

## MODULE-1/4

# Garbage in, Garbage out

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### **Introduction**

Garbage is an undesired and unwanted material. It is also referred to as rubbish, junk or trash. Proper disposal of garbage is necessary for maintaining cleanliness in surroundings.

Tonnes of garbage and is generated by us on a daily basis. Garbage is often associated with a pungent smell and a large amount of garbage may release fumes which are not healthy. Hence, we put such items in dustbins to be taken to faraway places so that our surroundings are clean and healthy.

Waste is generated by all of us and has four main sources:

### **Sources of waste:**

- (i) Domestic wastes: Vegetable peels, paper, food leftover and plastics are domestic waste.
- (ii) Industrial waste: Wastes which produced from industries like plastic, glass, fly ash, smoke etc.
- (iii) Commercial wastes: These wastes come from generated from commercial Establishments hotels, malls, auto-repair shops, medical facilities.
- (iv) Agricultural wastes: These wastes are rice husk, dried stems and weeds and cattle waste.

### **Dealing with garbage:**

- Not all garbage can be classified as useless as there are products which can be reused or recycled.
- When garbage is taken away by the municipality, it is taken to a low lying and open area known as a landfill.
- Here, garbage is separated into two categories: the items that can be used again for some other purpose and items that cannot be used.
- The latter is then spread over the landfill and covered with a blanket of soil. Once full, it is converted into a playground or a park.

### **Types of waste:**

The useful components of the garbage can usually be classified into two categories:

- Biodegradable wastes
- Non-biodegradable wastes

- ❖ **Biodegradable wastes** → Wastes which broken down into simple constituents by the action of microorganisms.  
Examples: animal wastes, organic wastes, domestic refuse etc.
- ❖ **Non-biodegradable wastes** → Wastes which cannot be disintegrated by action of microorganisms and remain unaffected decomposition.  
Examples: plastic, glass, scraps, metal etc.

Plastic is a material consisting of a wide range of synthetic or semi-synthetic compounds that are malleable and can be moulded into solid objects.

Plastic can be recycled, reused, coloured, melted, rolled into sheets or made into wires.

That is why it finds such a variety of uses.

Plastic is non-biodegradable and poses major health hazards for animals including humans.

### **Reduce overuse of plastic:**

Re-use of the plastic bags whenever it is possible to do so without any adverse affects. Neglect re-use of plastic bags for storage or storage of food items to store food items.

Do not use plastic bags, especially to store eatables.

Don't fill plastic bags with wastes of plants and animals, such as peels of vegetables and fruits, egg shells, bone pieces of animals, and throw them here and there in open places.

Animals may eat such plastic bags for the sake of food items. Later on these cause death of animals such as cow. buffaloes, dogs and other stray animals. These plastic bags, sometimes suffocate them or choke the alimentary canal which causes indigestion of food and elimination of undigested food.

Do not bum plastic bags and other plastic items because they emit harmful gases.

**Dustbins:** The utensil or space where the waste material is collected is called dustbin.

**Green dustbins:** Generally we use green dustbin for collecting biodegradable waste.

**Blue dustbins:** The non-biodegradable wastes which do not decompose naturally are kept in blue dustbin.

Garbage should be allowed to be processed by the authorities and not burnt because the burning of garbage releases toxic fumes which are harmful to the health of everybody.

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