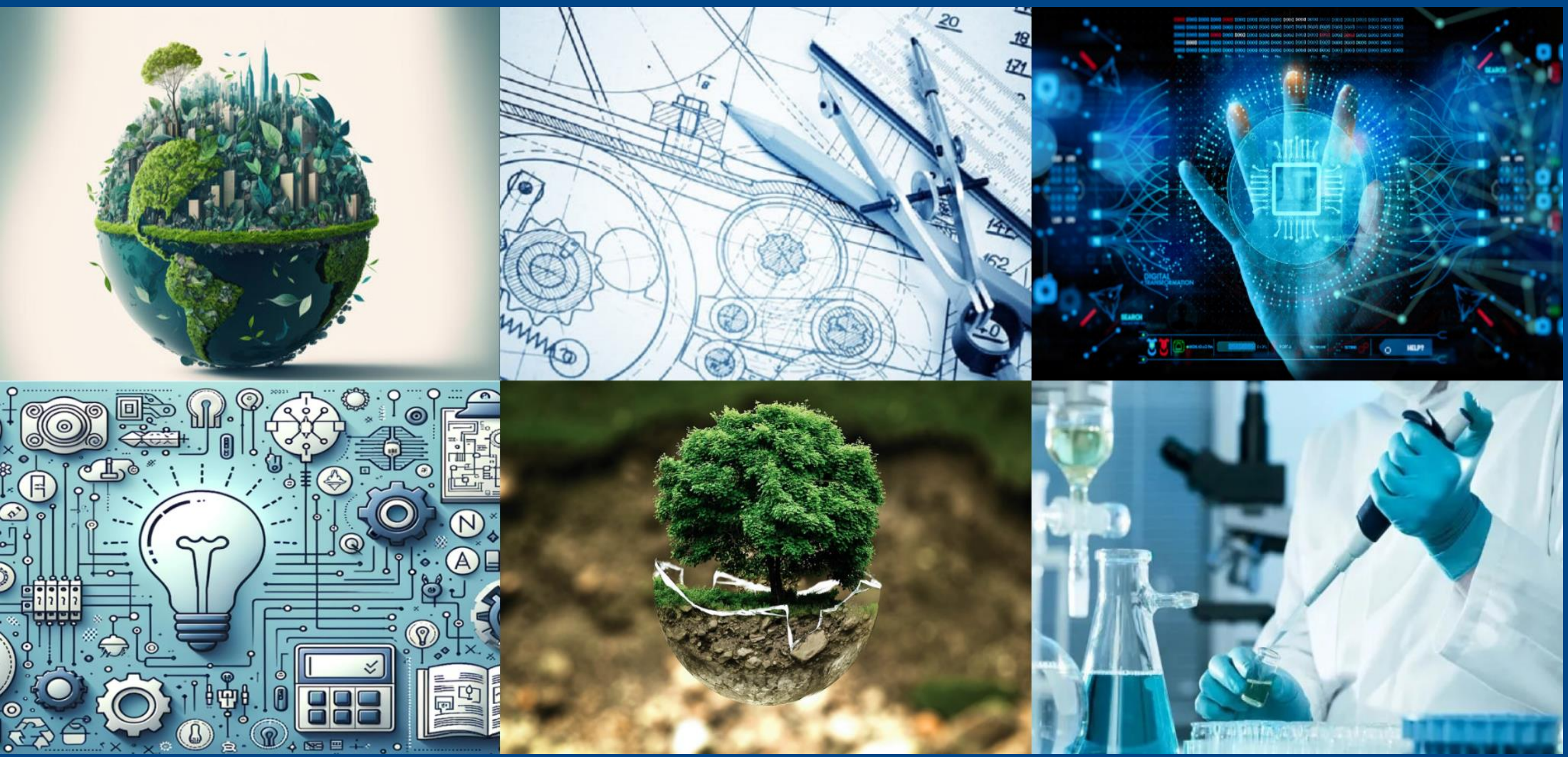
IJMRSET

ISSN: 2582-7219

International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)



Impact Factor: 8.206

Volume 8, Issue 4, April 2025

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ISSN: 2582-7219 | www.ijmrset.com | Impact Factor: 8.206| ESTD Year: 2018|

International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research in Science, Engineering and Technology (IJMRSET)

