

Chapter 17

Solid Waste Management in Rural Tourism Areas in the Himalayas: A Case Study of Nainital, Uttarakhand

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ABSTRACT

Solid waste management studies primarily focused on the urban and suburban areas in general. It is determining to proffer these studies to rural areas. Rural areas are

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undergoing transformations in terms of volume and types of waste produced. This shift can be attributed to the growth in population, consumption pattern changes and economic activities. Hence the research was performed in Nainital, Uttarakhand with a perceptible cultural congruence and is also considered to be the most tourist centric spot in the Kumaon region. The impetus of the research was to pervade the solid waste stream and gauge the subsisting waste management practices in Nainital. The study also found that recyclables at a rise, that urges the requirement for a panoramic management strategy that stretches out beyond the organic waste management which is a general practice in the rural areas of Nainital. A serious perturb was raised again the open burning of non-recyclables. The study recommends insertion of primary waste management research that has high tourism activities in the rural areas of Nainital.

1. INTRODUCTION

Solid waste is termed as any material that is reckoned as worthless by its producers to reuse or recycle (Saxena et al., 2021). This circumscribes a broad range of relinquished materials that includes household garbage, industrial by-products, institutional wastes and agricultural residues (Khan et al., 2022; Parameswari et al., 2021). The proportions of solid waste in progressing nations have dilated prodigiously over the past few decades (Babu et al., 2021). This magnification is propelled by the surge in financial activity and rapid urbanization (Emara, 2023), especially in major cities and towns. As a result, waste management has turned out to be a pivotal environmental and issue of public health in these regions (Iyamu et al., 2020; Kaur et., 2021), that makes the interposition of the waste management system acceptable for the environment (Zhang & Huang, 2021; Rijal & Lin, 2021; Wilson et al., 2013).

Solid waste management aspires to address the issues related to health and environment analogous to uncontrolled waste disposal. This inclusive approach dispenses solid waste throughout the entire system chain, i.e., generation, storage, collection, transport and disposal (Eiselt & Marianov, 2015; Ghiani et al., 2012; Maalouf & Mavropoulos, 2022). The efficacy of enacting a solid waste management approach banks on understanding the characteristics of waste (Dangi et al., 2011; Oteng-Ababio et al., 2013). These attributes provide essential insights into the anatomy and deportment of the waste stream that inform decisions on the collection, transportation, processing and final dumping of the waste. However, the characterization of waste materials is driven by multitude factors such as financial activities, societal structures and environmental conditions (Teshome et al., 2022; Vergara & Tchobanoglous, 2012; Zarrinpoor & Pishvae, 2021) that vary notably among the areas viz., rural and urban resulting the varied rung of impediments involved with

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