

Deoghar changed the face of a garbage dumping site to a park

Introduction:

Suratilona Park in Deoghar used to be a garbage dumping site for the residents in the vicinity. Deoghar Municipal corporation (DMC) decided to change the face of the barren dump site into a green and open space park under the AMRUT scheme.

Objective and rationale:

To reduce waste and effectively manage the waste.

Key stakeholders:

- Deoghar Municipal Corporation (DMC)
- Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES)
- Urban Development & Housing Department (Govt of Jharkhand)

Implementation in Practice:

In order to implement an integrated approach to Solid Waste Management Practices in Deoghar, Deoghar Nagar Nigam, entrusted the Consultancy work to Regional Centre for Urban and Environmental Studies (RCUES), Lucknow, to undertake a study of the existing collection, transportation, processing and disposal activities of solid waste management and suggest an appropriate strategy for optimal service delivery keeping in view the economic, environmental, social and institutional dimensions. RCUES Lucknow conducted a comprehensive study, carried out the 1 waste quantification and quality surveys in order to prepare a comprehensive integrated solid waste management system for the Deoghar city. In consultation with the citizens, DMC planned to develop a park spread over 5.31 acres of land with an estimated cost of INR 1 Crore. The project was started in November 2016 and the park was formally opened to the public in January 2019. The initiative has not only provided the much-needed open space to the residents but also controlled the pollution.

First, DMC shifted the dump site to the city outskirts, and the existing garbage at site was segregated and the dry garbage was shifted for further processing. The bio-degradable wet garbage was used to produce manure required to rejuvenate the land, which had turned into an infertile land.

Based on consultations with the community, various components such as walkways, children's play area with equipment, food court, parking area, LED lights etc. were considered as part of the design and execution plan.

Resource utilization:

Sharing of capital cost shall be in the ratio of 70% Government to 30 % private. This structuring is kept ensuring increased interest of private sector so that to ensure healthy competition in tendering at the same time the capital investment to the tune of 30% by private party will make him accountable in respect of operation and maintenance.

Impact:

The area has now been transformed to a green cover including plants of different species. The park attracts people from all age group these days as the area has been elevated into an active green space alongside recreational facilities. In the coming years the park is envisaged to be transformed into a botanical garden. This project has not only increased the amenity values of the city but unlock the land potential for recreational activities and further it would stimulate surrounding market value of land.



Earlier the area used to be a garbage dumping site



Children's play area in the Suratilona Park



Horticulture works at Suratilona Park

Replicability and Sustainability:

Similar opportunities are available in all ULBs. Cost of Operation & maintenance shall be recovered under three heads i) Revenue from sale of products of waste processing ii) Revenue from user charges iii) revenue from O&M grant in the form of viability gap funding. Private party shall be responsible to generate the desired revenue from first two heads whereas state/central government shall ensure to provide the desired viability gap funding.

Key Challenges and Lesson learnt:

This is one of the best practices to unlock the potential of land through rejuvenation of waste dumping yards.

Source: (Environment Clearance, 2019), (Govt. of Jharkhand, 2019)