

Urban Apathy towards Environment and its Impacts on Community Life: The Case of Dhaka City, Bangladesh

AZIZA HENA¹

University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

SHARMIN JAHAN²

Programme Officer, National Centre on Gender Based Violence

Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women under MoWCA

(Ministry of Women & Children Affairs), Bangladesh

Abstract

Ensuring safe, sound and sustainable environment in urban-communities is not the sole responsibility of local government only. In densely populated urban communities in Dhaka, Bangladesh, preservation of environment requires environmentally-aware mindset and active efforts of community-dwellers too. However, indifferent attitude of community-dwellers in terms of conserving the surrounded environment in general and managing waste properly in particular, is commonplace. This study tries to explore the extent of link between human action and environmental degradation, as well as how manmade environmental damages impact on human lives in urban quarter. Both primary and secondary data have been used to substantiate the goal of the study. The qualitative study reveals that

¹ **Aziza Hena** received her master of Social Science Degree in Women & Gender Studies from University of Dhaka. She has interest in pursuing independent research scholarship, particularly in Environmental Issues, Youth Leadership, Gender and Development Issues, Religion and Media Studies. She published her first book entitled as "Leaving the Gender Behind" at the LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing Group. As first author, she published the research titled as "Negotiated Survival: Male Out-Migration and 'The Challenges and Coping Strategies' of Wives' Left Behind in Rural Bangladesh" and she co-authored a research titled as "Perception of Rural Women of Three Generations on GFD and Coping Strategies of Different Life Stages: A Qualitative Study Directed at Mirzapur, Tangail, Bangladesh". Both of her recent researches have been published in IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (Volume 26, Issue 7, Series 3, July 2021). E-mail: azizahena@yahoo.com

² **Sharmin Jahan** is currently working as a Programme Officer in National Centre on Gender Based Violence, MSPVAW (Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women) under MoWCA (Ministry of Women and Children Affairs), Bangladesh. Her research interest is in Urban Development, Youth Leadership, Climate Change, Gender, Migration, Human Rights, Public Health, Education etc. She has worked as a co-author in two National Action Plans of Bangladesh such as: National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children 2018-2030 and National Action Plan to End Child Marriage 2018-2030 which have been published by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Besides, she has two publications in IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science, where her research topics were: "Perception of Rural Women of Three Generations on GFD and Coping Strategies of Different Life Stages: A Qualitative Study Directed at Mirzapur, Tangail, Bangladesh" and "Negotiated Survival: Male Out-Migration and 'The Challenges and Coping Strategies' of Wives' Left Behind in Rural Bangladesh." E-mail: sharminjahanwgs@yahoo.com

due to lack of active monitoring, implementation of strong penalty and collaborative steps, the community people get encouraged to pollute environment, in every possible way, by their reckless activities. Additionally, it is must for community-residents to cooperate with local government and stakeholders since such cooperation is the means to confirm environmental sustainability in the urban-communities.

Keywords: Urban community-dwellers, indifferent attitude, environmental degradation, impact, Bangladesh

1. INTRODUCTION

Urbanization in the developing countries is expeditious in nature that poses pressure to infrastructure, public facilities, resources and environment. Bangladesh, as a developing country, has experienced a massive degree of urbanization from 2009 to 2019 with an increase of population from 29.71% in 2009 to 37.41% in 2019 (Statista, 2020). According to the United Nations World Population Projections (2020), population in the metro area of Dhaka city in 2020 is estimated at 21,006,000 and the number is increasing since some 2000 people settle here every day, mostly being victim of climate change (McPherson, 2015). Such a regular influx ends up giving rise to more slums and shanty dwellings. Though Dhaka is one of the fastest-growing megacities of the world, it is yet to be developed in terms of providing housing facilities and basic services for a substantial amount of lower-income people. As a result, ghetto and apartment-dwellings have put the definition of urban community together. Community practices towards waste management, particularly in Dhaka city, have not come into a well-organized form yet. Though community initiatives hold significance as part of waste management system in Bangladesh, lack of cooperation and consistency in the effort has been proved as one of the biggest challenges towards preservation of environment in the community level. Maintaining environmental quality in urban community not only depends on Government intervention. City dwellers too have equally pivotal roles and responsibilities in this regard. Without demonstrated environmentally-responsive attitude of the residents, positive upshots of the “sustainable urbanism” would be hard to achieve (Asilsoy and

