

A Study Of Waste Disposal Practices of Homemakers in District Uddham Singh Nagar, Uttrakhand

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Abstract

Waste disposal is a major and burning problem of today not for any single country but for the entire world. The municipal authorities alone cannot tackle this problem by themselves. There are many things the public could do to reduce the quantity of waste generated on an individual basis. Women are the key informant of any household. Therefore, the need was felt to assess the solid waste disposal practices of homemakers.

The random-cum –purposive sampling technique was used to select the total sample of 120 homemakers from Kashipur and Jaspur of district Uddham singh nagar of Uttrakhand. Data was collected with the help of schedule through personal interview method.

It was found that the majority of the homemakers followed good practices of solid waste disposal like disposal practices regarding waste food items paper and newspapers, polythene bags, glass bottles, containers, garbage and so many other things. Few of them sometimes threw leftover food, garbage, disposable glass bottles and other things on the road or neighboring areas. Very little number of them followed poor practices of solid waste disposal.

Keywords: *Solid Waste, Waste Management Practices*

Introduction

Rising incomes, rapidly growing but unplanned urbanization, and changing lifestyles have resulted in increased volumes and changing composition (increasing use of paper, plastic and other inorganic materials) of municipal solid waste in India. The volume of waste is projected to increase from 64-72 million tones at present to 125 million tones by 2031. Untreated waste (a mixture of biodegradable or wet waste and non-biodegradable waste) from Indian cities lies for months and years at dumpsites where land was originally allocated for developing landfills for safe disposal of only the residual waste.

Solid Waste Management Rules (2016) provide a reasonable framework to address multiple challenges of municipal solid waste management in India. They are a significant improvement over the Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules (2000), which was the first time such rules were ever notified for Indian cities. Strategic direction and funding by the Government of India through national missions such as JNNURM, AMRUT, Smart Cities and Swachh Bharat Mission have also created an environment in which there is more but by no means adequate focus on the problem.

It is extremely important to translate the vision from rules and convert this mission into an operational integrated strategy of solid waste management.

Waste has been a part of human activity from the times immemorial (Khoshoo, 1986). Everything around us is changing faster than what we anticipate. The world is changing and India is only a part of this changing world. What is not changing is the human soul and our own social thoughts.

When population was small, needs were few, resources were abundant, the generation of waste was such that got naturally recycled being mostly bio degradable. Society has been now transformed to a “throw away culture”. Due to numerous disposable products available in the market that are convenient to handle and to replace than to repair. This is a great contribution to the increase in solid waste generation. Few people do not consider that they are the polluters when they do such things which pollute the environment and if they realize that they are creating some form of solid litter, they always say to themselves that their bits of waste will not make much difference. It is very convenient on the part of the polluter, as it never seems to them that they are doing great harm in just the little action. There may be heavy expenses involved in trying to clean up the waste which the polluter does not realize. Much of the solid waste ends up in open dumps. Implications for public health and other problems have been linked to mismanagement of solid wastes. Rats, flies and other disease vectors breed in open dumps and in residential areas or other places where food in the form of waste is easily available.

Open residues resulting from mismanagement of solid wastes are not readily eliminated or degraded and some are hazardous to human health, others adversely affect desirable plants and animals. The ever growing thousands of open dumps spoil the landscape. There is litter along roads, sidewalks and beaches that besides working ugly are a threat to health. Most of the resources that may soon be in short supply are present in disposed solid waste.

Thus rising waste is an alarming situation, that calls for an immediate attention and action.

1. To reduce the waste generation so that the ill effects and problems related to solid waste disposal can be minimized.
2. To dispose waste in such a way that it facilitates recovery of resources by the way of recycling

Methodology

The main purpose of the present investigation was to study homemaker's solid waste disposal practices. So descriptive research design was considered the most appropriate for interview schedule was used for data collection. The purposive- cum- random sampling design was used to select the total sampling of 120 homemakers from Kashipur and Jaspur from district Uddham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand.

Result and Discussion

Practices Regarding Household Solid Waste Disposal

This section deals with the findings various practices followed by the homemakers regarding disposal of solid waste from the household. These practices show how the homemakers discard their solid waste and to what extent they follow good, fair or poor practices. The practices were categorized under six groups.

