# Assessing Health and Environmental Risks: Educational Awareness on Plastic Usage and Solid Waste Disposal in Bahawalpur

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## *Abstract*

*The review paper explores the increasing challenges posed by plastic pollution and improper solid waste management in Bahawalpur. The population has continued to increase, and there is ever-increasing urbanization; this has contributed to the increase in plastic and solid waste production, such as the single use of plastic bags and bottles. These waste materials contribute to environmental degradation, affecting soil quality and contaminating water systems. Improper disposal contributes to public health challenges like respiratory and waterborne diseases and vector-borne ailments like malaria and dengue fever. A fully equipped waste management framework is needed to solve more problems in Bahawalpur; this leads to a filled drainage system, urban flooding, and the discharge of hazardous wastes. The review also explains the level of community health education used to ensure sustainable waste management practices are practiced. Hence, the paper encourages the involvement and expansion of community-based programs and public or private-founded collaboration to support and practice recycling and the appropriate management and minimization of single-use plastics. Smart solutions are also briefly touched upon as potential solutions, including implementing waste-to-energy plants and smart bins. Consequently, this review calls for enhanced stewardship, more specific to public sensitization against further pollution of Bahawalpur and other similar urban settings by plastic and solid waste.*


**Keywords:** Educational Awareness, Environmental Education, Plastic Pollution, Solid Waste Management, Environmental Degradation

## Introduction

### Background and Context

Plastic pollution, particularly from single-use plastic bags and bottles, has become a global environmental and public health concern. These materials often end up being dumped in the environment incorrectly, and laboratory results point to extremely high levels of ecological degradation, particularly in urban areas such as Bahawalpur. Some current surveys indicate that plastic waste contributes a comparatively massive proportion of solid waste that directly threatens the soil, water, and human health (Shen et al., 2021; Dehghani et al., 2021). In addition to plastics, improper solid waste management exacerbates these issues, leading to pollution and health risks in densely populated regions (Lebreton & Andrady, 2019; Awasthi et al., 2017).

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### Global Perspective on Plastic Waste and Solid Waste

Currently, around 100 million tons are being produced yearly, with UNEP estimating that a third of this collection is waste in the environment (Guterres, 2024). Countries with insufficient waste management infrastructure face a higher risk of contamination, where solid waste, including plastic, accumulates in landfills and natural habitats, leading to environmental degradation (Ikhlayel, (2018)). The health impacts of plastic pollution, such as contamination of food and water sources with microplastics, have been documented (Al Mamun et al., 2023).

### Local Context: Bahawalpur's Waste Management Challenges

Like many other cities in Pakistan, another problem they experience is the disposal of plastic and solid waste in Bahawalpur. Records from the Municipal Department show that the city disposes of, among other items, plastic bags and bottles, which lead to blocked drainages, floods in urban centers, and adverse health consequences (Mohsin et al., 2020). Also, insufficient solid waste management practices put more pressure on the city's environmental health by breeding disease-causing organisms and polluting water sources (Khan et al., 2020).

### The Role of Health Education in Addressing Waste Management

It is agreed that mass sensitization is crucial because many people in many societies still lack adequate knowledge of the adverse effects of plastic and solid waste; thus, engaging them in embracing proper sustainable waste management is necessary. The reviewed studies provide evidence that educational interventions conducted for communities emphasizing waste disposal, recycling, and the effects of plastic materials' usage can bring about considerable changes in behavior (Heydari et al., 2021; Sadeghi et al., 2020). In this respect, it will be possible to state that in Bahawalpur, proper educational interventions would play a vital role in shaping the overall improvement of improper plastic and waste management and its effects on health and the environment.

### Aim of the Review

Therefore, this article will do a health review of the state of Bahawalpur regarding the usage of plastic bags, bottles, and solid waste on general health and the impact of health hazards due to environmental pollution to highlight the role of health education. The current review will offer findings on possible intervention strategies for effective waste management and health risk mitigation within the city depending on global practices, local endeavors, and education-based approaches.

## Health and Environmental Impacts

### Environmental Degradation from Plastic and Solid Waste

The proliferation of plastic bags and bottles in urban environments, particularly in developing countries, has undeniably contributed to environmental degradation. This issue is especially pronounced in regions needing more waste management infrastructure, such as Bahawalpur city. Critics may argue that the ubiquity of non-biodegradable polymer plastics presents an unavoidable challenge, yet the failure to address this concern with effective waste management systems exacerbates the problem. Plastics, which decompose into microplastics over time, significantly pollute soil and water (Tian et al., 2022), raising critical questions about the effectiveness of current policies and urban planning.

