

## **Search for site to dump millions of Rupees**

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Problem of pollution is not a new one to urban areas of Nepal. Solid waste can be seen everywhere in Kathmandu thanks to the inefficient and unscientific collection system, strike of workers, and of course of unavailability of dumping site.

At all levels, humans produce solid waste, that's why solid waste has become a major threat to environment. The degree of its negative impact and composition is different in every country. Like in Nepal, it has a high organic content and all the organic and inorganic wastes are disposed in mixed form. In the rural areas, traditional methods of waste disposal are effective whereas in urban areas a huge amount of different categorized solid waste is produce due to rapid urbanization, population growth and industrialization. The problems associated with solid waste disposal have been experienced especially in urban areas as almost all the components of solid waste are dumped and are causing disposal problems. That's why, for the last few years solid waste pollution and dumping site problem is a major issue in the country.

Most people think solid waste is not useful for any purpose, that's why everything is dumped and a large area is needed as a dumping site which can be filled in a very short period. At present, dumping site at Gokarna is almost filled and search for a dumping site is becoming a national problem. Solid waste cannot be a problem if managed properly because solid waste is a good resource.

Considering the average waste generation rate in Kathmandu to be 0.45 kg per person per day, a population of 0.65 million, produces 292,500 kg of waste is per day. Of this, the composition is: organic materials 177,255 kg (60.6 percent), paper 17,550kg (6 percent), plastics 15,795 kg (5.4 percent), Metals 14,040kg (4.8 percent), glass 10,530kg (3.6 percent) and others 57,330kg (19.6 percent). Most of the waste materials can be collected and sold as scrap materials. With the selling price of paper, plastics, metals, and glass at the rate of Rs 4, 5, 6, and 15 per kg, respectively, the total amount stands at Rs 391,365 per day.

Again, about 50 percent of the organic materials can be decomposed and converted into compost which can be sold for Rs 531,765 at the rate of Rs 6 per kg. Therefore, the total amount that can be generated from the solid waste is Rs 923,130 per day. Even if 95 percent is used for the management cost, Rs 46,156.5 can be a gain per day just from the waste of Kathmandu city. Therefore, we are not dumping the solid waste but Rs 33,69,42,450 per year from Kathmandu and for dumping this amount, the government is investing more than 170 million rupees annually. The problem is there is no space at Gokarna and another huge amount is being used to search for it.

People are protesting and not willing to offer their localities for dumping site because the government does not use the area as landfill site. If it were used as sanitary landfill site, there wouldn't be any problem from public as there wouldn't amenity losses and health impacts due to disease vectors like rodents, mosquitoes and flies.

The problem is mainly due to the unscientific thought that waste is waste and has to be dumped as nothing is usable. Another reason may be due to the improper, collection, coordination between organizations and people, environment unfriendly waste handling process and lack of human resources like environmentalist in the policy making and management system. That's why if waste is managed scientifically, the resource that can be generated from the waste itself is enough to dispose it and there is no need of any help from external organizations.

Besides this, the total solid waste will be reduced by 50.1 percent, this doubles the life of the dumping site. Fifty percent reduction on dumping of solid waste means also 50 percent reduction on collection, transportation and dumping site management cost. Therefore, either private organizations or the government should take efficient steps for the proper management of solid waste. This will also generate resources for the management and help reduce the amount of waste, lengthen the life of dumping site and to keep the city clean and healthy. That's why I would like to recommend the concept of 3S, Separate collection, Sort and Sell for the proper management of solid waste in Nepal.

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