

Title: Household Waste Management Woes in Dhaka City: Current Challenges and Policy Directions

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Abstract: In this study, the authors employed an Interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) using “Planned Behavior Theory” to comprehensively assess Dhaka's current waste management issues and propose policy directions for improvement. The study conducted 25 expert interviews with policymakers and stakeholders and followed a thematic analysis using NVivo12 and the Granheim approach. Our findings revealed five main challenges the municipal corporation authority faces in effectively managing household waste: ineffective legislation, lack of cooperation, overpopulation, financial constraints, and community behavior. These challenges hinder the proper operation and handling of household waste, exacerbating the waste management crisis in Dhaka. Based on the findings, the study recommends strengthening legislation and regulations related to waste management, improving cooperation among stakeholders, addressing overpopulation through urban planning and population control measures, allocating sufficient financial resources for waste management infrastructure and facilities, and promoting community engagement and behavioral change towards responsible waste disposal practices. This study contributes to the academic literature on waste management by providing insights into the challenges and potential solutions in the context of a rapidly growing megacity like Dhaka. The findings and policy recommendations may guide policymakers, urban planners, and other stakeholders in developing effective strategies for sustainable waste management in Dhaka.

Keywords: Household Waste, Garbage Management, Industrial Waste, Policymakers and Stakeholders, Bangladesh

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