

Abstract

Plastic Consumption in India: Exploratory Analysis

Economic growth in India is being achieved at significant environmental cost. In addition to the air and water pollution, the life styles in the urban areas have resulted in generation of substantial solid waste, including plastic waste. Besides behavioral reasons (such as 'use-and-throw' culture), growing income and consumption among the urban households could be responsible for the increase in plastic waste generation. While several environmental pollution patterns were hypothesized and empirically verified to be following the Environmental Kuznets Curve Hypothesis, the literature in this context concerning plastic waste is relatively weak. The present study attempts to bridge this gap and specifically explores the relationship between income and plastic waste. In addition to critically reviewing the literature in this field, the thesis attempts to empirically explore the plastic consumption trends across Indian cities using secondary data. State-level correlation between average plastic consumption and indicator of well-being (income) does not appear to be very strong, possibly due to great degree of aggregation involved in the calculations. The thesis provides some concluding comments on possible policy interventions on plastic management in India.