(A Monthly, Peer Reviewed, Refereed, Scholarly Indexed, Open Access Journal)

Waste-To-Energy Solutions for Sustainable Urban Development: A Case Study of Bangalore's Efforts in Creating a Cleaner and Greener City

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ABSTRACT: This paper examines the feasibility of Waste-to-Energy (WtE) solutions in Bengaluru, with a focus on how effective waste segregation can enhance their performance. Drawing on primary data from 60 residents across different socio-economic backgrounds and secondary sources such as government reports and academic literature, the study finds that while there is a fair level of awareness about waste segregation, actual practice remains limited. This gap significantly affects the efficiency of WtE systems, which depend on a consistent supply of segregated waste. Despite offering major benefits like reduced landfill usage, energy generation, and lower environmental pollution, WtE adoption in Bengaluru faces several challenges, including high waste moisture, technical limitations, lax enforcement of regulations, and community resistance. To address these issues, the study suggests intensive awareness campaigns, integration of waste education at schools and community levels, improved segregation infrastructure, and strong public-private partnerships. It also advocates for decentralizing WtE plants and involving local communities in planning and monitoring processes to build trust and accountability. With robust policy frameworks, technological adaptability, and ongoing community engagement, WtE has strong potential to become a sustainable solution to the city's mounting waste management challenges.

I. INTRODUCTION

Waste-to-energy (Waste-To-Energy) technologies offer a promising avenue for converting Bengaluru's MSW into valuable resources, such as electricity and heat. By diverting waste from landfills, Waste-To-Energy can contribute to a circular economy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance energy security. However, the successful implementation of Waste-To-Energy solutions in Bengaluru is contingent on addressing various challenges and maximizing their benefits within the city's specific socio-economic and environmental context.

Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka, India, stands as a prominent hub of technological innovation and economic growth. However, this rapid urban development has brought forth a significant environmental challenge: the escalating crisis of municipal solid waste (MSW) management. The city's burgeoning population, coupled with changing consumption patterns and industrial expansion, has resulted in an unprecedented surge in waste generation. Traditional waste disposal methods, predominantly landfilling, are no longer sustainable due to the severe environmental repercussions, including soil and groundwater contamination, greenhouse gas emissions, and the depletion of scarce land resources. This situation necessitates the urgent adoption of innovative and sustainable waste management strategies to safeguard Bengaluru's environment and public health.

Bengaluru's status as India's "Silicon Valley" and a rapidly expanding metropolis presents unique challenges for waste management. The city's diverse demographics, industrial composition, and geographical spread necessitate a tailored approach to waste management. The existing waste management infrastructure, including collection, transportation, and disposal systems, is under immense strain. The city's landfills are rapidly reaching their capacity, and the lack of effective waste segregation at the source further exacerbates the problem. This situation underscores the imperative for

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sustainable waste management solutions, including Waste-To-Energy, that are specifically designed to address Bengaluru's unique challenges.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mata-Alvarez, J., Dosta, J., Romero-Güiza, J., Fonoll, X., Colprim, J., & López, X. (2014). A critical review on anaerobic digestion of organic solid wastes: Influence of waste complexity and environmental conditions. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, 37, 821–837.
This research critically assesses anaerobic digestion (AD) processes, highlighting the influence of organic waste complexity and parameters such as temperature, pH, and retention time on biogas production. Pre-treatment processes and co-digestion are proposed as measures to improve the efficiency of AD. The results are applicable to cities dealing with vast amounts of organic waste with inadequate land availability for dumping.

McDougall, F. R., White, P. R., Franke, M., & Hindle, P. (2001). Integrated solid waste management: a life cycle inventory. Blackwell Science.
This book provides an integrated approach to integrated solid waste management using life cycle analysis to compare technologies. It analyzes environmental trade-offs of recycling, composting, incineration, and landfilling. The framework aids decision-making for sustainable urban waste systems and is thus applicable to rapidly growing cities such as Bengaluru.

European Commission. (2008). Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives. Official Journal of the European Union, L 312(3), 3–30.
This directive implements the European Union's waste hierarchy, which makes prevention, reuse, and recycling take precedence over energy recovery and disposal. The directive encourages extended producer responsibility and provides targets to member states. The policy sets the standard for designing waste regulation in developing nations aspiring to bring themselves up to international best standards.

III. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Awareness Level for Segregation in Bengaluru.
- Benefits and Challenges Faced by Implementing Waste-to-Energy Solutions in Bengaluru.

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research employs a descriptive and exploratory research design. It seeks to assess existing waste-to-energy (WtE) projects in Bengaluru, measure public awareness and perception, and determine certain challenges and opportunities in adopting WtE technologies. Through the integration of qualitative information and quantitative data, the research aims to give a comprehensive picture of the efficacy and appropriateness of WtE solutions for the city.

Sampling Method:
Sampling Technique: Stratified Sampling
Target Population:
Inhabitants of Bengaluru with different degrees of exposure to waste management systems and residents from different wards and income groups within the city
Sample Size:
Total: 60 respondents, comprising all residents drawn from different strata for representativeness
Data Collection:
Data collection method used is Primary and Secondary.
Data Analysis Techniques:
- Content Analysis (Qualitative Data)
- Statistical Analysis (Quantitative Data)
- Comparative Analysis (Cross-City and Regional)

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Limitations of the Methodology (Bengaluru-Specific):

- Data Availability and Quality
- Data Bias
- Lack of Primary Data Insights
- Rapidly Changing Context

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on their gender

Gender	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	29	48.3
Female	31	51.7
Total	60	100

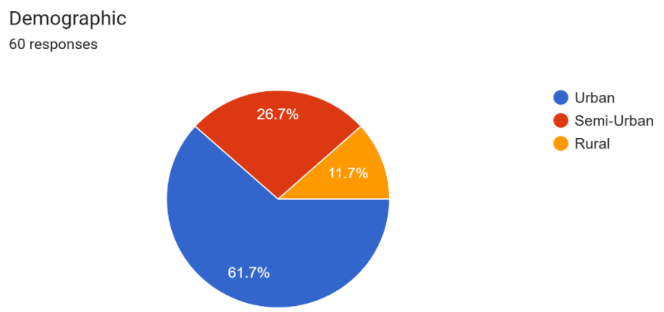
INTERPRETATION: Table 1 shows that out of 60 respondents' 51.7 percent are females and 48.3 percent are males. The figures may vary the scope of study is limited.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on their age

Age	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
18-25	40	66.7
26-35	11	18.3
36-45	5	8.3
45 above	4	6.7
Total	60	100

INTERPRETATION: Table 2 shows that out of total respondents' 66.7 percent are at the age of 18-25, 18.3 percent at the age of 26-35 and 8.3 percent of them at the age of 36-45 and 6.7 percent for 45 above. This implies that most of the active participation is by the age group of 18-25, followed by 26-35 which is 18.3%, 36-45 which is 8.3% and 45 above is 6.7%.

Table 3: **Distribution of respondents based on their place of residence**



INTERPRETATION: This chart shows that the majority of the respondents are from urban settings which contributes to 61.7%, semi-urban 26.7% followed by rural 11.7%.

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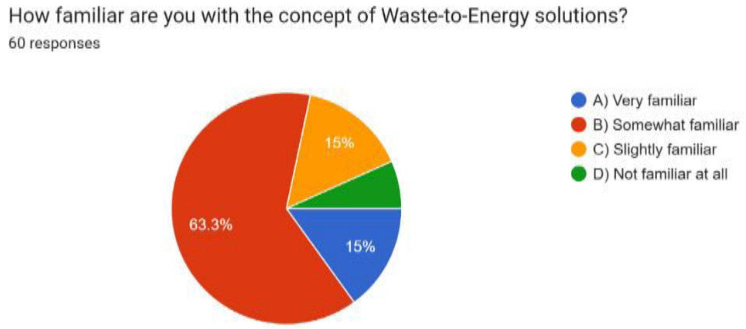
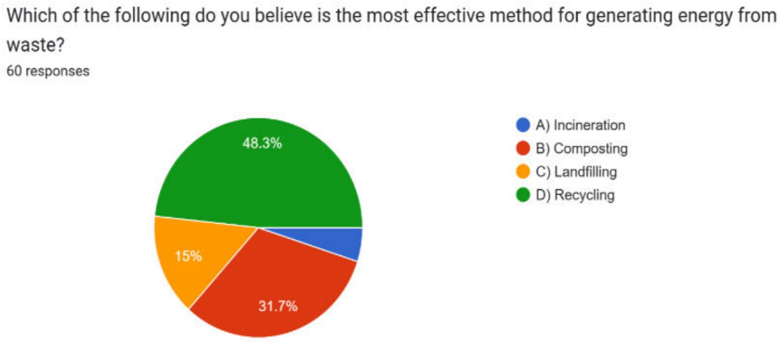
Table 4: Distribution of respondents based on familiarity of waste to energy solution