Otkay, 2018). In course of discussion, it is assumed that level of education, morals, merit and emotions of people play prominent role behind growing consciousness towards preservation of community-environment. However, the real circumstances rarely give ground for the given conjecture. In reality, to some extent, the edified section of the society manifests similar indifference like the underprivileged strata, even though they are deemed to be concerned environmentally. Moreover, due to divergent lifestyle and social hierarchy in a specific community, the goal of environmental protection gets obstructed which can no way be resolved in absence of collective endeavor. Based on this notion, the study intends to explore the apathy of dwellers in urban community towards their close by environment and its impacts on community life into the bargain. More indicatively, the study aspires to ascertain –

- The linkage between conducts of community-dwellers and environmental degradation in urban quarter.
- Impacts on urban community life resulted from community-dwellers' indifference towards preservation and protection of the surrounded environment.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Speedy population growth and rapid urbanization are prime culpable factors behind huge amount of waste generation each year in Bangladesh (Abedin and Jahiruddin, 2015). The magnitude of waste generation increased from 11,00,000 in 1970 to 52,00, 000 in 2015 with an annual increase rate of 1,34,300 tons (Shams et al., 2017). Generation of waste in larger amount is a prominent feature in the urban areas of Bangladesh. Strikingly, in Dhaka, per capita waste generation estimates range between 0.29 and 0.60 kilograms per person per day, depending on the individual's level of income, and people who are earning higher salaries tend to produce more wastes (APO, 2007). Excessive consumption by individuals in the urban areas smashes the environmental harmony since the wastes of consumed goods don't get disposed properly. In addition, industrial and household wastes that require disposal via landfilling, results in causing different forms of pollution (Biswas et al, 2020). To ensure a sound and sustainable environment, proper waste management practice is a prerequisite (Wilson et al., 2006) which depends on the

attitude and behavioral patterns of the city dwellers (Biswas et al, 2020).

Though waste generation is an ever-increasing phenomenon across the globe, the management of solid waste has not been developed in an equal fashion everywhere. Like other third world countries, Bangladesh had to struggle with its own unique set of problems since its birth. In a resource-constrained situation, the country had no option other than allowing random open dumping and burning, disposal of wastes into the reservoirs, landfilling, and direct disposal into farmlands in rural areas. In urban areas, house-to-house garbage collection was dependent on Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA) while nighttime waste collection was handled by Bullock Cart (Ashikuzzaman and Howlader, 2019). Though it took more than two decades to welcome the approaches like recycling and composting of organic wastes, the attainment level in managing wastes in urban areas is not sufficiently good. Only an insignificant fragment of the produced wastes is subject to collection by the door-to-door system introduced by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in late 90's, with a required little pay (Alamgir and Ahsan, 2007). Owing to lack of motivation, awareness, commitment, expertise as well as money, almost 40-60% wastes are not well stored, collected or disposed in designated areas for final disposal (Ahsan, 2005). Thus, the increasing quantity of municipal solid waste put environment in danger.

Existing environment policy and regulatory framework in Bangladesh is insufficient and any solid target is missing in the Waste management strategy framework, for reduction and recycling of waste (Shams et, al, 2017). The City Corporation and Municipalities are in charge of removal and disposal of municipal solid waste in the country. The six City Corporation Ordinances and Pourshava Ordinance 1977 are the local laws to get some fair ideas about disposal of municipal waste (Abedin and Jahiruddin, 2015). In their study, Bahauddin and Uddin (2012) mentioned the nature and loopholes of some Environmental Acts. Dhaka City Cooperation of 1983 emphasized on responsibility, general control and supervision of the City Corporation in the area of collection, and proper disposal of refuse from buildings and lands. According to Environmental Conservation Act of 1995 and Environmental Conservation Rules of 1997, land filling by industrial, household and commercial wastes is