Moreover, the improper disposal of plastic waste in Bahawalpur, where garbage and used plastic items are discarded haphazardly in streets and open spaces, illustrates a systemic failure. The accumulation of plastic waste not only clogs the drains and damages the drainage infrastructure but also causes severe urban flooding during the monsoon season due to water

accumulation (Mohsin et al., 2020). Such environmental issues highlight a glaring oversight in urban development strategies, particularly in managing waste disposal.

Proponents of reform argue that unorganized garbage dumping, particularly solid medical waste, amplifies environmental degradation and poses serious health risks to urban populations (Khan et al., 2020). The claim that hazardous chemicals from improperly disposed waste contribute to soil erosion and land pollution (Shankar et al., 2017) further supports the need for more robust waste management solutions. The lack of sustainable waste disposal practices thus not only threatens environmental sustainability but also endangers public health, making it imperative to develop and implement innovative waste management systems in cities like Bahawalpur.

Plastic trash poses a significant danger to the environment's economic, environmental, and social sustainability and the global economy. In other words, for example, Gambhir et al., 2023, and Mukheed and Khan (2020) established that due to the increased utilization and improper disposal of plastics, polyethylene and polypropylene are binding the ecosystems as sources of soil, water, and air pollution. In Pakistan, problems have been recorded regarding the movement of waste from catchment areas into rivers, affecting the irrigation system, an area well discussed by Mukheed and Khan (2020). It shows a localized but prevalent environmental management problem similar to global problems.

Plastics degrade through physical and chemical factors, some of which involve microorganisms. Moreover, newer research suggests that insects may be involved in the breakdown of plastic, extending the list of biological approaches (Gambhir et al., 2024; Ali et al., 2021). However, once they degrade, they become microplastics, as these are particles below 5mm in size and cause problems for ecosystems and human life. Zhang et al. (2021) stressed the increasing number of hornets associated with microplastics infiltrating the food web and water system.

Considering the current global adverse impact of plastics, subsequent research should strongly emphasize the part of the environment that affects plastic degradation. Future initiatives aimed at boosting sustainable waste management, which Ali et al. (2021) and Zhang et al. (2021) suggested, are vital in preventing the formation and dissemination of microplastics. The variability of MPs and NPs and their environmental behaviors are crucial aspects that must remain core to such continuous investigation to control their future effects.

**Health Risks Associated with Plastic Bags and Bottles**

In recent research, the harmful effects of plastic pollution on health, especially single-use plastic bags and bottles, have been revealed. Research shows that when plastic is burned, it releases dangerous compounds like dioxins and furans that cause respiratory diseases, cancer, and stunted growth. (Alabi et al., 2019). In the densely populated areas of Bahawalpur, open burning of all kinds of waste is a common practice. Burning garbage increases air pollution, harming the health of the nearby people. (Mohsin et al., 2020). Also, microbeads in decomposing plastic bottles can enter the food chain and drinking water supply. The study used the LD-IR system to determine the presence of microplastic polymer groups in drinking water samples. A higher level of microplastics was found in bottled water when compared with tap water (Huan et al., 2023). In Bahawalpur, people often use the bottled water. Groundwater is often sometimes considered unsafe, leading to a major health hazard in such a scenario.

Conventional plastics in packaging and other products have proven negative effects on health and the environment, as they are a threat from toxic compounds such as phthalates, heavy metals, and bumps of bisphenol A. These substances have been observed to migrate into foods and drinking water and may carry some risks, such as endocrine disruption, neurotoxicity, and liver, and renal toxicity (Alabi et al., 2019; Cook & Halden, 2020). It causes problems for human beings and affects marine creatures and the living environment since plastics are the

main sources of polluting oceans and seas (Alabi et al., 2019). This issue raises an immediate concern, touching on health and the environment equally.

The issues are exacerbated by the production and disposal of plastics, which generate hazardous compounds that contaminate the air, soil, and water, jeopardizing human health and well-being (Govind & Nishitha, 2023). Nevertheless, owing to the progressive revelation of these various dangers, the official stance on the total safety of plastics is still questionable, with ongoing discussions regarding the problem's severity (Fweja, 2021). This lack of clarity makes the regulation task to reduce these risks easier.

