



Waste Management in Jaintia Hills.

ORGANISED BY: THOMAS JONES SYNOD COLLEGE

SMT. WA-I-SA SUMER

Assistant Lecturer Govt. Girls' Higher Secondary School Jowai & A Research Scholar, William Carey University Shillong.

ON

The Need For Effective Waste Management Policies.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Jaintia hills which owned the twin district i.e West Jaintia hills district and East Jaintia hills district constituted of a population of 2070352 and 122939 respectively. With the rise of population, dumping of Waste became a burning topic today; Jowai, the head quarter of West Jaintia hills District. The management of Waste has become a household name as heaps of garbage were found to be left on the road side and indiscriminately thrown almost everywhere especially in places hidden from the eye, leaving a stenching and stinking smell, in the past couple of weeks. This is due to the issues related with the improper waste disposal system prevailing in Jaintia hills.

The Million Dollar question is why?

Jowai, being the head quarter of West Jaintia hills District and of the erstwhile unified Jaintia hills. The district is run by the District Administration and the Deputy Commissioner is the head of the District. It falls under the Sixth schedule of the Indian constitution and is under the surveillance of Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council and Jowai town under the Jowai Municipal Board. The Board has been constituted to handle a very important function of collection and dumping of garbage in and around Jowai. To meet requirements an agreement was signed between JHADC and the Jowai Municipal Board, for dumping of garbage in a place called Myngkjai, which was a temporary dumping land in the past few years. However, the sudden stoppage of this exercise, and the various development followed after this, triggered an alarming trend for all the inhabitants of Jowai as this comes as a bolt from the

blue, and everyone are caught off guard; waste and garbage piled like mountains, stray dogs flooded the scene and with this, the foul of odour smell enveloped all spaces. Hence, Waste management should be a hot topic to thrash out today in Jowai.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In order to have a broader view of Waste Management and its issue in Jaintia Hills, the materials concerning the issues were taken into consideration.

1. Shri O.R Shallam, Panaliar Jowai, Open Letter to the Chief Minister Govt. Of Meghalaya- 5th January 2022. "Open complaint letter- Waste Management failure- Non-uniform implementation of MLA Scheme", the writer through this letter, made a complaint to the Chief minister on the repulsive and annoying issues and the traumatic experience faced by the residents of Jowai regarding Garbage and waste management problem, Drawing the attention of the District administration, and the local MLA regarding the vexing problem.

2. Shri O.R Shallam, Panaliar Jowai, "Open letter to the honourable Prime Minister of India" 25th April 2022 had expressed his deepest concern as an Indian Citizen regarding the pain, anguish and the step motherly treatment meted out to people of Jowai town. Facts of the matter had been categorically stated, regarding, the history of waste management in Jowai then and now that the issue of waste management is causing sleepless nights to the entire population in Jowai and the Garbage piling on the roads, streets, footpaths, market, seereting punpents and irritating odours and smells

3. Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change. Notification New Delhi the 8th



April 2016, “Solid Waste Management rules 2016” The notification as served by this department carries with it the directives and instructions to all the officers and staffs responsible for waste management right from the waste generators and other officers. It was also responsible for constituting a central monitoring committee to work out its plans and project. Special mention may be made regarding duties of the Deputy Commissioner that they should identify and allocate a suitable land as per rules for setting up waste management plan and disposal facilities to local authorities in the district in close co-ordination with the Urban Affairs Department of any State within one year from the date of notification of these rules.

4. Swati Singh, Sandhaya Farswant, Usha Mina, & A.L Ramanathan (2016-2017) in “Waste and Waste management in India” the study as conducted by a group of researchers, was mainly focused on the problem of waste management. solid waste management is the most serious issue of the present day scenario which poses a major challenges to cities, and urban agglomeration, this is due to the increase in population which also leads to the increase of thousand tons of municipal solid waste daily. This ultimately means a gateway to a thousand of problems as the attitude of the people is to follow a use and throw method to get rid of their waste.

The impact that emanates out of this indiscriminate dumping of wastes is pollution, and its impact on air, water, land and soil that causes health hazards and the damage it cause to the environment. While, Researchers have preached a steady growth of urban population due to the massive shifts from rural to urban by 2050, the fear lies in the lack of effective waste management policies.

Focusing mainly on the relevance sustainable development, the concerned was mainly on waste management.

It was suggested that to tackle the issue of waste management, convergence of all stakeholders, can help in finding available solution to the giant problems- i.e., policy makers, industries, households, etc.

The study, also recommends the application of remediation practises like awareness programme, green remediation and management practices to initiate sustainable development and longterm solution. Stringent enforcement of laws is the need of the town.

