

IV.A.1. Municipality Solid Waste Management and Economics of Recycling : A Case of Kathmandu Metropolitan City

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The paper has attempted to discuss about the cost of collection, transportation and disposal of the waste. It has also discuss economics of recycling and will try to compare the cost of present waste management system and cost of recycling. While calculating the cost of waste management attempt has made to calculate the social cost through the contingent valuation method. Lastly attempt has also be made to discuss about the effective recycling of the waste in Kathmandu.

In Kathmandu per capita generation of waste is 0.565 kg. per head per day. In the total waste 78 percent is bio degradable waste. Waste generation in health institution is approx. 5.71 kg per patient per day. And out of which nearly 30 percent is hazardous. These waste are also mixed withmunicipla refuse. Presently Kathmandu Metropolitan city is using the Gokama sanitary land which is located in east of Kathmandu. It is 15 km far from the city and occupies 9 hectare area. This site, being near by the city and within the area of habitation of the people, is being opposed by the villagers frequently. In Kathmandu there is not any system of recycling and compost making all the waste is dumped in landfill sanitation.

Recycling of waste is the best alternative solution of reducing waste production. By reducing the waste we can reduce the demand for landfill and the problems associated with landfill sites, save exhaustible resource, such as metals, and thereby increase the life of existing know stocks and avoid the environmental damage associated with the extraction and processing of primary materials. Even if recycling is the best solution the recycling of waste depends upon economics. All the economic waste are not recyclable. There is some technical limit. In general only 50-60 percent of the total domestic waste is recyclable. For recycling segregation of waste is necessary. The economic limits on recycling are dominated by two basic factors i.e. collection cost of the material for recycling and the markets even it the recycled materials. If collection costs are higher than cost conditions may limit the market even it the recycled materials are of compatible quality to primary materials. Collection for recycling requires capital investment in different collection vehicles as well as other bins. Cost rises substantially with the degree of sort. Against considerable increase in cost of household waste collection and disposal have to be set two sources of potential revenue the sale of the recycled materials, and the savings in landfill costs of disposal.