classified as “Red Category” that includes most harmful industrial units and projects (Rule 7). The City Corporation Act 2009 has put “waste removal, collection and its management” in the nucleus of its concern and focused on nearly same responsibilities and commitments of both the people and environment-conservation authorities as mentioned in the provisions of Dhaka City Cooperation of 1983. However, most of the staffs in the chain of managing Solid Waste are not aware of these provisions. As a result, unmarked dumping or disposal prevails (Bahauddin and Uddin, 2012). An undertaking to form a regulatory framework for the protection and preservation of environment commenced its journey in the early 90’s (Amin, 2017). Then the Environment Court Act of 2000 initiated a well-timed move by introducing action on violations of environmental laws and regulations, however, instead of bringing up waste-related offenses, it concentrated on the polluters or pollutions (Amin, 2017). By and by, National Environment Policy 2013 made a difference for the environment by recognizing the 3R strategy for waste management (Amin, 2017). Waste management roles and regulations has been legally documented in limited range and its implication on practical ground is not worthy to mention. The three systems of waste management in Bangladesh (DOE, 2004) includes ‘formal system’, ‘community initiative’ and ‘informal system’. Municipalities or City Corporations are responsible for Solid Waste Management under formal system which performs through the sequence of collection-transportation-disposal of waste. Community initiative primarily indicates waste collection by Non-profit organizations (NGOs) and Community-based Organizations (CBOs). Informal workforce involved in solid waste recycling trade chain represents the informal system. Integration among these three systems is vital force for the proper promotion of solid waste management system in Bangladesh (Abedin and Jahiruddin, 2015). Without merging the participation of the agents of these three systems, ensuring environmental sustainability would surely be unobtainable. Though the surviving literatures largely indicated to the fragile waste management systems, materials on lack of integrated participation by the parties (authority and common people) to protect environment as well as the pragmatic implications of existing legal framework are significantly scant. Additionally, very limited bunch of fitting rules, regulations and guidelines for the urban inhabitants have been documented and it

still needs to be checked whether people abide by these rules in reality. Considering the overall factors, this study aims to scrutinize the extent to which the urban-dwellers contribute to preservation and protection of their surrounded environment. On the whole, investigating environmental damage caused by the community-people's indifference in urban areas and impacts of such damage on human life in return is the focus of attention of this study.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study is qualitative in nature. Qualitative research method was taken since it helps in gaining new ideas and in-depth insight of a particular phenomenon and provides a complete picture of the studied phenomenon with an understanding of the problems of the study in detail (Bhandari, 2020, Almalki, 2016 and Gaille, 2018 in Gumbu, 2021).

Study area: The research was conducted in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) area. Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) are the two parts resulting from the division of former City Corporation. "The Corporation was dissolved by the Local Government (City Corporation) Amendment Bill 2011 on 29 November, passed in the Parliament of Bangladesh, and formally ceased to exist on 1 December 2011, following the President's approval, making way for a Dhaka North and a Dhaka South city corporations" (Wikipedia, 2021). Dhaka South City corporation consists of 75 wards. Among the wards, ward 19 is a prominent ward containing many renowned educational institutions, health care centers, shopping malls, food restaurants, cafés and countless stationery shops. High-rise buildings are continuing to sprout unabated as a mark of development in the mentioned locality. Due to the different social necessities and lack of sufficient lands, the social settlements and infrastructures have been established in a congested manner.

