

# Solid Waste Management in Quetta

By Rehana Bakhsh

**W**aste management is rapidly increasing issue and a complex problem in more than one way. Wastes sites pollute all segments of environments, including soil, water and air. The waste problem gets more complicated and serious, as the residents of the surrounding wastes areas are most often very poor, uneducated, lack awareness and also with no health care facilities around.

Children of all ages are seen playing around at wastes dump sites and are exposed to disease causing bacteria, viruses cause a risk to their health. Waste is a valuable resource, if collected, segregated, reused and recycled. Waste from one industry could possibly be used as raw material for another industry.

There is a need to work out the specific quantum of waste generation from the industry, health care sector, agriculture and household, office waste; to help develop information based controlled measures and strategy and action plan towards environmental management of solid waste. Pakistan is a developing country and many of the cities are suffering from solid waste pollution in Pakistan.

Like other developing cities, Quetta is also facing the same problem of pollution because of solid waste materials. At that moment, according to Metropolitan Corporation Quetta daily production of waste is 1000 MT out of which 350 MT is collected by QMC and rest 600MT to 850 MT is left behind. Most of the uncollected waste poses serious risk to public health through clogging of drains, formation of passive ponds and providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes and flies. Much of collected waste finds its way to dumping grounds, open pits, ponds, and agricultural lands.

Presently domestic solid waste in Quetta has not been carried out in a sufficient and proper manner. Therefore, the sanitary conditions have become more serious years by year, and people are suffering from living in such condition. The Metropolitan Corporation Quetta city claims that they do not have sufficient resources and technical equipment to accommodate the needs of increasing urban population.

By the above-mentioned scenario, it is concluded that the solid waste management in Quetta City is a not environmental friendly. It is highly recommended that the Government of Balochistan should play his role and provide new equipments to the Metropolitan Corporation and should arrange public awareness programs especially on primary level.

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