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It's all rubbish once again



Pankaja Srinivasan

Solid waste management can be a possibility if the people will it

Coimbatore: A resident of a housing complex and a university campus have some ideas on making Coimbatore cleaner. It needs a little thought, some amount of co-operation from the municipal authorities and free will to translate the ideas into reality.

One of the residents of the Sreevatsa Apartments, Manisundar, who is also keen to see effective garbage management systems come into play in the city, has this to say. "To make garbage disposal a feasible option, one has to work backwards. The first thing any locality or apartment complex has to do is identify a yard where they can compost the garbage.

The garbage should either come segregated at source and then come here, or if need be (like they do it at Parsns, Nanjundapuram), the segregation can be done at the yard itself by people especially employed for the job."

Efforts to segregate garbage at source have often come to nought as the residents have watched in infuriation as their carefully segregated garbage has all been mixed up once again and dumped into a single truck.

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham manages its waste with great effect. At the university campus separate bins have been provided for organic and inorganic waste. The latter is segregated and recycled. The nearly half a tonne of food or organic waste that is generated everyday (from the many dining halls and homes) is collected and layered in trenches dug between rows of coconut trees. Effective Microbes (EM) is added and the waste decomposes in the soil and enriches it.

Nothing is impossible. The Pune Municipal Corporation has successfully put into place a workable solid waste management

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system. Why can't Coimbatore? All it needs is some awareness, co-operation from the people and a will to work things out. If hotels, hospitals, defence establishments, college, school and university campuses, shops and industries can take the lead and start looking at solid waste management as an essential part of their existence, then Coimbatore will be a much cleaner place to live in.

Incidentally, there is a government ruling that makes it compulsory for all institutions to dispose of their wastes responsibly. These set of rules are called the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000. They apply to every municipal authority responsible for collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes. But for that to happen, each one of us in Coimbatore has to make up our minds to be responsible for the waste we create.

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