

6th – Garbage in Garbage Out I



Every day, we put many things in our dustbin. For example, after eating a banana, we put the peel in the dustbin. After removing the products, the packaging materials become waste for us. Wastes are materials or substances that are

- no longer needed.
- have become useless.
- are meant to be thrown away.

Wastes can be solid (like fruit and vegetable peels), liquid (like used soapy water) or gaseous (gases released by vehicles). Solid waste is commonly called garbage.

Sources of wastes: We use new technologies to improve our standard of living, but these have also resulted in producing large amounts of wastes. Waste is usually produced at our homes, offices, industries, farms and hospitals.

Types of wastes: All wastes can be classified into two types:.

1. **Biodegradable Waste:** waste that can be decomposed by the action of microorganisms (bacteria and fungi) into simpler and harmless substances so that it cannot harm the environment is called biodegradable waste. All the wastes derived from living matter are biodegradable. Peels and cuttings of fruits and vegetables, leftover food, leaves, animal dung, bones, plant residue and agricultural wastes are some examples of biodegradable waste.

2. **Non-biodegradable Waste:** waste that cannot be decomposed by the action of microorganisms into harmless substances is called non-biodegradable waste. Disposal of this type of waste is a serious problem because this type of waste does not rot or decay. The garbage that consists of plastic, glass and metal objects is non-biodegradable. If not handled properly, non biodegradable waste causes pollution.

Segregation Of Wastes: Separation (or segregation) of garbage is a non- hygienic and slow process. It can also adversely affect the health of the person segregating garbage. So, the garbage should be segregated at the point of its generation. Municipalities provide separate dustbins for collecting two kinds of garbage. Usually, one is blue-coloured and the other is green-coloured. Two garbage bins- one for bio degradable wastes and other for non biodegradable wastes should be used. Wastes can be segregated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes.

1. **The blue dustbin** is for collecting non- biodegradable waste materials such as plastics, metals, glass, bottles, plastic wastes old batteries chocolate wrappers polythene bags. These materials can be recycled and used again.

2. **The green dustbin** is for collecting biodegradable waste materials such as kitchen wastes and other plant and animal wastes.

Steps to reduce the generation of garbage: It is important to reduce the generation of waste. This can be achieved by practising the three R's— Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Reduce: We can reduce the amount of waste by throwing less. For example:

- Do not buy a new school bag, lunch box or pencil box when you already have a perfectly usable one.
- Carry your own cloth bag when you go for shopping to avoid the use of polythene bags.
- Use metal or china plates instead of disposable plastic paper plates and cups.
- Take as much food on your plate as you can eat.
- Use ink pens instead of ballpoint pens as ink pens can be refilled.



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Reuse: Reuse is to use an item more than once. Reusing of items is another method of reducing waste. For example:

- Plastic jars in which we get food items like pickles and jams can be reused later on for storing things like salt, spices, sugar and pulses.
- Mats can be made from old clothes.
- Old clothes and furniture should be donated to the poor so that they can be reused.
- Reuse old newspapers to make carry bags or old charts to cover your books and notebooks.
- Paper napkins can be replaced with cloth napkins which can be washed and reused.

Recycle: the process by which waste material are used to make new product is called recycling material like glass metal ,plastic and paper are collected separated and recycled to make new things.

Minimising the overuse of plastics can be done by following methods:

Recycling Plastics: some of the ways to reduce, reuse plastics are as follows:

- Paper, cotton and jute bag should be preferred over plastic bags.
- Some disposable plastic container and jars can be used to grow plant.
- Empty bottles can be refilled for storage of water or any other liquid stuff.
- Zip foils can be reused after cleaning thoroughly each time after storing food stuffs.

Recycling of Paper: paper is made from tress and trees are essential for our survivals on earth. Some of the ways to save paper are;

- We should always write on both sides of paper sheet.
- Unused pages from old note books can be torn off and made into a new book for doing rough work and other miscellaneous work.
- We can also reuse envelopes and cover by using stickers to write new address.
- We can also make fresh paper from old news papers.

