

SHARPEN THE SKILL TO DELIVER BETTER

- B K Soni, CMD, Eco Recycling Ltd.

It is human nature to prioritize his / her activities as per the availability of time, requirements, financial implication, social obligation etc. but unfortunately health, safety and environment (HSE) comes at the bottom of our list and if we compare our country with the other developed countries, we can easily notice that HSE is broadly neglected in our country. Because of such lowest treatment to the most important elements of life we are forced to live unhealthy lives & achieve the least productivity.

In a country like India, where the population is very dense and at the same time per capita income is very low, prioritization as it stated above is the part of unconscious approach rather than conscious ignorance. But this leads to less productivity and lesser income for the affected ones, which impacts the life of not only him or her but also the dependents and finally of the society and nation in totality.

If we seriously study, we will find that the main cause of un-environment friendly atmosphere and low productivity is our step motherly treatment to the waste management to which we have never extended equal importance with the growing size and volume. It is not to be proven that the quantum of waste generation is equal to what we produce and consume. Therefore it is equally important to give an equal importance to this mega problem. But as I mentioned in the beginning while laying down the priorities, we give least importance to waste generation and its treatment. We believe that nature is capable to shoulder this responsibility also and will not complain but nature has its own system of complain to which we call NATURAL CALAMITIES.

We forget the basic concepts and the responsibility that it is the creator, who is responsible for his/her creation



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till it is not cremated (recycled) safely. Waste is nothing but an item which is not useful for its basic purpose for which it was made but remember it contains reusable commodities which may be derived out of the same. On one side we keep talking about pollution, climate change, global warming, glacier melting, health hazards, deteriorating health & incremental requirement of medical attention and on the other side fail to recover commodities which may be produced out of the waste generated by us, which is the main cause of imbalance.

This step motherly behavior of ours leads to a significant equilibrium imbalance because at one end, we keep withdrawing from the mines (natural resources), on the other hand we keep piling the used items. We are actually sitting on such a dangerous situation of which we do see glimpse in the form of unnatural behavior of nature in the various part of the world. To cut long story short, the purpose of the above is to make understand that the time has come to take the

corrective steps and start focusing on post consumption & treatment of the waste.

I am more than confident while saying that if we open more and more waste management and recycling centers, there will be lesser health hazards and we can achieve a healthier planet, greater productivity, least dependents on the natural resources and finally smiling faces all around.

To achieve the best results as I said above, we need to focus on providing the basic infrastructure for the recycling and waste management, reverse logistic network and sharpening of the skill set of the people, who are stakeholder associated with the above activities. I am equally confident that if the above elements are put in place, we can achieve greater results much economically as against the present investment in corrective system. India has 39 million waste workers right from the rag pickers to recyclers who are not only picking from the streets but even channelizing them till the end use and at the same time meet their minimum livelihood but generally at the cost of their health and safety because of lack of appropriate knowledge, understanding of the subject and their own personal compulsions. But these should become the compelling reason for the regulator and the government to see that appropriate skills are extended and financial support is extended to these workers who are 3% of our national population, who are managing the entire waste of our nation.

I appeal to both government and corporates to kindly encourage these waste workers to go for to gain better skill sets and implement in their daily work and all this can be achieved very easily if the minor financial support can be extended by the government and corporates.