

Industry and Environment in Bangladesh : Lesson from Japanese Experience of 3Rs

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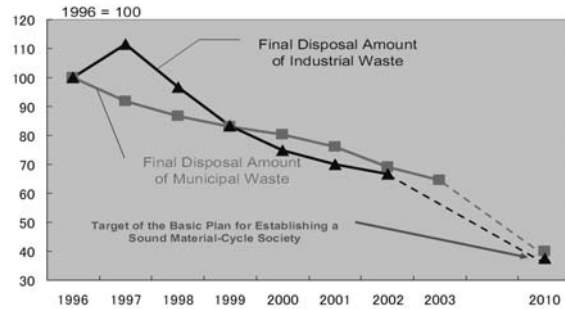
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Abstract— Environment is a global concern, which is caused by industrial and commercial areas, residential waste, gas emulsion from green houses, recycling problems, etc. However, waste is an important issue and every country in the world is struggling with ways to keep the situation under control. Japan is a model country in terms of recycling and environment preservation. Their efforts have surpassed many countries. It has recently passed a number of laws and policies that have helped Japan's environment and recycling issues. These laws have produced tremendous results in Japanese society. Through enforcement of these laws the country sends a decreasing amount its solid waste to landfills which has had intense problems during the high growth of economy. The main purpose of the study is to find out the environmental problems through industrial development of Bangladesh and their solution through the adoption of Japanese experience of 3Rs. But the Japanese system cannot be, and should not be, applied in its entirety because of the differences in cultural and social activities. But it may be possible to implement the Japanese system partially, especially those elements which have conformity with separation, community, and network participants in Bangladesh.

INTRODUCTION

The Earth Summit in Kyoto Protocol in 1997, were a significant in reshaping conventional developmental thinking into sustainable development. This new trend guided us to clean up existing industries and develop new ones with minimum environmental impacts. In the process, the development of recycling systems, waste exchange and industrial ecology has replaced the linear industrial processes with a more circulatory structure [Chowdhury (2007) 61-111].

To achieve sustainable development in the 21st century and to create a recycling-oriented economy, the Japanese Government enacted "Basic Law for Promoting the Creation of a Recycling-Oriented Society in 2000" This law focuses on three priorities for society (the 3 Rs): Reducing waste by using things as long as possible and not simply throwing them away and buying another; Reusing things rather than throwing them away after limited or minimal usage; Recycling anything that can possibly be used again in some form [GOJ, METI: wave site]. As a result the final disposal amount of industrial waste has been decreasing (Fig. 1). In addition to, the government enactment of the Basic Law for Anti-pollution Measures has promoted the Fundamental Law for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society: The objectives of this law are [GOJ, MOE (2007):119-133]: (i) reducing wastes; (ii) reusing end of life products and parts; (iii) recycling wastes as raw materials; (iv) recovering heat; and (v) appropriate disposal as final waste. Vis-a-vis the Waste Management and Public Cleansing Law has implemented for recycling.



Source: Government of Japan (GOJ), METI www.meti.go.jp
Fig. 1: Reduction of Final Disposal Amounts in Japan

BANGLADESH LESSONS FROM JAPANESE EXPERIENCE

Bangladesh has lack of resource, overpopulated and poverty that faces natural calamities continually. Industry has become an essential part of prosperity and socio-economic development. Bangladesh still remain early stages of industrial development, so to solve this environment problems, it should learn from Japanese experience and take proactive measures in planning and managing the industrial sector.

Bangladesh is now on the threshold of industrialization and economic development to emancipate her nation from poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy as well as environmental, recycling, and similar other chronic problems. Under these circumstances the country need of industrialization is one of the most significant processes of economic development.

Since Japan has a lack of natural resources, as does Bangladesh, it is an idea that this is a good fit to improve the industrial pollution problems, environmental problems in all cities, as it should endeavor to adopt several elements of the Japanese environmental preservation system and recycling process of wastes. A number of lessons were learnt from Japan with respect to environmental related problems like, waste disposal, recycle, policy, strategy, and development of plans and programs, knowledge dissemination, and training, and community activities. The most significant lessons for Bangladesh from Japanese environmental practices are: (a) Appropriate waste disposal and recycling, (b) Encouragement of the use of recycled products and materials, (c) Assessment of products and packaging with regard to the "3Rs", (d) Establishing waste management facilities, (e) Importance of environmental education, (f) Implementation of economic measures such Environmental Business, (g) Research and development.

ASSESSMENT OF PRODUCTS AND PACKAGING WITH REGARD TO THE “3Rs”

Recycling plays a major role to reduced waste in today’s global society and Japan’s recycling is leading the nation. It is internationally well known that recycling help environment and often costs more than burying waste in landfills, but rising energy prices and concerns about climate change. Making new goods from waste uses less energy and generates fewer greenhouse gases than extracting and processing virgin materials. The government of Japan emphasized and has passed rigid laws to control the waste issue in their country. On the consumer level, every person in Japan follows a very strict recycling guideline at home. Waste is picked up on a daily basis and trash has perfectly separated and most of it is recycled.

Bangladesh needs to pass rigid laws and model their recycling efforts after Japan. As time goes on, the waste issue will get worse and it is just a matter of time until this issue is going to present a very big problem for Bangladesh. As a developing country Bangladesh can someday be on the same level as Japan in the recycling arena.

CONCLUSION

There are some problems that might be solved through the proper application of the law and legal system, and there is a need for specific, concrete programs to be initiated, although, the government has limited ability to achieve its full potential in this area due to the existence of some pertinent issues regarding plans, policies, and implications. However, in the context of Bangladesh, the problems are still not difficult like other developed and developing countries. They can be solved more quickly using environmental education and the proper recycle of all kind of solid wastes. It is concluded that Bangladesh government can emphasize the above points: industrial pollution, law enforcement, and environmental education, and a favorable situation will be brought about in the long run.

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