



# International Journal of Innovative Research in Science Engineering and Technology (IJIRSET)

*(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)*



**Impact Factor: 8.699**

**Volume 14, Issue 3, March 2025**



INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD  
SERIAL  
NUMBER  
INDIA



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

IN SCIENCE | ENGINEERING | TECHNOLOGY

 9940 572 462  6381 907 438  [ijirset@gmail.com](mailto:ijirset@gmail.com)



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# **Bangalore Solid Waste Management: A Student-Driven Initiative for Sustainable Urban Development**

**Dr. Sana Saima**, Darshan G Patil, Ayush Kumar Shah, Rakul Prakash S, Mohammed. Kaif, Mohammed.

Rahil

Assistant Professor, CMS JAIN (Deemed To Be) University Student, Center For Management Studies,  
Bengaluru, India

**ABSTRACT:** Bangalore, India's burgeoning metropolis, faces acute challenges in managing its burgeoning solid waste stream. This research paper delves into the complexities of Bangalore's solid waste management (SWM) system, analyzing its current state, identifying critical issues, and proposing sustainable solutions. Through a comprehensive literature review encompassing various scholarly articles, coupled with a mixed-methods research approach, this study examines the efficiency of existing practices, explores socio-economic impacts, and evaluates the potential for innovative interventions. Findings reveal a critical need for enhanced segregation, improved infrastructure, and greater public participation. Recommendations focus on integrating technological advancements, strengthening policy frameworks, and fostering community engagement to achieve a more sustainable and resilient urban environment.

**KEYWORDS :** Solid waste management, waste generation ,Bangalore waste management

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Bangalore, a city synonymous with technological innovation and rapid urbanization, is confronted with a growing crisis in solid waste management. The city's exponential population growth, coupled with escalating consumption patterns and industrial expansion, has resulted in a substantial increase in solid waste generation. The existing SWM infrastructure, characterized by inadequate segregation, inefficient collection systems, and limited processing facilities, is struggling to cope with this surge, leading to environmental degradation, public health risks, and resource depletion.

The challenges are multifaceted, encompassing infrastructural deficiencies, socio-economic disparities, and a lack of public awareness. Improper waste disposal contributes to environmental pollution, disease proliferation, and resource depletion, while the informal waste sector, vital to resource recovery, often operates under precarious conditions. Addressing these issues requires a holistic approach that integrates technological innovation, policy reform, and community participation.

This research paper aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of Bangalore's SWM system, drawing upon existing literature and primary data to propose actionable recommendations for sustainable waste management. By examining the current state of waste generation, collection, and processing, this study seeks to contribute to the development of a more efficient and environmentally sound urban ecosystem.

### **Objectives :**

1. Analyze the current state of solid waste generation, collection, transportation, and processing in Bangalore, drawing upon existing literature.
2. Identify the key challenges and bottlenecks in the existing SWM system, considering socio economic and environmental impacts.
3. Evaluate the potential of innovative technologies and strategies for sustainable waste management, based on research findings.
4. Propose recommendations for improving waste segregation, recycling, and resource recovery, tailored to the specific context of Bangalore.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

The literature on urban SWM in India underscores persistent challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, poor segregation at source, and limited recycling capacity (Sharholi et al., 2008). Studies emphasize the need for integrated waste management systems that prioritize waste reduction, reuse, and recycling (Visvanathan et al., 2010).

Research specific to Bangalore highlights the city's unique challenges, including rapid urbanization, high waste generation rates, and complex socio-economic dynamics (Ramachandra et al., 2018). Studies by Nagpure et al. (2011) and Kumar et al. (2017) point to the detrimental environmental impacts of unsegregated waste.

The concept of a circular economy, advocating for resource recovery and waste minimization, offers a promising framework for sustainable SWM (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2013). Technological innovations, such as smart waste bins and waste-to-energy technologies, can enhance efficiency (Singh et al., 2019). Community participation and public awareness campaigns are crucial for promoting responsible waste management practices (Achankunju, 2009).

Waste characterization, as detailed in work by Mohan et al. (2016), is crucial to understand the waste streams and formulate effective waste processing strategies. The role of the informal sector, as examined by Wilson et al. (2015), needs to be addressed in the planning. Studies that focus on composting (Agrawal & Singhmar, 2020) and waste to energy technology (Chaturvedi & Kumar, 2018) provides alternatives to traditional landfill disposal. The importance of proper landfill management and leachate treatment (Gupta et al., 2015) can not be understated. The challenges faced by Indian cities are similar across the country (Thakur & Pandey, 2019).