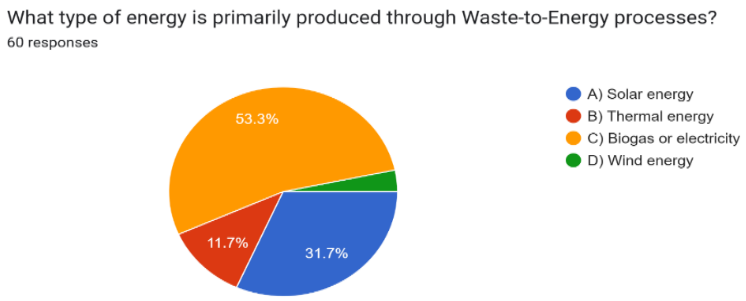
INTERPRETATION: This chart shows that out of 60 respondents most are somewhat familiar with the concept according to the weighted average. this implies that the majority of the respondents are at least aware of the concept.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents based on what they think is the most effective method of generating energy from waste



INTERPRETATION: Recycling is the most preferred method (48.3%), followed by composting (31.7%). Landfilling (15%) and incineration (5%) are less favored. The data shows a clear preference for environmentally friendly waste management methods.

Table 6: Distribution of respondents based on knowledge of energy which is primarily produced through Waste-to-Energy processes



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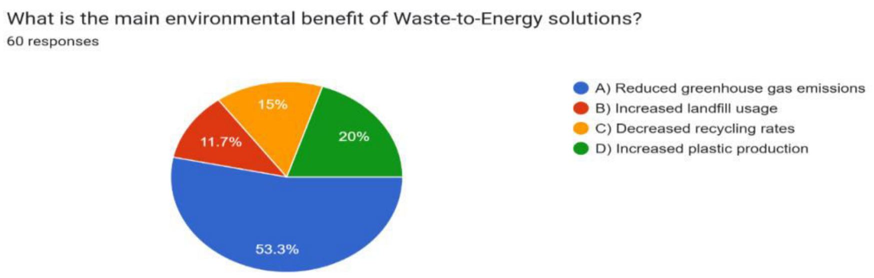
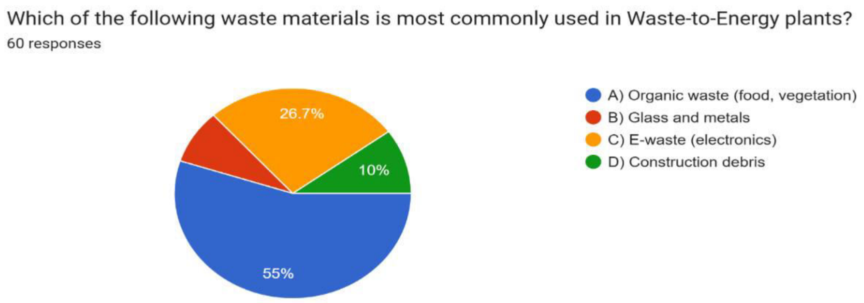
INTERPRETATION: Biogas or electricity is the most favored energy source (53.3%), followed by solar energy (31.7%). Thermal energy (11.7%) and wind energy (3.3%) are less preferred. Respondents show a clear preference for sustainable options.

