CleanCycle: Transforming Waste with Community Action and Education

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Abstract (300 word limit)

The effective management of solid waste in rural parts of Himachal Pradesh, India, poses a complex challenge that necessitates a holistic approach based on the concepts of waste minimization, recycling, and resource recovery. This research study explores the complexities of waste management in the specified location, with a particular emphasis on the necessity of implementing sustainable practises that align with the aforementioned theme pillars. Based on a comprehensive examination of the obstacles presented by inadequate infrastructure, gaps in awareness, and cultural influences, this study emphasises the importance of improvising waste management value chain that are in line with the specific rural community challenges like open dumping and burning of waste.

The study utilises a mixed-methods methodology, integrating qualitative surveys, case studies, and quantitative data analysis to evaluate the present condition of waste management strategies and their consequences on rural communities and ecosystems. The study elucidates the detrimental consequences associated with inadequate waste management practises, encompassing environmental deterioration, health risks, and the erosion of cultural landscapes.

The primary focus of this study is around the assessment of prevailing waste management methods in the rural regions of Himachal Pradesh. The aim is to identify the merits and drawbacks of these systems within the context of the reuse, reduce, recycle, and recover framework. The study finds effective strategies of community engagement, awareness campaigns, and technology adoption that have resulted in favourable outcomes in waste reduction and resource recovery.

The paper presents recommendations aimed at improving solid waste management through installation of effective collection and segregation systems, behavioural change through community education initiatives, recycling technology, and the development of bye-laws.

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Shivangi Aggarwal (25 years old) is a sustainability strategist having 6+ years of experience working in the intersection of policy, waste management and climate change. She is currently associated with International Sustainability Academy for a research fellowship where she is working on waste transformation through setting up of a plastic waste management program. She is a passionate environmental enthusiast, researcher and an economist with a master's degree in economics. She has worked on-ground to manage solid waste particularly plastics in rural areas of India. She also has experience with wastewater and faecal sludge management. She has worked with government of global south, Non-profits and corporations globally and currently she has partnered with 'Himachal Pradesh Rural Development And Panchayati Raj Department, India'.

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Notes/Comments: