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“Food and nutrition security and its resilience
to global crises”

Synergistic Social Entrepreneurship

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Abstract

In developing countries like Bangladesh, people normally do not separate different types of waste, then it becomes a challenge to recycle a gigantic amount of waste daily. An estimate of the future generation rate indicates that in Bangladesh the present waste generation rate of 3500 tons day⁻¹ may exceed 30 thousand tons day⁻¹ by the year 2020. The mixed waste dumped at dumping sites is characterised by high organic content and high moisture content (about 80 % and 50–70 % by weight, respectively). Proper processing and recycling of solid wastes as organic matter can be used for improving soil productivity. The main purpose of this research is initiating community sharing social business of turning organic waste into resources. This research is based on both primary and secondary data using qualitative research method; e.g. expert-interviews. Interviews were conducted with the experts of different stakeholders' groups e.g. ministries, government and non-governmental organisations. This research suggests that organic waste compost in an area with a minimum of at least 10–20 households is possible to make a biogas plant from organic waste than a single house initiative. Findings also revealed that organic waste can produce biogas as renewable energy and residues from the biogas plant can be used as compost for organic farming. But community initiatives and awareness are necessary so that the unused surfaces in the city area can be used for green conservation. But capacity building activities are necessary for the community initiative, e.g. workshops for knowledge sharing. This research revealed that recycling of organic wastes in a systematic way could be a useful option for the commercial production of organic fertilisers so that people can grow vegetables and fruits locally from the unused spaces from the city to generate income from zero. Through a system of interconnected local business, our research aims to uplift communities in developing nations by identifying their resources and meeting the triple bottom line between the synergism of scalable local business using this model.

Keywords: Organic waste compost, social entrepreneurship, urban gardening