesses, academia, local authorities and NGOs that would promote resource conservation and efficiency. It focuses on many different areas of waste management such as: waste and climate change, waste agricultural biomass, integrated solid management, e-waste management, marine litter, waste minimization, hazardous waste management and metal recycling. This group hopes to improve waste management, especially in the developing countries.

Perspectives

Bangladesh

Being the country in question, Bangladesh would like for even more cooperation with both local and foreign organizations in order to effectively solve the problem of waste management in the country. However, it is important to note that it would not want its economy to get affected.

India

Although there have been border disputes, India is relatively friendly towards Bangladesh. As a country bordering Bangladesh and sharing rivers and the Bay of Bengal, water pollution in Bangladesh would have a great impact on India. In addition to this, India is faced with similar waste management problems. Therefore, it is in India's interest to aid Bangladesh and try to find a solution to this issue.

USA

The US is one of Bangladesh's largest export market and source of foreign direct investment. Therefore, if Bangladesh's textile industry gets limited by environmental concerns, it could be a source of concern. As one of Bangladesh's allies, the US would help them achieve sustainable industrial development.

European Union

The EU is one of Bangladesh's largest export market and would be affected if there is a limitation in the textile industry in Bangladesh. Moreover, the Scandinavian countries have been particularly helpful on the matter, providing assistance to Bangladesh not only financially but technologically as well. Therefore, European countries may want to continue providing assistance and encourage other countries to do so as well.

Questions to Consider

- To what extent can restrictions be placed in industries without harming Bangladesh's economy?
- What other approaches can be taken to ensure the sustainable development of Bangladesh?
- How can be current projects taking place be sustained?
- What are other countries doing to combat similar problems?
- How can you raise awareness of such issues?

Key Terms & Phrases

- **inclusive and sustainable industrial development:** Every country achieves a higher level of industrialization in their economies, and benefits from the globalization of markets for industrial goods and services. No one is left behind in benefiting from industrial growth, and prosperity is shared among women • Broader economic and social growth is supported within an environmentally sustainable framework. The unique knowledge and resources of

all relevant development actors are combined to maximize the development impact of ISID

- **waste management:** the process of treating solid wastes and offers variety of solutions for recycling items that don't belong to trash.
- **municipal solid waste:** everyday items used and then thrown away, such as product packaging, grass clippings, furniture, clothing, bottles, food scraps, newspapers, appliances, paint, and batteries, coming from houses, schools, hospitals, and businesses.
- **industrial waste:** waste materials left over from a manufacturing process in industrial buildings such as factories and mines, including
- **Water PaCT: Partnership for Cleaner Textile:** the IFC worked in partnership with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and other international partners in order to promote more eco-friendly textile production.

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