
CHAPTER – 16

GARBAGE IN, GARBAGE OUT

- **Waste:** A material that has no longer any value to the person who is responsible for it.
 - **Source of Waste:**
 - (i) **Domestic Wastes:** garbage, rubbish, excreta, ashes, sullage are domestic wastes.
 - (ii) **Industrial wastes:** wastes produced by industries. The common industrial wastes are smoke, plastic, objects, glass, fly ash, etc.
 - (iii) **Agricultural wastes:** common agricultural wastes are rice husk, dried stems and straw, weeds and cattle waste.
 - (iv) **Commercial wastes:** wastes generated from commercial establishments such as shops, malls, stores, restaurants, hotels, motels, printing press, auto-repair shops, medical facilities.
 - **Type of wastes:**
 - (i) **Biodegradable wastes:** Wastes which can be broken down through the action of microorganisms into their simple constituents. Example: plant products, organic wastes, domestic refuse and animal wastes.
 - (ii) **Non-biodegradable wastes:** Wastes which cannot be disintegrated by action of microorganisms and remains unaffected from decomposition. Example: plastics, glass, metal, scraps, etc.
 - (iii) **Plastics:** Many things are made up of plastics like bags, shoes, bottles, pipes, pens, etc. it cannot be converted into less harmful substances by composting.
 - **Ill effect of Plastics:**
 - (a) Burning emits poisonous gases which cause health problems.
 - (b) Foods thrown in plastic bags are eaten by stray animals which can lead to death.
 - (c) Carelessly thrown plastic bags choke sewer system.
 - (d) Food stored in bad quality plastics can be harmful.
 - **Management of Plastics:**
 - (a) Do not throw plastics here and there after use.
 - (b) Do not burn plastic bags and other plastic items.
 - (c) Use paper or cloth bags in place of plastic bags.
 - (d) Educate friends and family members about the proper disposal of plastics.
 - **Management and Disposal of Waste:**
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(a) **3R's** – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. It means the **reduce** waste production, **reuse** of materials and **recycle** and reprocessing of waste materials for making new products

(b) **Landfills or Composting:** Converting plant and animal waste including that from kitchen, into manure, is called composting. Low lying open areas to deposit biodegradable waste.

(c) **Vermi-composting:** Method of preparing compost with the help of red worms. Excreta of the worms make the compost very rich in nutrients.

- Landfill is an area where the garbage collected from a city or town is dumped. The area is later converted into a park.
 - Paper can be recycled to get useful products.
 - Plastics cannot be converted into less harmful substances by the process of composting.
 - We need to generate less waste and find ways of dealing with the increasing amount of garbage in our surroundings.
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