5. Dr. Ravesh Agarwal, Mona Chaudhary & Jayveer Singh (2015) in “Waste Management Initiatives in India for human well-being” reveals the concept of not just waste management in its

various aspects. It is an attempt to expunge ideas about recycling, waste disposal and waste management. Writers have explored and unearth the factors of population explosion and addressed all issues generated out of the repugnant attitude of the population towards Wastes i.e., E-waste, Biomedical Waste, nuclear wastes, agricultural, domestic waste, etc, conscious steps have been taken to classify wastes as wet waste or biodegradable and Dry waste or non-biodegradable and others as domestic hazardous waste & non-hazardous waste. This article had drawn the attention of the global population on the serious issue of disposal of waste which had become a vexing problem for any human habitation. Hence, the need to focus on proper management, through a simple systematic method rather than a pick and throw method – means pick from residential areas and throwing landfill sites. Being a global issue, the pertinent question is raised on India as a country ranking with the second highest population in the world as it needs to focus on policy document and legislation and their enforcement for the management of the different classification of Waste.

III. OBJECTIVE

- a. To generate awareness for the population about cleanliness and sanitation.
- b. To inculcate the people on the right habit of disposal of Waste.
- c. To educate and enlighten the people on the meaning, importance and benefit of segregation of waste.
- d. To suggest measures and steps to the authorities concern on the light of the Municipal waste Management Rules 2016.

IV. METHODOLOGY

A study, to arrive at any conclusion and to be able to verify and to prove the validity of the problem, requires steps, procedures, devices or methods. In this study, the Methodology adopted is Interview schedule.

Tools:-

a) For Primary data: An interview schedule which includes both the structured and unstructured interviews were utilised. Few individuals were interviewed which includes the senior citizens, CEO of Jowai Municipal Board, and the Ex General Secretary Panaliar Jowai.

b) For Secondary data: The following sources were used:

- i. Books
- ii. Internet Sources
- iii. Articles and write up.



V. DISCUSSION

Waste Management in Jaintia Hills

Sub topic: The need for Effective Waste Management Policies.

What are wastes?

Wastes are unusable materials discarded after use or which is worthless and of no use. It is a by-product of a relatively minor economic value. Examples :- household trash, hazardous wastes, faeces and urine, radio active wastes etc.

Currently in India waste management simply means a pick and throw exercise which indicates picking up of wastes from residential areas or even industrial wastes and dumping the same in land fill sites. Looking back say 40 years ago waste management was not at all a topic of concern especially for Jowai in particular and Jaintia hills in general back then life was simple and the size of the population was at its minimal. Influx of the rural population was very less. Marketing happened only twice a week i.e., on MUSIANG a big market day and on KHYLLAW a smaller one towards the end of the week to meet the urgent needs of the people. Almost everyone flocked to the market to do the shopping on a big market day, farmers and agricultural dealers came to the market for buying and selling of their products and the rush was huge. Cones and baskets made of bamboos, cloth bags were the materials used for shopping. Meats were packed in banana leaves or any other types of leaves known as SLA PACHOR or SLA LAMET. Fishes if bought were to be clean, peeled and cut into pieces on reaching home. People dug the landfills in the back yard of their homes and normally garbage was just burnt and automatically these got converted into manure and biodegradable materials.

From my practical experiences when I was a small girl of my locality Panaliar we had a dumping area known as OOR KHYRDEIN which was a gorge like nature down the side of the road and all the inhabitants of my locality and even from other places too sometimes dumped everything there it was like a colossus or a monster with its mouth wide open but the tummy always stay half filled. People's consciousness about pollution was zero. There was no tension no fear no future plans back then, life was peaceful in terms of wastes and garbage. Gradually the stink, the odour and the bad smell caught the attention of the residents of the locality especially those who dwelled next to the land fill. Serious steps were taken to stop the practice and since the year 2008 the Dorbar chnong have ordered for a complete ban of dumping of garbage in this area as it has led to air pollution in

the whole area and the surroundings too and also had an adverse impact on the river Myntdu.

The Jowai municipal Board which was there in the late 90s started functioning as a department that would collect wastes and garbage from the households most probably by the year 2010 till date.

THE JOWAI MUNICIPAL BOARD: The Jowai Municipal board as per directives from the department of Urban Affairs Department of the Government of Meghalaya has exercised its functions primarily to collect garbage and to dump the same in the landfills as directed. It may be noted that the JMB along with the office of the JHADC had in the past few years signed an agreement that the landfills for dumping of garbage should be in one Myngkjai village a non residential area for a period of 20 years. However, Jowai in the last two years had to face the wrath of garbage and waste management issues due to the protest and the hue and cry raised by the villagers of the Myngkjai village and the reason given was the hapless and inappropriate manner in which garbages were dumped in the landfills at Myngkjai. The demand was the relocation of sites other than theirs and to make the dumping scientific and not to cause pollution of any nature.

This development has throttled and choked the hearts and the minds of the JMB, the JHADC the District Administration, the NGOs, the market committees, the Tympang Club, the Seinraij Jowai and all the Village headmen in and around Jowai which is an eye opener for all.

Plans and policies of Jowai Municipal Board

1. To abide by the:

- (a) Solid waste Management Rules 2016
- (b) Solid Waste (Management and Standing) Rules 2016.

(c) Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules 2016

2. The Jowai Municipal Board today, has decided to go for the policy of 'segregation' – i.e., wet waste which is known as Bio degradable and dry waste which is known as Non-bio degradable.

3. To utilise the service of scrap dealer and cement plant for the following:-

- i. For the disposal of solid waste like glass bottles etc, the matter can be handled by scrap dealer.
- ii. Hard plastic can be transported to the cement factory as these can be converted into a resource in the manufacturing of cement because shredded waste plastic effectively can be used in concrete without compromising with strength.



4. To organise and conduct awareness programme on waste management . The target group should be the students community, the Dorbar Shnong, the commercial sector
5. Jowai Municipal Board, have also innovated with the idea of collection of waste today by using the strategy of collection of dry or wet waste on different days, to avoid mismanagement and helps the process of segregation go smoothly.
6. Suggestion were made to opt for recycling of wastes .
7. To follow the examples of the Umpling Dorbar Shnong waste management system ,to discipline the inhabitants and go for segregation , management and to initiate steps for conversion of wastes into wealth.
8. Enlighten the population about vermi composting and vertical composting.

VI. RESULTS AND FINDINGS

As per objectives and discussion the plans and the policies of the Jowai Municipal Board demands greater attention as all valid policies and rules have been categorically stated.

In this respect the reflection of the Sixth Schedule to the constitution appears. The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India contains provisions in relation to the administration of tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. Article 244(2) provides that the provisions of the Sixth Schedule shall apply to the administration of the tribal areas in these states.

The main purpose of the Sixth Schedule through the establishment of the District Council was primarily to protect the interest of the tribal population from being exploited or suppressed by the people of the plains. However attention may be drawn here that the District council has the power to make laws for allotment, occupation and use of land for agricultural and non agricultural purposes etc. It is also mentioned that the District council has the power to set up rules for health and sanitation purpose. It is also the District council who has the power to appoint the chiefs and their succession as well as the Headmen.

It may therefore be suggested that the District council as a body established to protect the interest of the tribal people should rise up to the occasion . Also the attention of the traditional chiefs of the various Elakas within Jaintia hills known as the Dollois which are 18 in numbers today may be drawn so that they too should come out with new strategy and plans to bring solutions to the vexing problem faced not just by the people of Jowai but the same may be faced by the rest of

the population within Jaintia hills. To this the Traditional chiefs should rise up and made a mark to combat this crisis. Most importantly it may be suggested that the convergence of the State government, the JHADC, the JMB and the District Administration should be a step forward in making policies more effective whereby the Dorbar Shnong of all localities , the commercial sector and all organisations should be made as stake holders.

To conclude let me put forward this point for all to ponder it's the policy of all for one and one for all. This is a serious problem that needs our immediate attention or else we may be like Delhiites or other metropolitan cities. Let us be a living example.

KEY WORDS: wastes, wet and dry wastes, bio degradable and non bio degradable wastes, municipal Board, JHADC, Sixth schedule.

GLOSSARIES :

1. Dolloi – the name assigned to a traditional chief in Jaintia Hills.
2. Elaka- this is a name given to a particular jurisdiction encompassing a cluster of villages. As per age old traditional and customary practises the administration of each Elaka should be under the administrative surveillance of a traditional chief known in local parlance as the Dolloi.
3. Khyllaw – it is the name of one of the days of the week which was used by the people of Jowai one of the oldest town in Meghalaya from a traditional perspective. This day was considered as a mini market day for the Jaintia people.
4. Musiang –it is the name of another days of the week which was used by the people of Jaintia hills living in Jowai. It refers to a big market day that functions only once in a week.
5. Myngkjai- this refers to the name of one of the villages within West Jaintia hills where garbages used to be dump in the past.
6. Oor khyrdein – this is a reference to the name of a land fill . a deep gorge like dumping area situated on one side of the road used for dumping of all kinds of waste. It is located in one locality called Panaliar within Jowai town.
7. sla lamet- green leaves with huge sizes grown locally within Meghalaya.
8. Sla Pachor – it is a reference to a banana leaf.

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