Table 7: Distribution of respondents based on main environmental benefit of Waste-to-Energy solutions



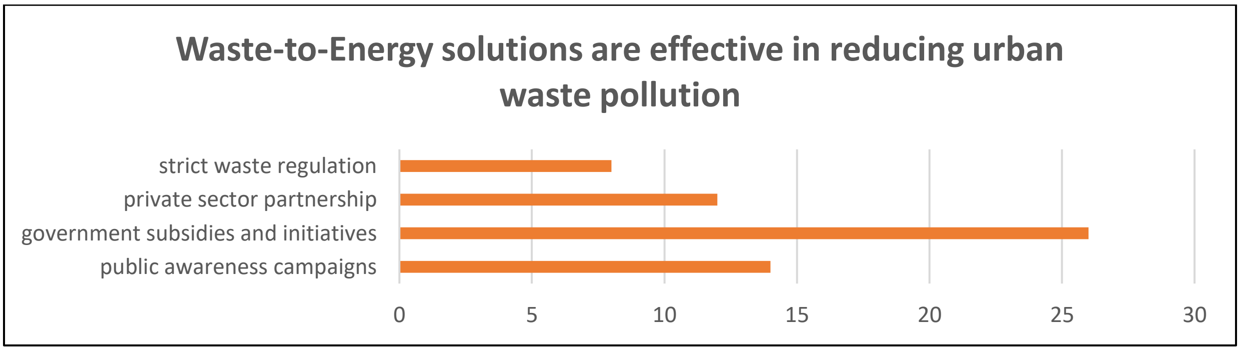
INTERPRETATION: The primary benefit identified is reduced greenhouse gas emissions (53.3%). Decreased plastic production follows (20%), with smaller contributions from decreased recycling rates (15%) and increased landfill usage (11.7%). The focus is on environmental gains.

Table 8: Distribution of respondents based on familiarity of commonly used materials in Waste-to-Energy plants



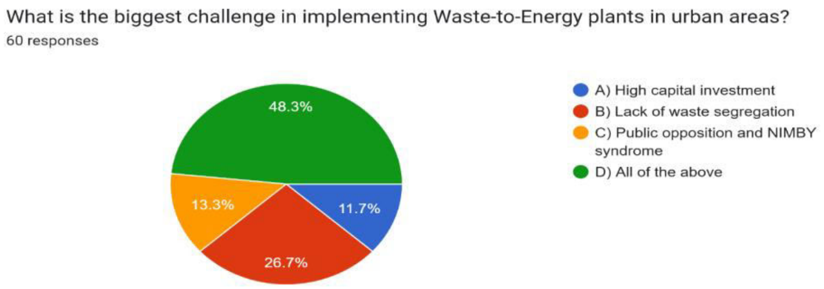
INTERPRETATION: Organic waste is the most familiar material (55%), followed by e-waste (26.7%). Construction debris (10%) and glass and metals (8.5%) are less familiar. Respondents show the highest familiarity with organic materials.

Table 9: Distribution of respondents based on which Waste-to-Energy solutions are effective in reducing urban waste pollution



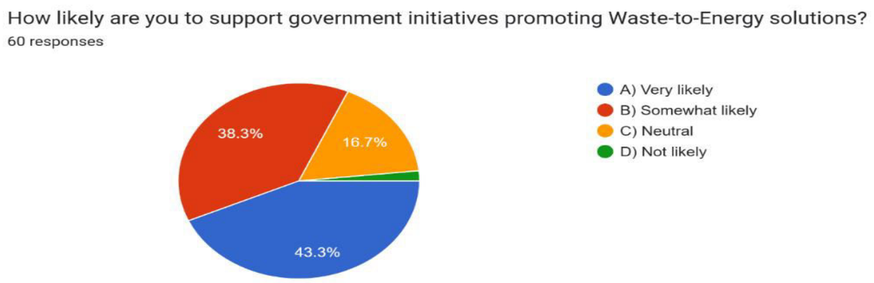
INTERPRETATION: Most respondents believe reducing urban waste pollution is effective, with 51.7% agreeing and 31.7% strongly agreeing. Only 6.7% disagree and 10% strongly disagree, showing overall positive support for its effectiveness.