- 1) Practices regarding cleanliness of dustbin and place of garbage disposal
 - 2) Practices regarding disposal of large and intact waste items
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- 3) Practices regarding disposal of paper
- 4) Practices regarding disposal of waste food item
- 5) Practices regarding disposal of waste glass article
- 6) Practices regarding disposal of miscellaneous item

The summated rating scale was developed to elicit the information practices regarding cleanliness of dustbin and place of garbage disposal:

This section of the scale included the practices of home makers regarding cleanliness of dustbin, and place of disposing household solid.

Distribution of home makers according to extent of following good practices:

An attempt was made to assess the practices in terms of good, fair and poor. For this three categories were made based on the equal class intervals of the possible score on the sub scale of dustbin and garbage. The respondents who scored poor on the scale were considered as follower of poor practices, who scored moderate scores, were considered as follower of fair practices. Similarly, those who scored high were considered as follower of good practices.

	Extent of Following Good Practices	Range of Scores	Respondents				Total N= 60	
			Kashipur		Jaspur			
			f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Poor	11-18	-	-	1	1.66	1	00.83
2.	Fair	19-25	30	50	33	55.00	63	52.50
3.	Good	26-33	30	50	27	45.00	57	47.50
	Total		60	100	60	100.00	120	100
	Mean		27.3		25.4		26.3	

Table 1. Frequency and percentage distribution of home makers according to extent of following good practices related to dustbin and garbage disposal

Table 1 revealed that from the Kashipur 50% of the homemakers were high scorers and 50% of them were moderate scorers which mean that they followed good practice and fair practices equally.

Majority of the homemakers from Jaspur were in the high score category which means that they followed fair practices and some were lying in the moderate score category which reveals that they followed good practices regarding cleanliness of dustbin and place of garbage disposal.

The mean score of the total sample was found to be 26.9 whereas, the mean score of Kashipur was 27.3 and the mean score of Jaspur was comparatively less.

Practices regarding disposal of large and/or intact waste items of glass, paper, wood, clothes, leather, metal:

Distribution of homemakers according to extent of following good practices:

A wide majority of the homemakers from Kashipur and 75.0 per cent of the homemakers from Jaspur scored high. The remaining followed fair practices (Table 2).

	Extent of Following Good Practices	Range of Scores	Respondents				Total	
			Kashipur		Jaspur		f	%
			f	%	f	%		
1.	Poor	15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Fair	26-35	12	20	15	25.00	27	22.50
3.	Good	36-45	48	80	45	75.00	93	77.50
	Total		60	100	60	100.00	120	100
	Mean		38.5		35.3		36.9	

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of homemakers according of extent of following good practices related to disposal of infacted waste items

None from the Kashipur and Jaspur scored low. About 25.0 percent homemakers from Jaspur scored moderate which indicated that they followed fair practices. On the whole more than half of the respondents followed good practices.

Practices Related to Disposal of Paper:

This scale contained statements which expressed the practices of homemakers related to disposal of paper.

Distribution of Homemakers According to the Extent of Following Good Practices:

On the whole more than half of the homemakers followed good practices related to disposal of paper.

From the table 3it is clear that majority of the homemakers from Kashipur 78.33 per cent scored high, thus they followed good practices. About 41.66 per cent of the homemakers scored moderate and thus followed fair practices and approximately 58.3 per cent of them followed good practices.

The mean score of the total sample was 14.7 whereas, the mean score of Kashipur and Jaspur were 15.2 and 14.3, respectively.

	Extent of Following Good Practices	Range of Scores	Respondents				Total	
			Kashipur		Jaspur		f	%
			f	%	f	%		
1.	Poor	5-8	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Fair	9-12	13	21.66	25	41.66	27	31.66
3.	Good	12-15	47	78.33	35	58.30	93	68.33
	Total		60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00
	Mean		15.2		14.3		14.7	

Table 3. Frequency and percentage distribution of the homemakers according to extent of following good practices related to disposal of paper

Practices Related to Disposal of Waste Food Item:

This subscale contained statements showing practices regarding disposal of waste food item.

Distribution of Homemakers According to Following Good Practices on Subscale:

On the whole the practices related to disposal of waste food items a majority i.e. 85.00 per cent followed good practices as they scored high. Majority of the homemakers from Kashipur percent scored high and thus they followed good practices and the remaining i.e. Jaspur scored moderate and thus followed fair practices. None of the respondents had poor practice regarding disposal of waste food items (Table 4).

