

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN DELHI:A CASE STUDY

Ankur Garg, Varun Kumar and Vaibhav Verma
Delhi College of Engineering, Bawana Road, Delhi-110042

ABSTRACT

Solid waste management in Delhi has been a very poorly planned affair with onus on simply transporting the mixed waste by trucks and disposing it in sanitary landfills (SLF). The MCD has been spending between Rs.300-Rs.400 crores every year on sanitation and cleanliness and the sum is likely to sharply increase in the coming years(The Hindu, . Complete negligence of waste minimization and recycling over the years gave way to a whole lot of problems with disposal emerging as a major one. Since 1975, 20 SLF's have been created of which 15 are exhausted, while 2 are suspended. Only 3 are operational at Bhalaswa, Ghazipur, and Okhla, and even these are close to exhaustion. (<http://www.teri.res.in/teriin/camps/delhi.htm>, accessed on 16March, 2007).

With commonwealth games round the corner, Delhi government in its attempt to overcome the grim scenario signed agreements with three private companies for collection, segregation, transportation and disposal of municipal solid waste in six zones on January 31 2005(The Hindu, January 31st 2005). Aimed at increasing efficiency and effectiveness of its waste management activities, MCD planned this public private partnership project in six zones – City, South, West, Central, Karol Bagh and Sadar Paharganj. The three agencies with which the civic body signed the “concession agreement” for the project are Delhi Waste management private limited for south, central, and city zones, Noida based Ag Enviro infra projects (P) ltd. For Karol Bagh and Sadar Paharganj zones and Delhi based Metro Waste Handling (P) Ltd.(MWH) for west zone. The project proposed to be implemented in phases went fully operational in June 2005. The private companies were allotted a concession period of 9 years inclusive of the implementation period of 12 months from the date of signing the agreement. The agreement also contained a performance evaluation and monitoring mechanism where the monitoring of the project was to be carried out by an independent engineer appointed by mutual consent of the corporation and the companies.

MSV Pvt. Ltd. was appointed as the independent engineer to monitor the project. In this study we have monitored the working and operation of Delhi based metro waste handling private limited, which is handling the collection, segregation and transportation of the solid waste in the west zone. The study shows the paradigm shift that has been brought about in the sphere of solid waste management with the advent of public private partnership. It specially focuses on the waste segregation which was totally neglected during the MCD regime.