There has been some success in limiting exposure through the use of non-synthetic packaging, avoiding high-risk polymers, and eliminating plastic (Cook & Halden, 2020). However, plastics remain chemically inert, non-biodegradable, and used extensively in virtually every economy, making waste management and protection of the environment a complex endeavor (Aswathi et al., 2023). As the systematization of cycles in producing and disposing of plastics occurs, it is still possible to prevent damage to human health and the environment.

**Health Risks from Improper Solid Waste Management**

Sanitation of solid wastes in Bahawalpur also poses a few direct health risks, as mentioned below. Solid waste provides breeding grounds for vectors like mosquitos, rats, and flies, which are known vectors of diseases like dengue fever, malaria, and cholera (Krystosik et al., 2020. Pathak et al., 2019). Research carried out in similar zones with the same problem in waste management has indicated the population's increased vulnerability to waterborne illnesses, respiratory infections, and gastrointestinal diseases with poor sanitation and exposure to waste (Pal et al., 2018). In Bahawalpur, health risks are worsened by shortages of health facilities containing the diseases that come with exposure to waste. For instance, overcrowded public hospitals and few health facilities result in residents affected by vector-borne diseases not seeking proper treatment (WHO, 2014). Education relating to correct waste disposal and its consequences on people's health would reduce the number of people visiting health facilities and benefit the population in the long run.

**Case Study: Bahawalpur's Urban Waste Challenges**

In their recent case study, Majeed et al. (2018) critique the current state of solid waste management in Bahawalpur, Pakistan, concerning the EaseTech life cycle assessment (LCA) model. Bahawalpur, a city with urban and rural characteristics, faces challenges such as limited resources, low waste generation rates (0.424 kg/capita/day), and prevalent open dumping practices. The program found that the waste is mostly organic (64%), recyclable (27%), and inert (9%). Using the LCA model, the current waste management practice is estimated to affect climate change and ecotoxicity impacts while showing cost savings in the depletion of abiotic resources through high levels of source separation and recycling for the Dutch population. Wang's study calls for changes as a means of reducing serious negative effects on the environment regarding waste disposal. The study also provides a detailed account of the WD situation in Bahawalpur, the status of primary and secondary collection structures, active scavenging operations, and even informal recycling streams. Their research is pivotal in identifying the approaches to solving the disposal problem to advance strategic management locally.

In conclusion, the paper suggests the need and raises awareness for improving strategies to attain more sustainable waste management in developing countries, including Pakistan. It aims to extend the informal sectors into proper waste management facilities and look for new methods in waste treatment with escalating waste management issues.

**Table 1: Solid Waste Generation in Bahawalpur (Summary)**

| Type of Waste | Daily Generation (tons) | Composition (%) | Source |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Solid Waste | 325 | 100% | *Environmental Quantification of the Existing Waste Management System in Bahawalpur* |
| Organic Waste | 182 | 56% | *Environmental Quantification of the Existing Waste Management System in Bahawalpur* |
| Recyclables | 88 | 27% | *Environmental Quantification of the Existing Waste Management System in Bahawalpur* |
| Residual Waste | 52 | 16% | *Environmental Quantification of the Existing Waste Management System in Bahawalpur (Majeed et al. 2018)* |
| Plastic Waste | 58.7 | 18% | *Solid Waste as an Environmental Hazard: A Case Study of Bahawalpur City (Khan et al. 2018)* |

The table reveals that Bahawalpur alone produces 325 tons of solid waste per day, of which 56 percent is organic while 27 percent is recyclable. Of all losses by weight, 18% is plastic, meaning this can be recycled and hence reduce plastic pollution.

