

National Policy Workshop Webinar Series
On
Countermeasures for Riverine and Marine Plastic Litter in India
12 -22 May 2020

Session 5: Impact of COVID-19 on plastics consumption, innovation, logistics and waste generation (including PPEs and wastes from Health Care Facilities) and related challenges

Single Use Disposable Masks and increasing challenge on Waste Management





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Highlights

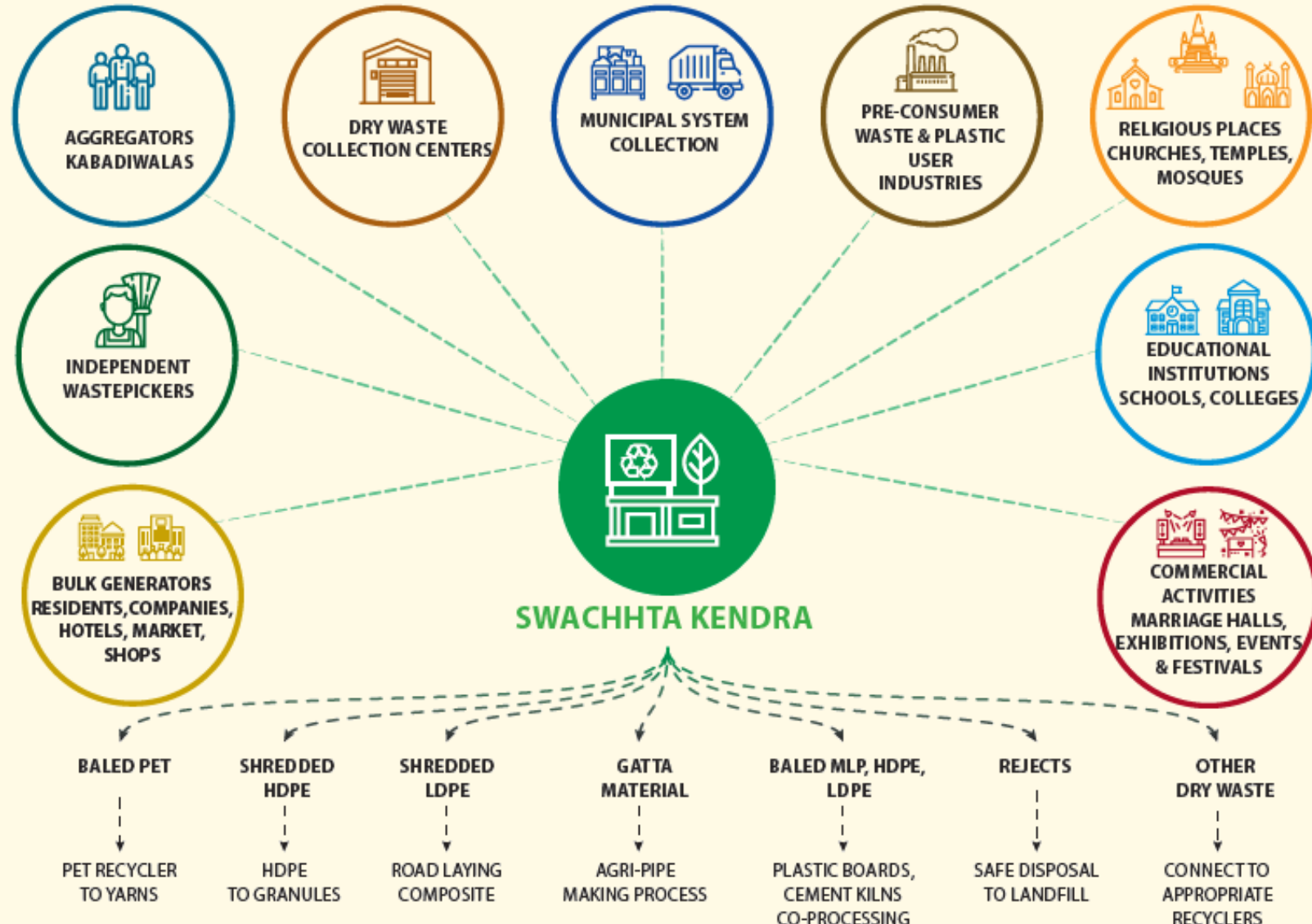
- ▶ Cities (Delhi, Mumbai) are making **wearing of face masks mandatory** in public places.
- ▶ “In the last 41 days of lockdown, **an additional 11.4 tonnes of hazardous waste was generated from households.**”- said Ms Varsha Joshi, Commissioner, North Delhi Municipal Corporation
- ▶ **CPCB** published “**Guidelines for Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Waste Generated during Treatment/Diagnosis/ Quarantine of COVID-19 Patients**” in March 2020. For households and quarantine camps, the guidelines said that waste generated “should be collected separately in **yellow-coloured bags** and handed over to authorised waste collectors engaged by ULBs”.
- ▶ The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**’s direction to Centre and CPCB to supervise handling and scientific disposal of Covid-19 waste. It noted that the “**disposal of Covid-19 waste in general bins** so as to be part of municipal waste or unscientific handling sewage and other liquid waste without safeguards **can also be hazardous**”
- ▶ A study in Delhi revealed that **75% of covid-19 cases were found to be either asymptomatic** or with mild symptoms.
- ▶ The **Union Health Ministry*** has issued an advisory on the use of face masks in view of the rising number of cases of coronavirus disease in the country. It stated, individuals who are **not having any breathing difficulties and those who don’t have underlying medical conditions can use cloth masks.**



