A case study on the practices regarding biomedical waste management in community health institutions in a district of Haryana, India”.

Dr. Pramod Kumar Saharan

ABSTRACT

Introduction: The management of Bio medical waste (BMW) is of great importance due to its potential environmental hazards and public health risks, in the context of rapidly expanding health care facilities in developing countries. There are well defined set of rules and regulation for handling BMW worldwide. Unfortunately, carelessness and lack of adequate training and awareness in implementation of these rules have lead to serious health and environmental impacts. Aim: The aim of the study was to explore the practice regarding biomedical waste management at various community health Institutions. Material and Methods: Cross-sectional survey was used to collect data from 20 Community Health Institutions (CHC 4, PHC 8, and Sub Centre 8) conveniently selected from the district of Haryana using multi stage sampling method. Self guidelines were developed on the basis Biomedical Waste Management rule (Govt. of India) Results: all the community health centre lack Appropriate practices when it comes to the handling and disposal of wastes generated in comparison to the developed countries. As no proper Segregation at source is practiced in the community health institutions, it has paved the way for increased medical waste stream due to mixing of general and medical waste.
The study revealed that medical wastes are not properly managed in all the community health institutions characterized by inadequate and inappropriate refuse storage facilities. There are no defined methods for handling and disposal of these wastes, starting from the personnel responsible for collection to those who transport was followed by anyone the wastes to the disposal site. Besides there was a lack of knowledge and awareness regarding legislations on BMW management even among qualified hospital personnel were observed.

**Conclusion:** Study concluded that there is huge scope for improvement in the practices regarding Biomedical Waste Management, identification of various factors affecting Practice is very necessary so that positive factors can be promoted and negative factors can be discouraged. Continues education with positive reinforcement could be mile stone for safe practices.

**Key words:** - Biomedical waste Management, Practices , Community Health Institutions