

A primary investigation of the barriers and challenges towards sustainable waste management in Qatar

Introduction:

Increased technological development and urbanization has contributed towards lifestyles that generate significant amounts of waste all round the year. This massive amount of waste must be managed efficiently to remove it from the places where people reside in order to both preserve our social environment and conserve public health. Inadequate thoughts towards waste management in the earlier part of the century have led to significant pollution of the environment and have been the cause of many health-related issues globally. Current efforts at waste management are directed at sustainability through feedback assessments of processes and impacts to provide an eco-friendly environment (Seadon, 2010).

This primary study investigates sustainable waste management barriers and challenges in Qatar.

Research Questions:

1. How methodological approach does Qatar follow for sustainable waste management system?
2. How does Qatar deploy its resources for sustainable waste management?
3. What are the barriers and challenges faced by Qatar for waste management?

Literature Highlights:

Al-Maaded, Madi, Kahraman, Hodzic and Ozerkan (2012) report that although all the Arab Gulf states, including Qatar limited waste management policies, the main challenge towards waste management is the implementation of these policies and the enforcement of appropriate legislation for efficient and sustainable waste management in the region. Both industrial and domestic

advancements in Qatar have led to unsustainable lifestyle patterns that generate extensive amounts of waste- an escalating issue for the entire Gulf region (Khateeb, Al-Junidi and Sawalha, 2011). Domestic waste is collected in disposable bags and thrown into large containers. All the waste is collected from these containers and transferred to designated dumps outside the main cities, from where it is transferred to unsanitary landfills (Ekstrom, 2014). This increase in unhygienic waste has prompted cooperation with private organizations for more efficient disposal and management of waste (Al-Maaded et al, 2012). The situation is made more challenging since although Qatar's 2030 vision has strategized economic and social development with concurrent environmental safekeeping, there is as yet no formal waste management legislature or infrastructure and certainly no sustainability in waste management practice (Hahladakis and AlJabri, 2018).

Methodology:

This study proposes to undertake a primary research methodology to investigate the current sustainable waste management approach in Qatar and its chief barriers and challenges. A review of literature will be undertaken to understand theoretical frameworks of sustainable waste management and to draft a survey instrument for data collection. The local waste management municipality will be approached for data collection through qualitative face to face interviews. Another survey instrument, targeted at the general public utilizing the waste management systems will also be undertaken by the researcher, consisting of both quantitative and qualitative questions to collect differing viewpoints. Quantitative data will be tabulated and analysed while qualitative data from both sample populations will be thematically analysed before presentation of conclusions.

References:

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