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Topic: Municipal Solid Waste Management: Policies, Practices and Enforcement Initiatives:

A Comparative Study of Ghaziabad and Ahmadabad City

Keywords: Waste, Governance, Stakeholders, Policy

Findings

1. The hypothesis has been found positive on the grounds that firstly, number of initiatives taken by Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in governance aspects are more than Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN). Secondly, AMC has qualitatively performed and scored better in all the governance indicators of Wasteaware Benchmark Indicators (WABI).
2. Proper emphasis on policy formulation, institutional capacity building and inclusion of all the relevant stakeholders like citizens, NGOs, informal rag pickers, PPP increases the efficiency in policy implementation as well as the sustainability of waste management practices.
3. AMC had a more well formulated action plan made with consultation from all stakeholders while GNN lacked it. AMC has carried out many initiatives like 'Kalash', 'Eco-club', Joint Enforcement team, Swachhta Jan Model etc. It also has a well-designed IEC campaigns and city sanitation task force to promote awareness about waste segregation. It has also successfully involved the NGOs, Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and informal rag pickers in providing waste services to the marginalized areas. In terms of institutional coherence also more organization was observed in AMC.

4. Waste management is given low priority. As a result, open dumping is highly prevalent. Around 60 percent of waste is openly dumped in India. Apart from this, adequate data related to waste generation, composition and waste density is not available. Lack of waste awareness, change in attitudes and incentives on part of citizens makes it very difficult to treat waste as segregation is not practiced by them.

5. Stakeholders like households, NGOs, PPPs and Informal sector play a significant role in policy implementation and waste management sustainability. Segregation of waste by households help in further stages of processing and encourages practices like home composting and waste recycling. NGOs and Community Based Organisations play an important role in organising informal rag pickers. PPPs provide a viable alternative to waste management due to more skilled manpower and less expenses. They also reduce the cost of waste management and extend waste services to marginalised areas. Informal sector also plays a significant role in waste recovery. It generates 20 times more revenue than formal sector.

6. The generation of waste and its characteristics differs from one place to another with changes in climate, geographical conditions, culture etc. In developing nations, the waste is wet, dense and has low calorific value while in developed ones it is dry and has high calorific value. More economically advanced nations use scientific landfills, recycling or incineration while less economically advanced nations dispose their waste majorly through open dumping. A lack of action plan not keeping these differences in consideration proves to be a failure.

7. Due to financial constraints and low literacy levels in India, good governance factors like involvement of NGOs, informal sector etc can be strategically employed to provide alternatives that can be easily adopted as per the local conditions and are cost effective. It also shows that due consideration to soft aspects of ISWM leads to more equity of service delivery to all the areas including slums.