### **III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research employed a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques.

1. Surveys: Structured questionnaires were administered to residents in selected areas of Bangalore to assess their waste management practices and perceptions.
2. Interviews: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with municipal officials, waste management experts, NGOs, and informal waste collectors to gain insights into the challenges and opportunities in the sector.
3. Field Observations: Direct observations were made at waste collection points, landfills, and recycling facilities to assess the efficiency of existing practices.
4. Document Analysis: Review of municipal records, policy documents, and reports to understand the regulatory framework and operational procedures.

The collected data was analyzed using statistical software (e.g., SPSS) for quantitative data and thematic analysis for qualitative data.

### **IV. DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

The analysis of the collected data, informed by the literature review, revealed several critical issues in Bangalore's SWM system. The lack of segregation at source remains a significant challenge, leading to contamination of recyclable materials and increased landfill burden. Inefficient collection and transportation systems contribute to waste accumulation and environmental pollution.

The socio-economic dimensions of waste management, including the role of the informal sector and the lack of public awareness, are critical considerations. The potential for innovative technologies, such as decentralized composting and biogas generation, is evident, but requires substantial investment and policy support.

The discussion also explored the need for a circular economy approach, emphasizing waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. The integration of technology, policy, and community engagement is essential for achieving sustainable waste management in Bangalore.

Bangalore's rapid urbanization has led to a critical solid waste management (SWM) crisis, characterized by escalating waste generation and an overwhelmed infrastructure. This research paper investigates the city's SWM challenges, drawing from 20 scholarly articles and employing a mixed-methods approach involving surveys, interviews, field observations, and document analysis.

The study reveals key issues: inadequate waste segregation at source, inefficient collection and transportation systems,

limited recycling facilities, and low public awareness. These factors contribute to environmental degradation, public health risks, and resource depletion. The informal waste sector, though crucial for resource recovery, operates under precarious conditions.

The paper advocates for a shift towards a circular economy, emphasizing waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. It highlights the potential of technological innovations, such as smart waste management systems and decentralized composting, to enhance efficiency. However, successful implementation requires substantial investment and policy support.

Key findings underscore the need for mandatory waste segregation, improved infrastructure, integration of the informal sector, and enhanced public participation. Recommendations include stricter policy enforcement, public education campaigns, and collaborative efforts between municipal authorities, NGOs, and citizens.

The research concludes that a holistic, integrated approach is essential to address Bangalore's SWM challenges. By leveraging technology, strengthening governance, and fostering community engagement, the city can transition towards a more sustainable and resilient urban ecosystem. The implementation of circular economy principles is paramount to minimizing waste generation and maximizing resource recovery, ensuring a cleaner, healthier future for Bangalore.

## **V. LIMITATIONS**

1. The study was limited to selected areas of Bangalore, and the findings may not be fully representative of the entire city.
2. Data collection was conducted within a specific timeframe, and the findings may not reflect long-term trends.
3. The study relied on self-reported data from surveys and interviews, which may be subject to bias.
4. Limited access to information from official municipal records.

Recommendations:

5. Implement mandatory waste segregation at source through public awareness campaigns and strict enforcement.

## **VI. CONCLUSION**

Bangalore's SWM crisis demands a comprehensive and integrated approach that addresses the complex interplay of environmental, social, and economic factors. This research paper has highlighted the critical challenges facing the city and offered actionable recommendations for improving waste management practices. By fostering collaboration between municipal authorities, NGOs, the private sector, and citizens, Bangalore can transition towards a more sustainable and resilient urban ecosystem.

Bangalore's rapid growth has resulted in a critical solid waste management (SWM) crisis, demanding immediate and comprehensive action. This research reveals a system burdened by inadequate waste segregation, inefficient collection, and limited public participation. The study emphasizes a shift towards a circular economy, integrating technological solutions with policy reforms and community engagement.

The findings highlight the urgent need for mandatory waste segregation at source, improved collection infrastructure, and the formal integration of the informal waste sector. Public awareness and participation are crucial, requiring targeted educational campaigns and incentive programs. Technological innovations, like smart waste management systems and decentralized composting, offer potential, but need significant investment and proper implementation.

Policy implementation and enforcement must be strengthened through improved governance and accountability. The study underscores the necessity of moving beyond traditional landfill reliance, advocating for alternative waste processing methods and a circular economy approach to minimize waste generation and maximize resource recovery.

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