**Figure 1: Trend of health-related cases linked to waste mismanagement in Bahawalpur**

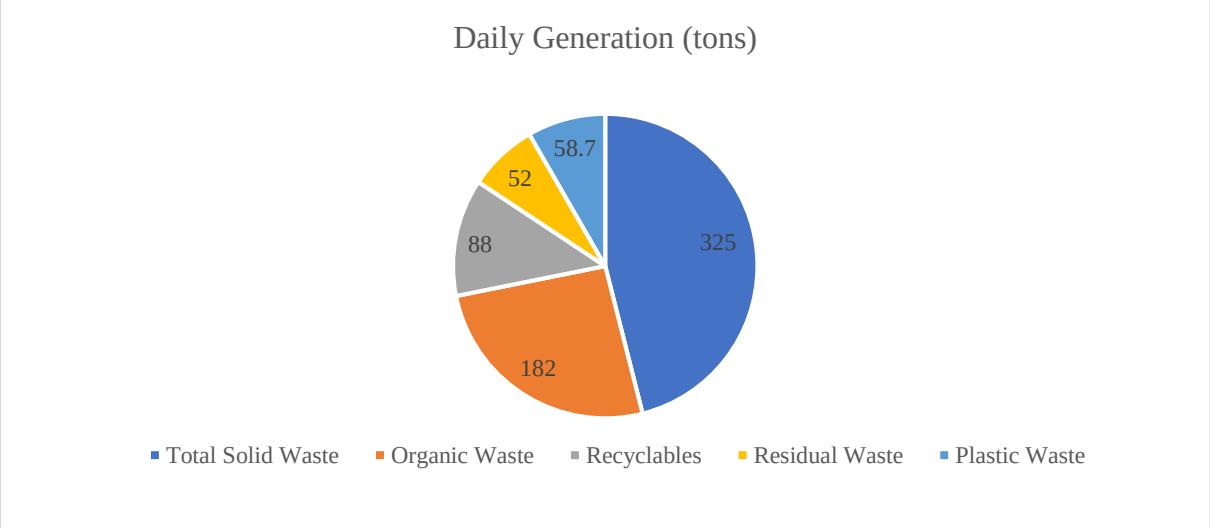

**Figure 2: Waste generation distribution in Bahawalpur**

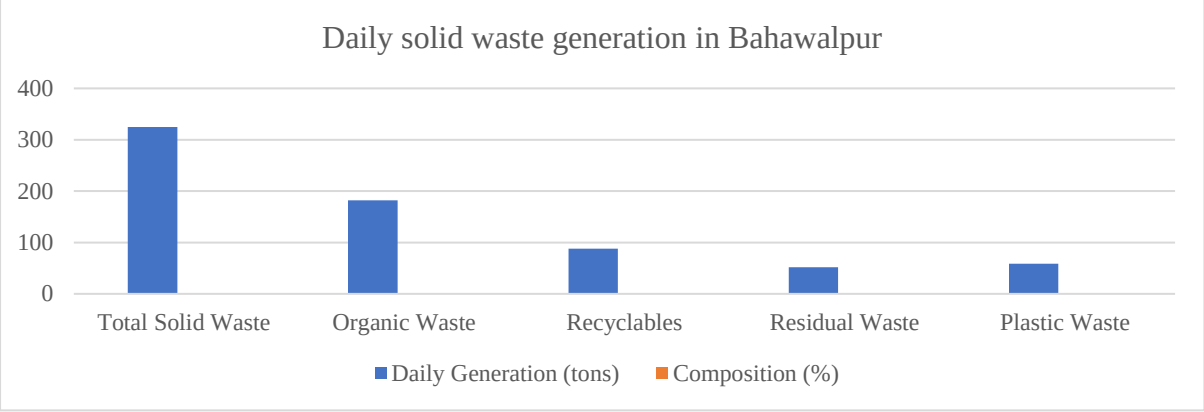


Figure 2 shows the waste generation distribution in Bahawalpur, highlighting the breakdown of organic, recyclable, residual, and plastic waste, with organic waste making up the majority at 56% (Khan et al., 2018).

## Health Education Strategies and Public Awareness Campaigns

### Importance of Health Education in Waste Management

Health education is crucial since it strongly determines people's environmental perceptions and actions regarding problems like plastics and solid waste. Research has shown that effective health education campaigns can improve waste management practices and reduce plastic pollution (Schultz et al., 2013). Informing the public on the resultant health effects of plastics and general improper disposal of solid wastes will go a long way in encouraging the public to embrace the correct waste disposal methods, outrightly ban the use of plastics, and encourage the use of proper recycling measures.

However, implementing focused health promotion interventions is crucial in Bahawalpur, where the issue of plastic waste management persists. These interventions are designed to enhance community competency in sustainable waste management. It is important to note that effective waste management infrastructure needs to support these efforts. Additional strategies are needed to mitigate the adverse effects of informal plastic waste burning and dumping, which are prevalent due to a lack of awareness and proper waste management infrastructure (Khan et al., 2020). Furthermore, strategies to educate the broader community for sustainable livelihood can engage the locals as stakeholders and promote sustainable behavioral change.