Table 1. Ward 19, Dhaka South City Corporation Area

Dhaka South City Corporation	
Ward	Area
19	I. Baje Kakrail
	II. Bara Maghbazar
	III. Circuit House
	IV. Eskaton
	V. Kakrail (Part)
	VI. Paschim Malibagh
	VII. Ramna (Mintu & Baily Road)
	VIII. Siddeswary (Part 1) Baily Square
	IX. Siddeswary (Part 2)

Source: Dhaka South City Corporation Zonal Office, Zone-1. Available at [Dhaka city zonal office.pdf](#)

Sample size and data collection method: A random survey among 200 people, 25 in depth interviews and 2 focus group discussions have been conducted to achieve the aim of the study. Participants in random survey were both the inhabitants of the locality and the outsiders who come to the area for their regular life-necessities or purposes (study, job, business, meeting friends and family etc.). For in depth interview, the residents (landlords and renters of apartments/houses), shopkeepers, restaurant owners/managers, religious leaders, authorities of the educational institutions and medical centers were targeted as they all are considered to be responsible for keeping the community-environment clean cooperatively. One focus group discussion has been operated among youth of the study area and another one was participated by the environment-conservation agents, particularly, the street sweepers, sanitation workers and garbage collectors.

4. CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF WASTE MISMANAGEMENT IN URBAN COMMUNITIES OF WARD 19, DHAKA CITY

The basic social infrastructures are provided in the study area to create and preserve an environmentally-safe vicinity. However, the maintenance of social infrastructural facilities is not up to scratch due to movement of crowds both from within locality and outside. It is assumed that maintaining the environmental sustainability is the sole responsibility of the inhabitants of the area. Thus, the role of

those who come from outside for their regular needs and activities, remains unfocused. The study area consists of people from different social classes. The affluent, enlightened and civilized circles are easily thought to be the front men in terms of promoting the awareness and action for environmental protection. Unfortunately, very rare presence from these circles is seen in this regard. The compelling reasons behind such circumstances are lack of accountability, integrated efforts and proper monitoring. Additionally, uncontrollable internal migration escalates the number of floating people on the streets of the community. In consequence, occupying footpaths and fields by the vagabonds, beggars and street dwellers has become a very familiar feature in the area of the study. A dearth of shelter and toilet facility for these poor slices of the society gives rise to another barrier towards ensuring environmental sustainability. Indeed, the leading-edge of this study is to shed light on different forms of wastes that aren't managed in community level properly, due to lack of concerted responsibilities. Nevertheless, diverse types of pollutions stemming from insufficient managements of the wastes has been taken into account for contemplating the accurate picture.

Ward 19, Dhaka South City Corporation area is known for neither industrial establishments nor agricultural properties. Most of the wastes in this area comes from the domestic, commercial, municipal and institutional (educational institution and hospitals) sources. Wastes are not stored, managed or collected on the basis of wastes' types. Instead, community people have to count on the one and only traditional 'garbage collection system' to dispose all categories of wastes.

Table 2. Typology of waste

Source	Location	Waste type
Domestic	Households	Kitchen waste, wood, metal, plastics, etc.
Commercial	Commercial firms, restaurants, offices, shops, hotels, and banks	Paper, plastic, e-waste, metal, oil, batteries, etc.
Industrial	Small, medium and large manufacturing and processing units	Solid and liquid wastes, ashes, concrete, debris, metal, residues, etc.
Municipal	Cleaning of urban facilities and treatment plants	Plastics, dust, sludge, debris, concrete, etc.
Institutional (Educational Institutes and hospitals)	Classrooms, teacher/office rooms, student hostels	Paper, plastics, useless furniture, food waste, glass, hazardous waste, metals, etc.
Agriculture	Cropping fields and farms	Crop residues, metal, plastics, dust, and other organic wastes

Source: Kumar, 2016 in Ashikuzzaman and Howlader, 2020

Analysis of the evidences of indifferent behavior of community dwellers towards environmental protection and its outcomes:

