

## Chapter 4

# Affiliating Green Futures: Deconstructing Livelihood Possibilities in Hospitality Education Through Food Waste and Waste–Entrepreneurship

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This century is currently and will continue to be focused on humanity's efforts in combating the climate crisis in all its manifestations. As different industries evolve and expand to include climate science and climate consciousness in their business practices, the hospitality industry in all its multifaceted persona is also embracing sustainability and climate consciousness across board. This chapter discusses the process, methodology, and findings of a research project that was conducted at a private hospitality education university in India. The research agenda was to study and explore possible livelihood pathways for collaboration that can manifest while sustainably managing food waste at hospitality education colleges. The value of this study lies in further building processes for reducing the waste and carbon footprint of hospitality institutions. The proliferation of hospitality education institutions and the growth of the tourism sector bring the problem further in focus. Waste entrepreneurship collaborations are also discussed.*

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## **1. INTRODUCTION: SUSTAINABILITY, WASTE AND THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY**

The hospitality sector is a multifaceted sector that includes and is not limited to food production, dining, tourism, hotel and education sub sectors. In entirety, the multibillion sector touches the lives and livelihoods of almost all humanity where people participate in this industry either as producers (of food, items, services), suppliers (as institutions, shops, e-sellers) or consumers (diners, tourists, hospitality students etc.) (Jones et.al; 2016; Chen et al.; 2010). The hospitality and food services (HaFS) sector across the globe has embraced multiple novel methods to combat food and the hospitality related industrial waste across the globe (Achmad and Yulianah, 2022; Bux and Amicarelli, 2022). The content and quality of waste produced within the hospitality industry can be categorized into (1) **hard waste** (which can be further categorized as reusable and non-reusable and consists of furniture and items used within physical structures such as hotels, tourist sites, exhibitions designs and installations and temporary gatherings); (2) **soft waste** (this consists of organic waste produced during food preparations and can be recycled largely based on chemical composition of additives and ingredients used; bedding and furnishing may also be put in this category based on materials used. The soft waste produced within the hospitality industry can be further categorized based on the sub-industry e.g., the soft waste from food production units within restaurants is largely composed of uneaten food, oils, paper and packaging waste. Within the larger hospitality industry- soft waste also comprises reusable cotton beddings, edible food components produced during food manufacturing, materials used during pop-up and exhibition art, installation decorations etc. As a noteworthy future research pathway, a distinction between plastic and organic soft waste needs to be highlighted as plastic disposal comes under chemical waste. However, our research shows that plastic is often disposed of with soft organic waste, thus rendering soft waste non-recyclable at many instances), (3) **chemical waste** (this consists of multiple chemical based items used within the hospitality sector for food management, storage, pest management, cleanings etc., these items require specific management and disposal processes and can contain items harmful to human and environmental health); (4) **human waste** (this category contains human waste items that maybe recycled through particular processes) and (5) **miscellaneous** (items that may require very specific processes for management and disposal).

For the scope of the presented study, we have focused on analyzing and validating through a place-based case study approach, the (1) circular economy, (2) livelihood and (3) sustainable business potential embedded within the processes required for management of soft waste produced by the hospitality industry. Using a place-based and policy-specific case study approach, an effort has been made to understand the implicit and explicit possibilities contained within the process of management of waste, that can also effectively generate livelihoods in the green sector (the collaborative and complimentary to business process, that creates sustainability and circular economy possibilities within established and traditional business processes). The place based approach also allows us to further elaborate on the character of the research aims within the study through the lens of place based mandatory and non-mandatory waste disposal policy regimes. The utilized case study looks at how a private hospitality institution managed and disposed of its soft and organic waste resources during the period of 2019 to 2022.

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