### Global Success Stories in Waste Management Education

Several global examples of successful health education programs illustrate the importance of adopting best practices to address waste management challenges. A notable example is Singapore's "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" public campaign, which aimed to raise awareness about the excessive use of plastics and promote recycling throughout the country. This initiative not only educated the public about the environmental consequences of plastic pollution but also provided practical strategies for reducing waste generation (Lee & Wong, 2023). The campaign's success demonstrates the power of public education in shifting societal behaviors toward more sustainable waste management practices.

Similarly, both Singapore and Shanghai have implemented extensive community-based waste separation and recycling education programs, significantly reducing the amount of plastic waste that ends up in landfills. These programs emphasize waste sorting, recycling, and raising awareness about the negative impacts of single-use plastics (SUMP), fostering a culture of environmental conservation (Zhou et al., 2022). The success of these megacities underscores

the potential of targeted health education in transforming waste disposal habits at the community level.

These paradigms offer valuable lessons for Bahawalpur. Public education initiatives, similar to those in Singapore and Shanghai, could be instrumental in addressing the city's waste management issues. By conducting extensive health education campaigns, Bahawalpur could enhance public awareness, develop efficient waste disposal practices, and instill a culture of environmental responsibility, ultimately leading to a more sustainable approach to managing urban waste.

**Waste Management Awareness Programs in Bahawalpur**

Bahawalpur city faces numerous challenges related to municipal solid waste management (SWM), including inadequate infrastructure and limited awareness among the population. To combat solid waste and plastic-borne pollution, awareness materials on waste management have sought to teach people about waste disposal and environmental protection by expanding various methods. Shafqat et al. (2014) noted that early public health campaigns to control environmental pollution involving local people have increased awareness of proper waste disposal. Mohsin and Chinyama (2016) argued, based on the diversity found in the Kampala waste management system, that actions between the two aspects of human life and the environment arising during improper waste disposal can reduce the negative effects. The efforts to increase awareness include seminars, workshops, and public awareness campaigns targeting Bahawalpur's urban and rural populations. According to Majeed et al. (2018), awareness programs have reduced the trend of plastic bags and promoted recycling culture. Still, as mentioned by Mohsin et al. (2020), those barriers persist, namely, inadequate involvement with specific community segments and weak financial support. Future financing of awareness initiatives is crucial in filling these gaps and centralizing proper and efficient waste management in Bahawalpur.

**The Role of Schools and Educational Institutions in Waste Education**

It is argued that schools and universities are also powerful contributors to shaping the environmental behavior of young people. Studies suggest that students exposed to environmental education early in life are more likely to practice sustainability in the future (Yang et al., 2022; Ahbirami & Zuharah, 2020). Efficient recycling of waste in schools, like recycling drives, waste audits, and implementing sustainability workshops, can help instill responsibility in students to start campaigning for sustainable waste management in their societies (Wetering et al., 2022). Additionally, school-based health education programs can go beyond targeting the students; they can encompass parents and the community, thus intensifying the positive environmental impact (Ahbirami & Zuharah, 2020). It has been found that integrating waste management and environmental awareness into the school curriculum would boost public awareness of their importance. Such initiatives would help the educational institutions in Bahawalpur develop programs informing the students on the effects of plastic and solid waste on the environment and health.

**Digital Campaigns and Social Media as Tools for Public Awareness**

The use of social networks is relevant at the present stage of using the Internet and electronics to raise awareness. A study in this area revealed that a larger population of people involving the youths can be targeted and engage in environmental activities through social marketing communication campaigns. Clicks and viral campaigns can influence sustainability communication through these platforms. In addition, social media facilitates the dissemination of health information and instant public health promotion (Hunt et al., 2022; Faus et al., 2014; Lauman et al., 2019). Therefore, the best way to spread the word about the harms of plastic and

the imperative need to dispose of the waste properly is to use applications like Facebook, Instagram, or even WhatsApp.

When talking about awareness within the context of a digital campaign, health might mean making funny videos, illustrations, and real people's stories about the struggle against plastic within one's community and recycling, for example. Such campaigns could reap even better results if they involved influential personalities and other recognized regional characters. Thus, for individuals in social networks, online communities can be created to address the problems and solutions in waste management so that people will care about the environment.