a) Street litter by urban consumers

Throwing trash randomly on the streets indicates that urban areas of Bangladesh did not fail to have affluent consumers with quality financial well-being and purchasing habit. No matter which financial background urban consumers belong to, majority of them stick to ethical decadence in respect of keeping streets clean. After finishing a packaged snack, wrapped miscellaneous goods or beverage, throwing the packet, carton or container on the street is a very common tradition countrywide. However, the urban zones have to pay the ultimate price of such immoral practice. Littering along the road contaminates soil, air and waterways and harms the urban ecology. Additionally, plastic litter and consumption of difficultly decomposable items like cigarette butts, aluminum cans and foil, paper waste and nylon materials pose threat to urban environment and its inhabitants. Tidying up litter requires not only environmental-awareness of community people but also their sense of environmental aesthetics. The places adjacent to littered spots lose property value and appeal of urban tourism for its visually nauseating feature (CENN, 2021). Moreover, sometimes community streets witness collisions with street animals, flat tyre from puncture or accidents when drivers try to change direction to avoid trash. A pile of litter is a heaven for stray dogs and cats that spread trash from one place to another, and thus, the propensity of facing prominent health hazards like dengue, food-poisoning and infections take place. Since the provision of fine for littering in our country is not visibly practiced, people take it as a custom to discard trash whenever they find a place with accumulation of litter.

b) Obliviousness to bin-culture

In 2016, a number of 5,700 waste bins were installed in Dhaka South City Corporation areas to promote cleanliness by ensuring citizen's participation in the endeavor (Unb, 2017). The embarrassing fact is 80% of them got disappeared being either stolen or neglected (Antara, 2019). Paucity of proper monitoring encourages the street dwellers, particularly, the drug abusers and vagabonds to steal the bins on the

pavements. Another pathetic scenario is negligence by the urban community-people in using the trash bins provided by the government authority. In Bangladeshi society, people nurture what they learn from the earlier generation. In spite of advertising widely and taking social campaign on environmental-awareness by both Government and Non-government sectors, people can not give up the culture of habitual littering and spitting on the street. The wind of globalization has made the city-dwellers accustomed to a new mode of urban lifestyle. However, it could not leave a mark in our ethical thinking towards polluting the environment.

c) Dumping garbage into drains

Existence of surface drain in front of residential premises is a distinctive feature of urban communities in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, the surface and underground drains are not used properly, due to lack of civic responsibility. Nearly 1,500 km available surface drains get clogged with solid waste or washed-in trash, particularly plastic products which do not decompose (Zamir, 2020). Basically, surface drains are established as a means of flood protection and for discharging storm water as well, in a citified region. Yet, in case of Dhaka's urban communities, this very significance is disregarded by its inhabitants. Dumping solid waste, clinical waste and domestic waste in surface drain creates drainage blockage which results in water logging. Waterlogged drains are breeding sites for disease vectors like mosquitos. Apart from causing transmission of the virus of malaria and dengue by mosquito-bites, such states of drains spread nasty odor in the environment and create respiratory problems for the community-dwellers. During rainy season people suffer most since the drains and roads go under water in the same level. Occurrence of road traffic accidents, difficulty in movement by passersby are commonplace, even if it rains moderately. The pollutants in logged water increase the danger of getting affected by skin diseases for the inhabitants and outsiders in the communities as they choose to walk on foot because of absence of vehicles on roads in a rainy day. No doubt, waterlogging due to rainfall disrupts regular life. Nevertheless, it affects the floating people much who have no other choice but living in a flooded environment when it rains. (Alom and Khan, 2014).

d) Habit of throwing trashes off balconies and windows

The common practice of throwing objects, specifically the food waste, off balconies and windows are seen in urban communities. Most of the time, the domestic helpers throw unpleasant and offensive substances like leftover food from kitchen window, sanitary stuffs from toilet window, spittle or betel-leaf saliva from balcony, and baby diapers from the households they work for. Working women in an urban community can not keep an eye on their household helpers for a whole day. In absence of their owners, the household helpers throw trashes towards neighboring buildings or straight to the streets without thinking the consequence of their action. Indeed, such habit of throwing trashes harms the passersby and those who reside in lower floors. Lack of education and environmental-awareness is fairly responsible factor behind the habit of throwing trashes in inappropriate places by the domestic helpers. However, the pitiful matter is that sometimes the owners and tenants throw away substances like cigarette butts, paper waste, small packets of food, cans etc, unsuitably, off balconies and windows, just because of laziness or careless attitude.

