

A Heap of Waste: Bandhwari Landfill

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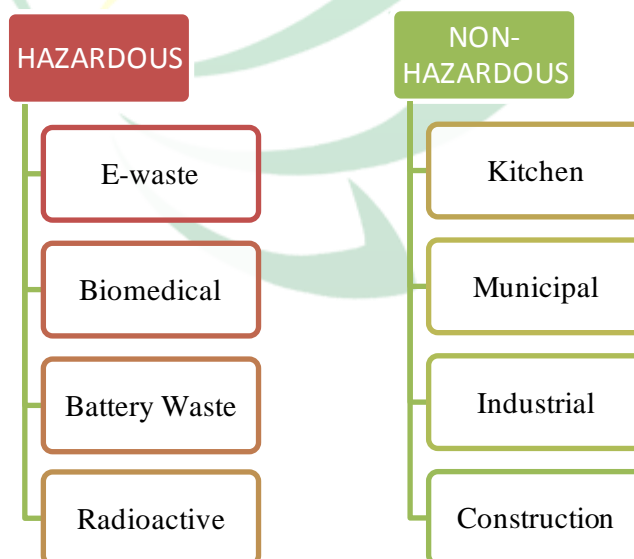
Introduction:

Solid waste management is global concern nowadays. The problem of solid waste is increasing over a period of time. With increase in urbanization and industrialization, the quantity of waste generated increases. It creates problem for Municipal Corporation to handle waste. The waste is dumped into open landfills. There is Bandhwari landfill near Pali village, where waste from Gurugram and Faridabad is dumped. This article focusses on problems and solutions associated with Bandhwari landfill.

What is Solid Waste?

Solid waste is defined as any material or object that is not in use and can't be used further. Solid waste includes waste scraps, used papers, vegetable waste, tins, discarded materials and many more. The quantity of waste generated depends upon type of family, social and economic background etc.

Solid waste can be categorized as **hazardous** and **non-hazardous**.



Bandhwari Landfill

Bandhwari is a village in Gurugram tehsil, Gurugram district of Haryana state. In 2009, a landfill site is identified at Bandhwari for disposal of waste. Every day, a load of unsegregated waste is dumped at landfill that comes in daily from the two most populous cities of Haryana that is Gurugram and Faridabad.

It is estimated to have about 35 lakh tones of untreated, mixed waste that has accumulated over 12 years. It is affecting wildlife, soil, water and humans all around it.



Fig.2 Bandhwari Landfill (Source- Google)

How a mountain of waste came at Bandhwari:

- **2009-** A landfill site is identified at Bandhwari for disposal of waste.
- **2013-** A massive fire had broken out at landfill.
- **2014-** MCG terminates the contract of that firm that process waste at site because of 'non-performance'.
- **2017-** MCG appoints eco-green for management of waste at site and handover the work to firm.
- **Nov 2020-** MCG canceled the contract of eco-green because of failure to set up Waste to Energy plant.
- **Dec 2020-** The resolution is rejected by the govt. due to pandemic.
- **March 2021-** NGT gives final warning to the MCG for clearing waste to ensure 'meaningful action on ground level'

Problems associated with Landfill:

- Underground water and water sources around the landfill have been contaminated due to the toxic leachates releasing from the landfill.
- It threatens nearby biodiversity as it is situated in an ecologically sensitive Aravali forest region.
- It also affects health of people living in nearby village.
- It creates foul odour and home to various disease causing organisms.



Recommendations:

- Promote and create awareness among people about sustainable waste management practices.
- Adopt 5 R's methodology i.e., Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse and Restore.
- Avoid bulk packing materials, plastic bags, and other trash.
- Set RDF and composting units wherever necessary.

Conclusion:

Landfill is home to various problems. We need to avoid set up landfill by adopting sustainable practices like reduce, reuse and recycle. Try to avoid generating waste as much as you can. The govt. needs to follow solid waste management rules, 2016 in proper way to treat waste and to resolve problems of improper waste management. Everyone should play their role in tackle this problem and help making city waste free.

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