How Waste Travels to Material Recovery Facilities/ Waste Collection Centers for recycling and the risks it poses to Recycling Workers (Safai Saathis)

Waste Inflow-Outflow at Material Recovery Facility to understand COVID- waste risk

WASTE INFLOW-OUTFLOW AT SWACHHTA KENDRA





Insights from the Field- Types of Waste at the Material Recovery Center:
Used Masks & Gloves, Food Containers from relief work,

Pics: UNDP Swachta
Kendra,, Mumbai



Challenges Faced by the Waste Management Sector (w.r.t to COVID Waste):

- **Increase in single-use disposable PPEs** in Municipal Solid Waste
- COVID Waste at Household Level has surfaced the **lack of segregation practice**, thus increasing chances of domestic medical waste being mixed with general waste
- Lack of/ Inconsistent **Labelling of waste** as either “infectious”/ safe to handle, and colour coded bags protocols not being followed
- **Handling of COVID waste and risk to waste workers:**
 - Waste Pickers, sweepers, sanitation workers, largely women, have **high risk exposure to infections as they come in contact** with domestic hazardous waste (such as gloves, masks, and other discarded medicines) from households and bulk waste generators
 - **Limited/ no access to hygiene and sanitation facilities for waste workers** making it impossible to practice isolation or social distancing
- **Fear in Waste Collectors/ Sorters** leading to drop out in workforce at MRFs
- **New kinds of municipal solid waste emerging due** Such as disposable disinfecting wipes, empty disinfectant containers, rags, paper towels, mop heads, relief work food containers, besides masks or gloves. Also **disposal of leftover decontamination chemicals.**
- **Whether Surface Transmission is a challenge?:** The findings – published by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and multiple universities – indicates COVID-19 can live on materials such as cardboard and plastic, in some cases for as many as **three days.**

Role of UNDP's Plastic Waste Management Programme:

Project Highlights



Socio-technical Model
for developing economically sustainable systems



Material Recovery Centres
(Swachhta Kendra) for improved plastic waste management



Institutionalization of Safai Sathis
with dignity of labour and increased incomes



Knowledge Management
to sensitize citizens for increased involvement and technology for traceability

The project targets to mainstream

- **Informal Waste Workers (Safai Sathis)**
- Develop an economically sustainable model for plastic waste collection & disposal
- Engage & **create systems, procedures, processes** - partners at different levels with a circular economy approach.
- **Formalize the informal sector** & provide better work opportunities & work conditions
- **Issuance of ID card** and registering Safai Saathis with the system
- **Financial inclusion** & Insurance through various government schemes
- Training for skilled performance & **entrepreneurship support** & development

PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



The Big Picture

31038 MTs

PLASTIC WASTE COLLECTED (As on 31 Jan)

3104

SAFAI SATHIS INTEGRATED

91

SELF HELP GROUPS

PARTNERSHIP WITH

30

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

- **COMMUNICATION UPDATE** NEWSLETTERS, FILM, AND WEBSITE, BROCHURES, STANDEES, BLOGS, ETC
- **TECHNOLOGY REVIEW** THROUGH DIGITAL APPLICATION BY MINDTREE
- **SOPS** CREATE BETTER EFFICIENCY
- **WORKSHOPS**



*This includes the figures for both HCCB and HUL partnerships

KEY INTERVENTIONS TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US:



18,280
Safai Sathis
reached out



Trained on safety guidelines, handling masks, gloves and social distancing through information toolkit on COVID-19. This is done in close partnership with local City Municipal Commissioners; local NGOs, Philanthropic and project Service Providers.

Provided to safai sathis in 30 cities



5,500
Travel permits/
ID Cards by local
governments



27,879 +
Safety Kit



Safety Kit (N-95 masks, locally stitched masks as per the WHO guidelines, gloves, towels, shoes etc.) provided to safai sathis

Co-financing and support from state authorities, city commissioners, and project service providers



₹ 56,34,710+
Raised for
Support activities
through co-financing



₹ 25,19,237 +
Spent on
relief activities
through project
funds



Financed by HCCB, UNDP, HUL, CCIF and HDFC Bank as PWM project partners

Quantity of food grains distributed; including rice, wheat flour, lentil, spices, tea, salt, milk powder, cooking oil and grains, etc.



5 lakh KG+
Distributed



272
Ration Cards



Safai sathis were facilitated with ration cards to help them avail government supplies.