**Proposed Solutions for Plastic and Solid Waste Management in Bahawalpur**

**Policy Reforms and Regulatory Framework**

The accumulation of plastic waste adds bags, bottles, and solid waste, making it important for the authorities in Bahawalpur to enhance policy change and law reforms on environmental conservation. Moreover, the government will need to legislate to control the use and application of such plastics. Such actions may include banning the use of polyethylene bags as has been practiced in different countries, including Rwanda and Kenya, where enactments passed have prescribed very stringent measures that, in extension, have led to the abreast reduction of the use of plastic products (Wang et al., 2020). Also, regulations must guarantee solid waste's safe and proper disposal, including hazardous and non-biodegradable waste products.

BWMC and Bahawalpur local authorities must improve the collection service for solid waste, especially in Islami Colony and Model Town C, a poor area. These regions bear the brunt of environmental and health effects arising from poor waste disposal facilities, which affect the growth of diseases such as malaria and respiratory diseases. Some of these dangers could be prevented, and the population's general health would improve if waste containment efforts were scaled up (Khan et al., 2020).

**Technological Solutions for Waste Management**

Waste disposal methods are constantly being improved. Modern methods can reduce the environmental pollution and health problems caused by plastic and solid waste. The best way to dispose of waste in Bahawalpur is to convert it into energy through waste-to-energy (WtE) plant solutions. Sweden is an example of this, where the representatives of WtE technologies have given excellent results, greatly reducing the use of landfills and environmental emissions for the population (Traven, 2023).

The increasing administrative problems in various areas of Bahawalpur City, particularly in Islamic Colony and Model Town C, due to solid waste, demand the active involvement of the local authorities and the BWMC. By improving waste disposal systems, we can swiftly address environmental problems such as land degradation, malaria, and respiratory diseases. The establishment of an efficient waste disposal system by BWMC and other concerned agencies will not only solve these problems but also significantly improve the quality of urban life, giving hope for a healthier and cleaner Bahawalpur (Khan et al., 2020).

**Community-Based Waste Reduction Programs**

The best results can be achieved through awareness campaigns in Bahawalpur by convincing citizens to join administrative services to solve the problem of plastic and solid waste. People can be encouraged to transport plastic to designated places for restriction and recycling. They can also be taught ways to reduce waste in households. Effective arrangements can be made to correct the environment by involving NGOs, schools, colleges, and universities in awareness campaigns (Akong et al., 2021). Accurate waste disposal with citizen participation has been done in Indonesia, and the process has improved climate change (Gusti; Yuliantari, 2020).

**Promoting Recycling and Circular Economy Initiatives**

Recycling is a powerful solution to reduce plastic pollution and manage solid waste. By setting up recycling plants in Bahawalpur and fostering a recycling culture, we can convert plastic, glass, and other metal items into reusable resources. It's essential to empower residents, businesses, and manufacturers with advocacy messages that encourage waste sorting at home. Their active participation is not just crucial, but also a responsibility we all share in realizing our recycling goals.

In addition, embracing a concept where products are reused, refurbished, and recycled could help reduce the amount of waste produced. This would require the extension of information about the impacts of reducing waste and the reuse of material, together with the promotion of products with longer life spans to manufacturers, businesses, and consumers (Kirchherr et al., 2023). This concept of change can be achieved by creating a market for recycled products and motivating enterprises to play an active role in recycling in Bahawalpur.

**Public-Private Partnerships in Waste Management**

There are mutual benefits and dependence on public and private entities to act to manage waste successfully. Funding, technology, and expertise in PPPs: PPPs offer the best solution to another hurdle of waste management that Bahawalpur is likely to encounter along its development path. For instance, the private sector needs recycling plants or waste collection technologies, while the government is a regulator and policymaker (Waheed et al., 2023).

The potential of PPPs could also be harnessed in the development of eco-industrial parks, where the waste products of one industry can be input to another. This industrial relationship decreases waste production and increases resource utilization. Moreover, private industries, with their innovative capabilities, have the opportunity to lead the way in sustainable packaging solutions and engage in CSR, particularly in the context of reducing environmental pollution and packing waste (Thanh et al., 2023).

