

city which constitutes a single district is now facing the need for large-scale exclusive disposal sites because the conventional make-shift method of renting private land can no longer cope with the increasing volume of solid waste resulting from progressive urbanisation.

As in the case of many other parts of the world, the securing of public land for use as final disposal sites is a slow process because of opposition by local residents. When the purchase of land is necessary, the provincial government is required to provide a substantial budget. In Lahore, such planned purchase has been abandoned because the Punjab Provincial Government could not raise the required Rs 80 million to purchase the planned disposal site from its own revenue. This failure in the relatively rich Punjab Province has resulted in pessimism among public service departments in other provinces (districts). Even if final disposal sites can be secured, they are likely to be located in remote areas and there is concern that the financial situation of districts will make it impossible to meet the increased operation and maintenance cost of the transport vehicles.

Meanwhile, the federal government is proceeding with participatory solid waste management projects along with a 3R (reduction, re-use and recycling) campaign. The federal government is also planning a guidance programme using national guidelines to deal with the different levels and methods of solid waste management by different administrative units. However, there is currently no prospect of funding the implementation of this programme.

### **4.3 Social Environment**

The problem of poverty which is attracting international attention in aid circles can be considered to be both a causal factor for environmental problems and the vulnerability of people most affected by environmental deterioration.

There has been a continual inflow of people to urban areas, partly because of the conflict in Kashmir, resulting in the establishment of slums called “katchi abadis” by the urban poor. The environment of these slums varies because of ethnic problems (including conflict and discrimination) and most of them do not receive such public services as water supply, sewerage, power supply and solid waste collection services. This situation is one of the factors for the worsening of the urban environment and people living in these slums are the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of the worsening urban environment. Moreover, refugees from Afghanistan have been entering Pakistan since 1979. While these refugees are accommodated in many refugee camps in the NWFP and Balochistan, camps accommodating more than one million refugees (which is equivalent to almost half of the local Pakistani population) near Peshawar, the capital of the NWFP, have become a factor for the increasing environmental load of the city as in the case of katchi abadis.

The environmental problems in rural areas are typically forest depletion and desertification caused by over-grazing and indiscriminate cutting. The background for such practices is the social environment in which the poor who lack educational opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills required for sustainable development are struggling to maintain their lives against the background of a fragile natural environment in the frontier areas to which they have been driven by various development programmes/projects.