Table 10: Distribution of respondents based on challenge in implementing Waste-to-Energy plants in urban areas



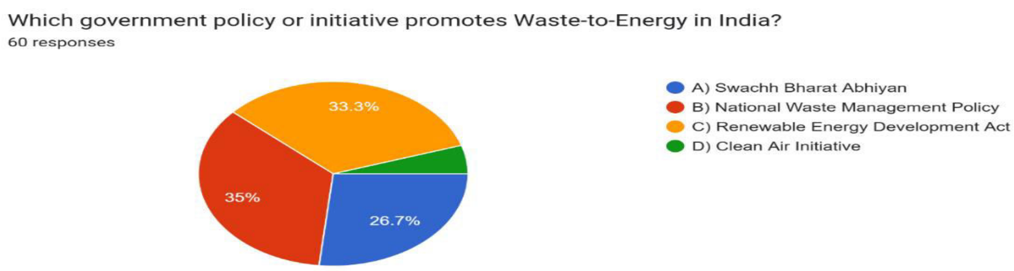
INTERPRETATION: The biggest challenge is "All of the above" (48.3%), indicating multiple factors like high capital investment, lack of waste segregation, and public opposition. Individually, lack of waste segregation (26.7%) is the most significant challenge.

Table 11: Distribution of respondents based on their support of government initiatives promoting Waste-to-Energy solutions



INTERPRETATION: The data suggests strong support for government initiatives promoting Waste-to-Energy solutions, with "very likely" receiving a weighted mean score of 1.94, indicating significant favorability. Other rankings were not provided in the dataset.

Table 12: Distribution of respondents-based knowledge on Which government policy or initiative promotes Waste-to-Energy in India



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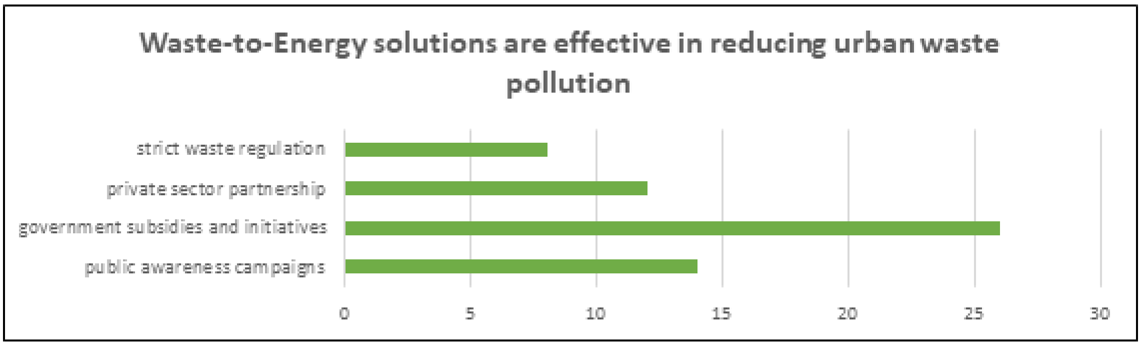
INTERPRETATION: The National Waste Management Policy has the highest support (35%), followed closely by the Renewable Energy Development Act (33.3%). Swachh Bharat Abhiyan accounts for 26.7%, while the Clean Air Initiative has minimal support (5%). This indicates a strong focus on waste management and renewable energy initiatives.

Table 13: Distribution of respondents based on what they think is the most effective way to promote Waste-to-Energy adoption in urban areas



INTERPRETATION: Public awareness campaigns are identified as the most effective way to promote Waste-to-Energy adoption in urban areas, with a mean score of 1.66. Other rankings were not provided in the dataset.

Nonparametric Tests

Notes

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Hypothesis Test Summary

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The distribution of Benefit is the same across categories of Gender.	Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test	.982	Retain the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .05.

Results: The null hypothesis asserted that the distribution of perceived benefit is equal across gender categories. The choice of the output is "Retain the null hypothesis", meaning there is no significant statistical difference in how females and males perceive the advantages of environmental workshops.

Interpretation: This implies that gender has no bearing on benefit perceptions, and hence marketing or learning initiatives for green workshops need not be gender-segmented. A single promotion approach can be applied irrespective of the gender category.

Correlations

Notes

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Missing Value Handling	Definition of Missing	User-defined missing values are treated as missing.
	Cases Used	Statistics for each pair of variables are based on all the cases with valid data for that pair.
Syntax		CORRELATIONS /VARIABLES=Benefit Familiarity /PRINT=TWOTAIL NOSIG /MISSING=PAIRWISE.
Resources	Processor Time	00:00:00.00
	Elapsed Time	00:00:00.00

Correlations

		Benefit	Familiarity
Benefit	Pearson Correlation	1	.292*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.021
	N	62	62
Familiarity	Pearson Correlation	.292*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.021	
	N	62	62

Results: Correlation coefficient (r): 0.292

Significance (p-value): 0.021

Interpretation: The positive correlation (significant at the 0.05 level) shows that as familiarity with eco-friendly workshops rises, so does perceived benefit. This highlights the significance of awareness campaigns and educational

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outreach—the more familiar people are with eco-friendly workshops, the more they value them. It justifies investment in marketing activities to build familiarity to encourage participant take-up.

