

Informal sector's Role in Solid Waste management - contributing to circular economy

(Vinish Kathuria) (May 9, 2024)

Abstract:

In the debate on climate change, the informal sector is often assumed to be the cause and effect. From the perspective of the circular economy, however, there is an area, i.e., solid waste management, where, through recycling activities, the informal sector is playing a significant positive role in ensuring the circular economy and mitigating climate change. The informal sector provides crucial environmental and public health services across the cities in different parts of the world by collecting and recycling the amount of waste that otherwise would have been disposed of in dumpsites and would have generated a significant amount of greenhouse gases. This eases pressure on landfills, incinerators, and waste treatment plants. In this talk, the role of the informal sector is highlighted. The talk then uses case studies from three different cities in India – Kolar, Pune, and Delhi to illustrate the role of the informal sector in managing their waste.