(As on 13th May, 2020)



Delhi Cantt, Patheya

Safai Sathis from Delhi Cantt area receiving ration at the Delhi Cantt Swachhta Kendra. They also talked about their personal challenges and outlook towards the end of lockdown



Aurangabad, CARPE

SOCIAL DISTANCING: Practicing social distancing for a safer India



Jammu, RUDA

In collaboration with Jammu Municipal Corporation, our partner distributed ration and hygiene kits to safai sathis in the presence of former Deputy CM of J&K Mr Kavinder Gupta where



Mumbai, Aasra

Safai Sathis maintaining a safe distance while collecting food and rations supplies.

Recommendations and Discussion

- Strict Enforcement of **3 Ways Source Segregation – Wet, Dry and Domestic Hazardous Waste** and identifying Household Gloves, Masks as “**Domestic Hazardous Waste**” for preventing waste workers from contamination.
- Using this opportunity to **close the wide gaps and lacuna in the understanding of “domestic hazardous waste”** which is biomedical in nature, such as containing bodily fluids- menstrual waste products, condoms, insulin syringes, PPEs.
- **Enforcing standard protocols** by CPCB and SPCB for **Clear Labelling** for safe collection, handling and disposal for managing all types of waste.

SPECIAL ALERT:
Segregation in the time of Covid-19

AVOID DISPOSABLE* MASKS - choose REUSABLE cloth masks

If you still opt for disposables, please note:
Used masks, gloves & tissues (wrapped well) go into REJECT waste NOT Dry.
A critical responsibility of every resident to prevent Covid-19 spread, as recyclable dry waste is sorted manually.
*Doctors confirm that cloth masks are adequate for regular preventive use

STAY SAFE WHILE HELPING OTHERS STAY SAFE!
We MUST each do our bit to reduce risk of infection (and reduce waste too)

WET - organic (compost) DRY (recycling) REJECT (landfill)

#StaySafe #Segregate #CleanGreenSafe

Spread this message from **BEAUTIFUL NGALURU**
THE CHANGE

TRINITY TOWERS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
DLF CITY, PHASE – V, GURUGRAM

NOTICE

SAFE DISPOSAL OF BIO-MEDICAL WASTE – COVID-19

During lockdown view COVID-19, a large numbers of bio-medical waste eg. Masks, gloves & other PPEs are being generated in the condominium. However, it is general trend that these are handed over to our HK staff along with the dry waste which is wrong.

These are bio-medical waste and should be disposed-off separately. It will help in easy identification and their disposal accordingly.

Please follow the below mentioned steps for the same: -

Steps for Safe Disposal of Masks, Gloves & other PPE

1. Do not throw used masks and gloves mixed with dry waste. These are Bio-Medical Waste.
2. Please wrap it in a newspaper or bio-degradable bag. **Mark it X (so that waste collectors know it is bio-medical waste).**
3. Hand over the same to our waste-picker while collecting other waste separately. Save our waste-pickers and staff collecting waste from getting infected by any virus.
4. Proper segregation & disposal of safety gear is essential during #COVID19.

In addition, we encourage to use **Cloth masks**, which can be washed and reused. They are cost effective & planet friendly.

Thanking you in anticipation for extending your cooperation.

In general interest
Aditya Mukarji, C 012

Santa Dora
Governing Body
Team RWA

Source- Indian Express

Community- run Initiatives showing the way forward



AASRA, MUMBAI



Recommendations and Discussion (cont...)

- **Recycling is still a manual affair!! Well being of Waste Workers a prime concern-**
- Providing access to sanitation and hygiene facilities to waste workers and their community for continued operation of Dry Waste Collection Centers and waste management systems.
- Access to Social Protection Schemes to be made available to waste workers without the compulsion of Aadhar Card/ Ration Card as most workers do not have requisite Govt ID Proofs/ documents.
- **Clear Guidelines to Material Recovery Facility** to prevent exposure to covid-19-
 - Practicing social distancing while on the job
 - Providing staff with training on proper protocols for handling COVID Waste
 - Adopting Standard cleaning practices at frequent time
 - Institutionalizing Health Screenings for Waste Workers
 - Making basic sanitation facilities- Toilets, Water, available at the MRF

Recommendations and Discussion (cont...)

- ▶ Enforcing use of **Cloth Masks/ Reusable masks** as per **Union Health Ministry advisory** for **healthy persons**.
- ▶ Supporting creation and market linkage of **community-run enterprises/ SHGs** for **manufacturing cloth masks** to address community's Sanitation Needs and protecting livelihoods.
- ▶ The State and CSO run **development programmes** need to make an effort to link their programme to COVID response- along with the Govt. Schemes
- ▶ This will strengthen the system in helping Migrant Workers and other impacted communities to recover from the pandemic.



AASRA, MUMBAI



AASRA, MUMBAI



SARTHAK, BHOPAL

THANK YOU!

For more information, pls contact at:

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