e) Improper management of biomedical waste

Bangladesh has an excessively centralized health system. The prominent medical establishments are based in urban areas, specifically in the capital -Dhaka. Health care centers like hospitals, diagnostic centers, nursing homes, dental clinics etc have their own waste management apparatus. Some NGOs like PRISM Bangladesh, Nobo Waste Management, Prodipon etc collect waste from hospital on contractual basis but this does not satisfy the standard of proper waste disposal instrument (Sejan, 2020). Unfortunately, a handful number of hospitals or clinics accept the service of the NGOs related to waste management, as it involves costs. Majority of the health care institutions behave reluctantly in terms of discharging health care wastes. Chemical waste and liquid pharmaceutical are discharged in general drains since the health care centers lack in having waste management treatment plants. Moreover, due to lack of proper guideline and instruction, the unlettered or improperly trained medical staffs like ward boys, aya, cleaners and nurses throw both hazardous and non-hazardous wastes at the roadside or in the open municipality dustbins that causes human injuries and sickness in

different forms and pollutes environment (Dana, 2011). It is not possible for the government authority to control the biomedical waste single-handedly. Time demands the collaboration between government authority and owners of the health establishments, along with health professionals, for proper medical waste management, with an aim of ensuring environmental safety of urban communities.

f) Waste treatment in commercial and educational institutions

The internal ambience of most of the commercial firms, offices, banks and shopping malls in Dhaka city are well-maintained by the associated authorities. However, the external view of such institutions exhibits the dissimilarities in comparison to the inner ones. Being located just by the side of the roads, the institutions can not protect the outside environments from getting polluted and having an unpleasant look. Though keeping the office-environment clean becomes a priority of respected administration, spits or dry waste thrown away by the clients remains invisible to the sight. Nevertheless, it can not be denied that the mentioned commercial institutions can offer far better environment than that of the restaurants, cafes and open shops. The majority of the food shops are built and developed in a confined space, lacking the proper ventilation and hygiene concerns. Some of the food preparations like making kebabs or processing the snacks' topping and filling gets executed in open space, just near the pavements. The clients in the restaurants, cafes or the food shops leave the food wrappers and paper-towels on dinning desks if the shops have shortage of wastebins. Several clients who pick a snack and have it on the road while walking, throw away the food-wrapper or tissue on the pavement, even though they have option to throw it away in the wastebins outside the shop. Also, the waste treatment in academic centers in Dhaka can not be considered as satisfactory. The educational institutions, especially, the schools, colleges and coaching centers in a particular urban area contain a large number of students, not only from inside communities but also from outside. Traditionally, we assume that educational centers are the sources of learning ethics at the very early stage of life. Undoubtedly, children get to learn the moral values from the teachers and through the academic lessons. However, practicing morality by students in their real life remains questionable when the classroom wastes are seen lying on the floor or the tiffin wastes are seen lying on

the playground. Many primary and high schools have guardian-shelter located on the public pavement, outside the school compound. Majority of the guardians make the pavement dirty by throwing food waste or paper waste while waiting under the shelter for their kids till the school is over. Since implementation of strong penalty system can nowhere be found, people nurture the habit of throwing away garbage, carelessly, to anywhere.

g) Mistreatment of waste in construction sites

Construction sectors contribute to massive air pollution. Building construction releases toxic dusts leading to serious human injuries. In addition, the construction materials like treated wood, paint and solvent wastes, glue and roofing tars, PCB/Lead/Mercury/Asbestos – containing materials, aerosol cans and other ozone depleting chemicals pose threat to human health and environmental sustainability (King, 2017). Besides causing air pollution, construction materials create public-sufferings through having a place on roadsides or pavements. Urban communities of Dhaka are familiar with the encroachment of pavements by piles of rubbles and dumping of construction wastes on the roadside that obstructs the movement of passersby, creates traffic jam and causes accidents sometimes. Along with construction waste, food waste or non-constructional debris are thrown by workers from unwrapped and unfenced building sites that annoy the commoners from the communities.

