



Solid Waste to Organic Manure: An Inclusive Way of Civic Participation

USAID- supported Dhaka CALLING Project promoting inclusive way of civic participation through organic manure production using SW.



The community people of Molla slum start producing organic manure using household organic waste and opened up a new business window pursuing duty bearers and community representatives to hear their voices. The initiative is being implemented with the support of the Dhaka Citizens Advocacy Collaboration against Polluting Environment (Dhaka CALLING) project, an initiative of DSK Consortium (DSK, BARCIK, CUP, inSights) under the Promoting Advocacy and Rights (PAR) Activity of Counterpart International (CPI).

Solid waste is a matter of nuisance and disturbance for the community people. It is suffering them socially, economically, physically, mentally, and environmentally defying their constitutional rights given in section 18 (A). Their socio-economic status, faint voice and limited resources, ineffective implementation of legal frameworks, and complex nature of the service delivery system forced them to think of alternatives to manage their solid waste. Moving forward from the community environmental action plan (CEAP) and community-led waste management system (CLWMS) the people embedded the idea of producing organic manure using their kitchen waste.

As part of this plan, community people learn about their environmental human rights, the merits and demerits of at-source segregation of waste, increase their capacity on composting, and learned about the technologies and choices suitable for them.

Gathering the required knowledge and skills the community people with their joint efforts start at source separation of their organic waste, keeping them at a designated place, and collecting and gathering them in one place to produce organic manure using the bed composting option. This pilot initiative brings about a huge change both at an individual level and to surrounding of the community.

First of all, the behavioral attitude of the community people start changing, and the way of looking at the problem changed. Waste generation started to reduce in the community, the periphery environment of the community start getting better, multi-use of non-biodegradable waste and earning economic benefits from it commenced, and people start looking into the business options of composting.

Secondly, the use of this compost fertilizer in their homestead gardening helps them save and generate money and contributes to their food security and nutrition.

Finally, this initiative brings community people under the same roof, helping them amplify their leadership skills. Displaying their initiatives to duty bearers and policymakers through different advocacy events of DCP they are raising their voices to different platforms and making them hear their voices.

'We never thought waste is a resource and could be used in this way. Our environment start getting better now. It looks different now. We are trying to make further advancement using this resource if we get ample support and cooperation from the government'- said by Ms. Shahanara Begum, community member of Molla slum.