**Incentives for Sustainable Practices**

The local authorities in Bahawalpur are responsible for ensuring effective waste management. They should categorize and implement incentive-based programs encouraging citizens and business organizations to adopt sustainable waste management practices. For example, the deposit-refund initiatives for recyclable products have been successful in countries like Germany and Norway. Similar measures in Bahawalpur could lead to a cleaner environment and economic benefits, with consumers receiving monetary incentives or discounts for recycling. Furthermore, there are policy suggestions that include positive incentives, where the government provides firms with tax breaks for effectively providing both sustainability in packaging materials and recycling equipment and systems, and negative incentives, where the government revokes existing privileges of firms to provide recycling equipment and systems in case they do not meet the set sustainability standards. Such financial incentives not only encourage the increased innovation of waste management sectors but can also produce large economic benefits in Bahawalpur. It can reduce the effects of industries on the environment in Bahawalpur when it grows.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

This study reveals that using plastic bags and bottles and poor disposal of solid wastes in Bahawalpur are major environmental, health, and social issues. This review highlights the importance of raising health education awareness around the detrimental impacts of plastic pollution and solid waste mismanagement. The accumulation of plastic waste in the city's ecosystems leads to environmental degradation and contributes to public health risks, such as water contamination and respiratory diseases. All these problems are worse due to poor waste

management. The entire waste disposal and recycling, if at all exist, are improper, leading to polluting of the environment and the nation's air, water, and soil.

Research from other regions of the country suggests that the environmental, health, and social issues in Bahawalpur necessitate a comprehensive approach to waste management. This approach should include regulatory changes, the adoption of new technologies, increased awareness, and a focus on environmental conservation. For instance, the phased-out use of non-reusable plastic products and the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies can significantly reduce plastic waste. Similarly, the adoption of advanced technologies such as Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plants and smart waste collection strategies can effectively address the city's poor waste governance.

However, it is also about more than solving the existing problems. For this purpose, it is not focused on the present. Rather, it is about envisioning the future of Bahawalpur. Awareness needs education, specifically at that level, popularization of culture change, and penalties for activities that foster recycling and diminish health-degrading practices. If more appropriate circular economy approaches to plastic and solid waste are employed in waste management, the city can lead toward a sustainable future. This approach minimizes waste and provides decent economic and environmental breakthroughs; therefore, Bahawalpur must adopt this approach.

## Recommendations

### Strengthening Health Education Initiatives

The youth is the most affected by education, and our society cannot also be an exception. Bahawalpur must launch sensitization and persuasion campaigns that may popularize the potential adverse environmental and health risks associated with plastics and solid waste. They stated that such campaigns should be undertaken in schools, universities, and other communities to enhance the understanding of the dangers and consequences of littering and poor disposal of plastics. There is a need for local authorities and NGOs to design culture-soaked educational activities that make the residents embrace the need to minimize waste and embrace recycling.

### Policy Interventions and Waste Regulation

To deal with the existing problems of plastic and solid waste, the authorities of Bahawalpur should enforce strict measures. Introducing policies to ban the use of plastic bags and other similar products, enforce plastic bag littering, and dump plastic bags will also reduce the generation of plastic waste. In addition, it should extend policies concerning the collection of waste segregated in homes, establish policies that effectively involve the households in recycling, and appropriately encourage the general improvement of the proper recycling centers.

### Implementing Public-Private Partnerships

Bahawalpur's options for waste management initiatives will be established by emphasizing the role of PPPs. Some advantages include better structures and funds when dealing with the government's aspects, such as waste management, technology, and industries, and, above all, there are always better ways of managing waste. They may facilitate new technology for recycling where there is none more, especially on plastics, and also assist business organizations in making economic gains by adopting sustainable environment management.

### Promoting Recycling and Circular Economy Models

Instead, Bahawalpur should start working on its problems and constructing recycling plants. The rationale is that people should be encouraged to obey the law by repaying monies from

sales or deposits on plastic bottles. Local authorities must also focus on establishing how people will access recycling and whether collected items are correctly sorted, processed, and used. The transition from a linear economy model, in which waste is produced and introduced into the economy, to the circular economy approach is required to improve the work progressively.

**Technological and Financial Support**

Thus, to manage waste sustainably, it is crucial to implement advanced technologies like waste-to-energy plants and smart waste management systems. These innovations minimize waste and are economically productive, as they generate heat, electricity, and employment. Judging from the present situation, government authorities, with the assistance of allied international development organizations, should appropriate finances to local waste management projects to ensure their success.

**Community Involvement and Behavior Change**

Therefore, community participation is crucial for successful waste management endeavors. Locally elected bodies, schools, colleges, and other environmental organizations must conduct awareness programs, cleaning activities, and later awareness campaigns to develop a civic sense among the people to dispose of waste properly. Community responsibilities and participation are ideal concepts in managing change, which must be embraced in the long run.

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