

CLEAN-Sagar: an example of a collective effort towards SWM



The district of Sagar lies in the north central region of Madhya Pradesh. The origin of the name comes from the Hindi word 'Sagar' meaning lake or sea. Apparently because of the large and once beautiful lake around the town of Sagar was built. The district has a total area of 6375sq kms. Comparatively the area of the town is 100 sq km. the town has a population of 3, 40,949. The Govt. of M.P. has kept Sagar in category 'C' of industrial backward district.

Like any other growing town Sagar also faces various environmental problems. Approximately 1, 70,475 kgs (70.5 metric tonne) of waste is generated per day from the town. The local municipality lacks staff for proper collection and disposal of waste i.e. only 70% of the waste is transported to dumping grounds by the local municipality. Thus, very often uncleared garbage is found accumulated along roadsides and overflowing bins, which were not cleared regularly. These wastes (mostly organic) were putrefied and posed serious health problems.

In face of this situation the lead was taken by a local NGO Rural Environment Development Society (REDS) associated with Development Alternatives through the CLEAN-India programme. The CLEAN-India Sagar initiated the work by adopting five colonies (viz. Jiyama Puram, Indraprasth colony, Krishna Vihar colony and Dwarika Vihar) for carrying the programme on pilot basis. The students of CLEAN-India Sagar succeeded in motivating the residents to improve their own environment and were successful in involving the local people/ residents who generate the waste.

The five colonies were identified on the basis of their willingness to participate in motivating other residents and to contribute for the **salary of the ragpickers** and segregation of waste at house hold level. A contribution of Rs 20/- per household is taken form all the households to provide for the salary of the two waste collectors. The five colonies comprise of 121 households and a population of 631. The NGO partner employed **two ragpickers**, trained them as waste collectors, and provided them with uniforms and a tricycle cart. The tricycle cart has two bins one for organic and the other for inorganic waste. The waste collectors collect waste from every household. The residents also took the responsibility to ensure that the waste generated from their households is properly segregated, collected and transported to the dumpsite of the municipality.



The waste generated from five colonies is 515.5kgs (0.5 metric tonne) out of which 70 % (220kg) is biodegradable and rest is non-biodegradable. The cost of waste collection has reduced to about 50% as compared to waste collection by the municipality and efficiency of waste collection is 100% as it involved people's participation. The work has set an example for other colonies and now many colonies are approaching for taking up the waste management