	Extent of Following Good Practices	Range of Scores	Respondents				Total	
			Kashipur		Jaspur		f	%
			f	%	f	%		
1.	Poor	5-8	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Fair	9-12	13	21.66	25	41.66	27	31.66
3.	Good	12-15	47	78.33	35	58.30	93	68.33
	Total		60	100.00	60	100.00	120	100.00
	Mean		15.2		14.3		14.7	

Table 3. Frequency and percentage distribution of the homemakers according to extent of following good practices related to disposal of paper

Practices Related to Disposal of Waste Food Item:

This subscale contained statements showing practices regarding disposal of waste food item.

Distribution of Homemakers According to Following Good Practices on Subscale:

On the whole for the practices related to disposal of waste food item majority i.e. 85.00 per cent followed good practices as they scored high. Majority of the homemakers from Kashipur percent scored high and thus they followed good practices and the remaining i.e. Jaspur scored moderate and thus followed fair practices. None of the respondents had poor practice regarding disposal of waste food items (Table 4).

	Extent of Following Good Practices	Range of Scores	Respondents				Total N= 60	
			Kashipur		Jaspur		f	%
			f	%	f	%		
1.	Poor	7-11	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Fair	12-16	9	15	39	65.00	48	40
3.	Good	17-21	51	85	21	35.00	72	60
	Total		60	100	60	100.00	120	100
	Mean		16.5		15.9		16.2	

Table 4: Frequency and percentage distribution of the homemakers according to extent of following good practices related to disposal of waste food item

The mean score of the total sample was found to be 16.2 whereas, the mean scores of Kashipur was higher as compared to Jaspur.

Practices Related to disposal of Waste Glass Article:

The subscale containing statements showing practices regarding disposal of waste glass article is discussed here.

Distribution of Homemakers According to Extent of Following Good Practices on Subscale:

On the whole more than two third of all the homemakers followed good practices regarding disposal of the waste glass articles (Table 5). Majority of the homemakers from Kashipur scored high and thus they followed good practices related to waste glass article disposal. A wide majority of homemakers from Jaspur scored high and followed good practices and the remaining scored moderate and thus followed fair practices.

	Extent of Following Good Practices	Range of Scores	Respondents				Total N= 60	
			Kashipur		Jaspur		f	%
			f	%	f	%		
1.	Poor	5-8	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Fair	9-12	9	15	21	23.33	23	19.16
3.	Good	13-15	51	85	46	76.66	97	80.33
	Total		60	100	60	100.0	120	100
	Mean		15.2		14.9		15.05	

Table 5: Frequency and percentage distribution of the homemakers according to extent of following good practices related to disposal of waste glass articles

The mean score of the total sample was found to be 15.05 whereas, the mean score 15.05 whereas, the mean score of Kashipur and Jaspur were 15.2 and 14.9, respectively.

Practices Related to Disposal of Miscellaneous Waste Items:

The statements showing practices regarding disposal of miscellaneous waste items were included in the last subscale.

Distribution of Homemakers According to Extent of Following Good Practices:

On the whole a wide majority of homemakers followed good practices regarding disposal of miscellaneous waste item. Remaining of them followed fair practices very few number followed poor practices (Table 6).

	Extent of Following Good Practices	Range of Scores	Respondents				Total N= 60	
			Kashipur		Jaspur		f	%
			f	%	f	%		
1.	Poor	11-18	-	-	2	3.33	2	1.66
2.	Fair	19-25	11	18.33	12	20.0	23	19.16
3.	Good	26-33	49	81.66	46	76.66	95	79.16
	Total		60	100	60	100.00	120	100
	Mean		25.6		23.2		24.4	

Table 6: Frequency and percentage distribution of the homemakers according to extent of following good practices related to disposal of miscellaneous waste items

Probing further it was found that all the homemakers from Kashipur scored high, thus they followed good practices. Some respondents 20.0 per cent from Jaspur followed fair practices as they scored moderately in their practices.

Conclusion

In conclusion, it was observed that homemakers play the most important role in solid waste disposal practices, as they are responsible for the activities like disposal of garbage, disposal of perishable waste, solid waste. Majority of the homemakers were followed fair to good practices of solid waste disposal and very few homemakers followed poor practices.

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