

Chapter 12

Developing Integrated Waste Management Systems for Eco-Friendly Tourism in Rural Areas of Himachal Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

This chapter examines how integrated waste management systems are being developed in rural Himachal Pradesh with an emphasis on eco-friendly tourism. It deals with the growing problems associated with disposing of rubbish in well-liked but ecologically delicate tourist locations. The chapter offers a comprehensive strategy that incorporates waste reduction, segregation, recycling, and community involvement by evaluating current waste management techniques and finding shortcomings. Case studies from significant rural areas shed light on projects that have been effective and emphasize the role that stakeholders and local government

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play in promoting sustainable practices. The results highlight the need for a unified framework of policies and proactive community involvement in order to attain long-term sustainability. The implementation of integrated waste management systems, the chapter concludes, not only improves the overall tourism experience but also mitigates environmental impacts, positioning Himachal Pradesh as a model for sustainable rural tourism.

INTRODUCTION

To obtain sustainable waste management solutions, Integrated Waste Management (IWM) is a comprehensive method that combines several waste management practices. In 1996 the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) defined 'Integrated Waste Management' as '*a framework of reference for designing and implementing new waste management systems and for analysing and optimising existing systems*' (Seadon, 2006). It consists of techniques for disposing of garbage that have the least negative effects on the environment, such as waste reduction, segregation, recycling, and composting. IWM seeks to develop a comprehensive system that takes into account every phase of the waste lifecycle by integrating stakeholder and community involvement. The amount of waste generated by tourism is increasing, raising urgent questions concerning environmental sustainability and waste management. (Adhikari et al., 2024). Sustainable waste management is one of the biggest challenges facing the tourism sector globally. The term "waste management" describes the tasks and operations involved in managing waste. This includes the gathering, moving, handling, and getting rid of garbage (Wan et al., 2019). Waste creation is putting increasing pressure on popular tourist spots globally, calling for creative Waste management solutions Reducing single-use plastics, recycling, and raising public and visitor knowledge of environmental issues are all important components of effective waste management (Adhikari et al., 2024). Advanced garbage segregation and recycling techniques have also been implemented by nations like South Korea and Japan, setting standards for environmentally friendly waste management. Despite these initiatives, poor waste management infrastructure persists in many developing countries, endangering public health and the environment.

The seventh-largest nation on Earth, India has an area of around 3.28 million square kilometres, ranging from latitudes 8° 4' N to 37° 6' N and longitudes 68° 7' E to 97° 25' E (Gupta et al., 1998). With increased urbanization and tourism, India's waste management situation is changing. India's urban waste generation in 2025 is expected to be 0.7 kg/day per person, which is four to six times more than it was in 1999 (Kumar et al., 2017). Significant waste management difficulties face popular tourist attractions in both urban and rural areas. A historic effort to improve

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