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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53220 Date: 9/08/2025

Title: Economic Performance of the Scrap Industry and its Role in Waste Management and Pollution Control in India.

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision.

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	✓			
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. Bishwajit Rout **Date:** 9/08/2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

(*To be published with the manuscript in the journal*)

The reviewer is requested to provide a brief comment (3-4 lines) highlighting the significance, strengths, or key insights of the manuscript. This comment will be Displayed in the journal publication alongside with the reviewers name.

1. **Significance**: This research underscores the critical economic and environmental role of India's scrap industry in advancing circular economy principles. By linking waste management, resource efficiency, and pollution reduction, it highlights the sector's potential to address pressing ecological challenges while generating employment and industrial cost savings. The study informs policymakers on integrating informal networks into formal, sustainable waste systems.

2. **Strength**: The paper effectively combines economic, environmental, and policy perspectives to provide a holistic view of the scrap industry's contributions. It uses concrete examples, energy-saving statistics, and sectoral insights to support arguments. The integration of GDP impact, job creation, and pollution control demonstrates a multidimensional approach, making the study relevant for economists, environmentalists, and governance stakeholders alike.

3. **Key Insight**: The research reveals that India's largely informal scrap industry functions as an indispensable yet undervalued pillar of waste management and pollution control. Its decentralised network diverts massive recyclable volumes from landfills, reduces virgin resource extraction, and saves energy. Formalising and modernising the sector could significantly enhance sustainability outcomes while securing livelihoods and advancing India's circular economy agenda.

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Reviewer's Comment / Report

The paper titled "*Economic Performance of the Scrap Industry and its Role in Waste Management and Pollution Control in India."* examines the scrap industry's economic contributions and its role in India's waste management and pollution control. It highlights the informal sector's efficiency in waste collection and recycling, supporting a circular economy, GDP growth, and job creation. The paper notes reduced resource extraction and emissions but identifies challenges like lack of formalization. It recommends technological integration and policy support to enhance sustainability, offering valuable insights for advancing India's waste management framework.

Suggestions for Improvement:

1. In introduction, cite more recent national waste data sources.
2. In introduction, Reduce redundancy between waste problem description and role of scrap industry merge similar ideas for better flow.
3. Include estimates of the number of actors in each tier.
4. Add a simple diagram/flowchart of the scrap value chain for visual clarity.
5. Provide concrete numbers or estimated ranges for GDP contribution and employment.
6. Include case study or industry data to strengthen claims about trade/investment.
7. Include data or estimates of tonnage diverted from landfills annually.
8. Discuss coordination challenges between informal and municipal waste systems.
9. Discuss challenges of pollution caused by informal recycling methods for balance.
10. Provide examples or case incidents illustrating each challenge.
11. Suggest quantitative indicators to measure improvement in these areas.
12. Add discussion on integrating scrap industry with ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) frameworks.

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The paper is well-structured and highly relevant to sustainable development and circular economy research. Key improvements include adding more quantitative data, enhancing visual presentation (diagrams/tables), reducing redundancy, and refining citation consistency. With these changes, it will be a strong contribution to policy and academic discussions on waste management and environmental economics. Addressing the identified weaknesses will make it suitable for publication in IJAR.

I recommend this paper for publication after minor revision.