Nonparametric Tests

Notes

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*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis Test Summary

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The distribution of Benefit is the same across categories of Demographic.	Independent-Samples Kruskal-Wallis Test	.011	Reject the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .05.

Results: The null hypothesis that benefits perception is the same across demographic categories was upheld (no significant difference identified).

Interpretation: There is no substantial difference in perceived benefit across demographic segments. This suggests that environmentally friendly workshops are attractive across the board and can be positioned as universally applicable, making strategic planning easier. It also indicates that demographic differentiation-based targeting might not be required, and mass-based promotion might be just as effective.

V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Objective 1: Segregation Awareness Level in Bengaluru

Findings:

- The survey findings reflect moderate awareness among Bengaluru citizens regarding the concept and necessity of waste segregation.
- Although most respondents reported that they knew the necessity of segregating biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, only half of them practiced segregation at the household level.
- Inadequate regular municipal enforcement and poor awareness campaigns were often mentioned as excuses for non-compliance.
- Higher-income and more educated residents were more aware and active in segregation attempts than lower-income wards.

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Recommendations:

- The BBMP and local NGOs must step up awareness campaigns through local languages and community-specific messaging to fill the knowledge gap.
- Introduce segregation education as part of school curricula and community workshops to instil sustainable habits at a young age.
- Install an incentive and penalty system—such as rebate of waste collection fee for complying households and penalizing repeat offenders—to enhance responsibility.
- Enhance visibility of segregation infrastructure (such as color-coded dustbins) and ensure proper monitoring and feedback from ward-level officials.

Objective 2: Advantages and Drawbacks of Implementing Waste-to-Energy Solutions in Bengaluru
Findings:

- Waste-to-Energy (WtE) solutions have major environmental advantages, such as landfill reduction, energy recovery, and greenhouse gas emission reduction upon effective implementation.
- But challenges are acute, especially because Bengaluru's waste has high organic and moisture contents that lower calorific value and incineration efficiency.
- Operational inefficiencies in existing WtE plants, such as inadequate maintenance, unavailability of skilled personnel, and variable waste input because of low segregation, are a reality.
- Public resistance (usually because of health and environmental issues) and regulatory challenges also lead to project delays and underperformance.

Recommendations:

- Invest in pre-treatment facilities (e.g., drying, composting, or bio drying) to improve waste quality and increase the efficiency of WtE plants.
- Emphasize decentralized WtE plants sized according to ward-level waste profiles to minimize the strain on big, centralized plants and transport expenses.
- Encourage PPPs to provide technical knowledge, capital, and operational efficiency.
- Involve the local population by making environmental assessments open and visible and planning procedures participatory in order to cut down on NIMBYist opposition.
- Implement performance-based operating contracts with WtE plant operators that link subsidies or pay to energy delivery and environmental responsibility.

VI. CONCLUSION

The objective of this research was to assess the level of awareness of segregation of waste among residents of Bengaluru and analyze the advantages and drawbacks of applying waste-to-energy (WtE) technology in the city. The research finds that there is an increased understanding of the need for segregation of waste, but actual adherence is patchy across socio-economic groups. This mismatch is a major hindrance to the effective functioning of WtE plants, which require segregated waste to perform at optimal levels.

The research also identifies that WtE technologies present a promising direction toward the sustainable waste management of Bengaluru city, specifically diminishing landfill reliance and producing renewable energy. Yet various context-related challenges such as the organic content of Bengaluru's waste, limitations in infrastructure, public resistance, and inefficiencies in the regulatory system impede their efficient implementation.

To solve these problems, there is an evident requirement for increased community involvement, enhanced infrastructure, policy changes, and creative technological options. With proper awareness, involvement, and governmental support, Bengaluru can proceed toward a greener, cleaner waste management future where WtE becomes the focal point.

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