



Conversion of a cement bag washing yard to a recreational beach and its maintenance: A success story

Rajasekaran¹, Gnana Sekar, P. S. Asha² and K. Diwakar³

¹Tuticorin Municipal Corporation, Tuticorin

Tuticorin Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, South Beach Road, Karapad,

²Tuticorin - 628 001, Tamil Nadu, India, ashasanil@gmail.com

³Tuticorin Research Centre of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, South Beach Road, Karapad, Tuticorin - 628 001, Tamil Nadu, India

Introduction

Tuticorin is known as pearl city of India has credited to have a beach in its name “the Pearl City Beach “(8°48’27.7”N 78°09’44.1”E) which has been dedicated to Public in July 2012 in a function organised to celebrate the silver jubilee programme to mark the bifurcation of Tuticorin from Tirunelveli organised by the Tuticorin police. Earlier this beach was exclusively used for dumping and washing of cement and poultry bags and was looking filthy, unhygienic and not fit for recreational purpose. With the combined efforts of Tuticorin Police department, State Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the City Corporation Authority, the beach is well maintained.

Description of solid waste

Earlier non-biodegradable wastes like cement bags, poultry bags were dumped in the beach. After the beach has been opened for tourism, the solid waste consists of plastic and food wastes.

Mode of collection and processing

At present, regular cleaning is being done at this beach with the help of labourers engaged by the City Corporation Authority to maintain better hygiene and provide a platform to the public for entertainment and relaxation. The regular beach cleaning is recognized by the State Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The land-based non-biodegradable solid wastes that constitute the significant portion of the beach litter are regularly being collected from this beach on a daily basis by the workers (5-6 workers) engaged by the civil authority. The litters collected in garbage bags are deposited in dustbins kept in different places of the beach and once these are filled

up, taken by trucks to the compost yard at Tharuvaikulam and incinerated regularly.

The impact and adoption of this method by others

After the implementation of the structured cleaning activities, the Pearl City beach has turned to an attractive recreational beach to visit in Tuticorin city, primarily by the tourists.

Economic aspects

Since the beach cleaning process in Tuticorin is not supposed to be of cost concerning or a complicated process, there has been no attention to adopting it. Although there is no support from external sponsorship there is funding support by the Sterlite Copper Smelting Unit & Port Trust of Tuticorin under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The monthly expenses incurred for the maintenance work is Rs.24000/-.

Conclusion

The transformation of an old cement washing yard to a spectacular beach with sustained aesthetic appeal has attracted the authorities to conduct frequent food festivals in this beach, which proved the success of the ongoing beach cleaning activities. There is an upcoming plan to set up a new recreational beach in Tuticorin, and the City Corporation Authority is planning to improve the existing cleaning procedure of litter contaminants from beaches and coastal waters with the help of Fishers Self Help Group.



Solid waste management in Rameswaram Island - “Green Ramesawaram project”

G.Vasudeo¹, V. Saraswathi¹, K.Sridhar¹, R.Saravanan², Loveson L.Edward³, S.Thirumalaiselvan²

¹Green Rameswaram Project, Mahabeer, Rameswaram - 623 526, sridharvknardep@gmail.com.

²ICAR- Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp - 623 520, stingray_mr@yahoo.com, aquathirumalai@yahoo.com

³ICAR- Visakhapatnam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Visakhapatnam - 530003, loveson_edward@yahoo.co.in

Introduction

Hand in Hand Inclusive Development and Services (HHIDS), is a non-profit company registered under Section-25 of the Indian Companies Act, 1956 with its office at Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu, India. HHIDS works in the field of Solid Waste Management. This involves educating the people in waste management principles, conducting awareness programs and on field implementation of waste management. The project also ensures that the practices are implemented in a sustainable manner through community participation. The long-term objective is thus to reduce the environmental degradation caused by the unscientific handling of solid waste. The project aims at ensuring environmental, social and financial sustainability in a period of three years and advocating the 3 R concepts (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), to achieve that the people are educated on the importance of segregating garbage at source and avoiding usage of disposable plastics. At present, Hand in Hand’s solid waste management project is implemented with community participation at 22 locations, in 8 districts, in the State of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Union Territory of Puducherry; covering 156,878 families with a total population of 6, 27,512.

Hand in Hand India (HIH) works in association with Vivekananda Kendra to implement solid waste management initiatives as part of “Green Rameswaram project” at Rameswaram Island since 2014. The main objective is to create a clean, environment friendly and Green Rameswaram island, which includes preserving the ecology and marine biodiversity.

Awards and Recognitions

- Environment Award for the year 2010, by Govt. of Tamil Nadu
- Selected as ‘Runner up’ in the BBC’s World Challenge contest, 2011