h) Open burning of waste

Open waste burning is a universal practice, generally, at major landfills, dumpsites in a locality or yard of a house. Street-dwellers are seen to burn waste on pavement or in public parks/playgrounds in Dhaka city as they can not find any readily available option to dispose wastes from their households. In some urban areas, city cleaners are alleged to gather roadside trash and burn this openly during their night shifts (Depto, 2021). Open incineration pollutes air by rising smokes, the released toxic chemicals and the emission of black carbon and methane. Materials like plastic and painted and treated wood have adverse impacts on human health. Air pollution from smoke is responsible for diseases like asthma, pneumonia, lung infections, respiratory illness, headaches, allergies, eye and nose irritation etc.

Outcomes resulting from indifferent behavior of community-dwellers towards environment, in Ward 19, Dhaka South City Corporation area represents almost the same scenario of other urban parts of Dhaka city. Maintenance of garbage may vary based on the socio-economic significance of a particular location. However, similarities in attitude of the urban community dwellers are seen everywhere in Dhaka, in case of polluting environment. From different perspectives, sectors and institutions, apathy of community dwellers towards environment has been analyzed which is a clear indication of environmental unsustainability and sufferings of human beings.

5. NECESSITY OF A CONCERTED MOVE

Change in the environment of an urban community can not be secured overnight. It requires effort from each inhabitant regardless their age, gender, educational background or economic stability. Environmentally-aware and information-rich denizens are asset for a community whose contributions make a difference in helping to heal the urban-environment. Pointing finger towards careless human activities means only the detection of an environmental issue that has need for solution. In the study area, sometimes community people hire scavengers while needed, and clean up the manholes or surface drains, by collecting financial donation from house owners, tenants and influential figures, just because they don't know where the counselor office is. Such communication gap illustrates their information unawareness and their reluctance to take an issue to the proper authority. Though each household of an apartment or residential building is counted under the garbage collecting service, many inhabitants do not keep their wastebins or wrapped garbage on a suitable spot for getting collected by waste-collectors in a particular time. Thus, throwing garbage on roadside or in an abandoned place grows into a habit. Cooperation with the garbage collector is a prerequisite, without which the aim of ensuring a garbage-free surrounding remains unfeasible. The street-sweepers brush away dirt or litter, two times on regular basis in the localities. Unfortunately, their laborious effort goes in vain as the community residents compete to one another in throwing trash on road as much as possible. If each individual learns and follows the proper environmental ethics, it would be a help for those who invest their time and labor in keeping

our environment clean. Maintaining cleanliness is a joint responsibility of government and citizens. Government bodies plan strategies that require support from the citizens for well execution. Moreover, the services provided by the environment conservation authorities should be welcomed with open arms by community dwellers. Individual's committed response is needed for meaningful implementation of the services related to environmental protection. From undertaking a plan to making it go into effect is a long ride that could only be successfully accomplished by strong collaboration between local government and community-residents.

6. CONCLUSION

Rapid urbanization and increasing number of populations in urban spheres signify that urban-environmental sustainability necessitates a great deal of human effort. Sadly, the urban community dwellers rarely question about the environmental degradation though they suffer from it. Ecological damage doesn't happen naturally. Rather, human activities, over consumption and incongruous attitude towards environment are responsible for environmental deterioration. In urban locality, where waste disposal is literally a hard-graft, people should be more enlightened on environmental problems and act accordingly. Altruistic mindset of individuals is a timeless demand for protection and preservation of urban environment by managing waste adeptly. Realization of reducing waste generation and handling waste properly, comes from proper knowledge and environmental awareness. Promoting awareness in communities and involving the community-dwellers in policy decision and action of the local government can benefit the community as a whole. Moreover, permitting the stakeholders like NGOs and CBOs in decision-making process can be proven advantageous, along with promotion of awareness campaigns and action-based programs. Collective participation of local government, community residents and stakeholders, for the common cause, is a way to ensure accountability. Ultimately, urban apathy towards environment can be changed through positive individual stance, commitment and action to keep the surroundings clean, and combined endeavors of authorities, associates, institutions and community-denizens.

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