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# TEXTILE WASTE MANAGEMENT GAPS IN MANGALURU



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# THEME: COASTAL WASTE MGMT & MARINE PLASTICS



## TEXTILE WASTE MANAGEMENT GAPS IN MANGALURU

### STAKEHOLDER

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### Core Issue

Large volumes of textile waste from garment factories, tailoring units, households, and markets are not being effectively collected, segregated, or recycled, leading to landfill overflow, open dumping, and environmental pollution.

### Constraints

- Collection Gaps – No dedicated textile waste collection routes or bins.
- Sorting Challenges – Mixed fabrics and contamination with other waste make recycling harder.
- Limited Recycling Infrastructure – Few facilities to process fabric into reusable material.
- High cost of textile waste segregation and processing versus low resale value..

### Context

Mangalore, with its mix of households, tailoring shops, and garment industries, generates significant textile waste in the form of fabric cuttings, old clothes, and production rejects. Most of this waste is disposed of with general municipal waste or burned in open spaces, releasing microfibers and toxic fumes into the air, soil, and water. Informal waste pickers collect some textiles for resale, but the absence of an organized collection and recycling network means a large portion ends up in landfills or is washed into drainage systems. This not only creates environmental hazards but also wastes valuable resources that could be reused in fashion, insulation, or industrial applications.

### Groundwork to be considered

- How will major textile waste sources be mapped and recorded?
- What methods will be used to audit the quantity and types of textile waste generated daily or weekly (cotton, polyester, blends)?
- Which locations have the infrastructure needed for sorting, collection, and temporary storage of textile waste, and where are the gaps?
- What markets or industries (e.g., rag manufacturers, padding suppliers) can absorb the collected textile waste for reuse or recycling?



## Existing Systems

- General municipal waste collection – Textile waste is mixed with other waste in door-to-door collection.
- Informal recycling network – Waste pickers recover reusable clothes and fabrics for resale.
- Occasional donation drives – NGOs collect old clothes for redistribution.
- No dedicated textile waste processing units – Most textiles are landfilled or burned.
- Basic awareness campaigns – Limited focus on textiles within broader Swachh Bharat Mission activities.

## Resources

<https://www.cift.res.in>

<https://www.fssai.gov.in>

<https://mpeda.gov.in>

Fast fashion and the dark side of textile recycling in India - <https://youtu.be/JozPV-WaBds>  
Solutions from the REimagiNEWaste Textile Hackathon - [Read More](#)