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A Case Study: Biomedical Waste Management

Prof. Shaikh S. J.¹, Samruddhi Kulkarni², Suhani Shinde³, Kashish Bhalerao⁴, Deepali Sangle⁵,
Priyanka Pawar⁶

Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, School of Engineering and Technology, MGM University,
Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra, India¹

Students, Department of Civil Engineering, MGM's Polytechnic, Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar,
Maharashtra, India. ^{2 3 4 5 6}

ABSTRACT: Biomedical waste management ensures the safe disposal of potentially hazardous materials generated from medical activities and is a critical aspect of healthcare operations. In this case study, the challenges faced by a healthcare facility in managing biomedical waste are examined and the strategies implemented to address these challenges effectively. In this study it is ensured that harmful materials produced during medical procedures are disposed of safely. This case study takes a close look at the rules and regulations that govern how biomedical waste should be handled and makes sure that everything is as per BMW Rules, 2016.

KEYWORDS: Biomedical, potentially, hazardous, meticulously, strategies

I. INTRODUCTION

Biomedical waste can have significant impacts on both humans and the environment if not managed properly. Improper handling and disposal of biomedical waste can lead to the spread of infections and diseases among healthcare workers, patients, and the general public. Exposure to pathogens and hazardous substances present in biomedical waste can result in infections, injuries, and long-term health complications.

In terms of the environment, biomedical waste can contaminate soil, water bodies, and air if not managed appropriately. This contamination can have adverse effects on ecosystems, wildlife, and overall environmental health. It can also contribute to the release of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, further exacerbating environmental issues. That's why it's crucial to implement effective biomedical waste management practices. By doing so, we can protect human health, prevent the spread of diseases, minimize environmental pollution, and promote a safer and healthier world.

Properly managing biomedical waste is crucial to minimize its potential harm to human health and the environment. If biomedical waste is not managed appropriately, it can pose risks such as the spread of infectious diseases, contamination of water sources, and harm to wildlife.

Improper disposal of biomedical waste can lead to the release of pathogens and other harmful substances into the environment. These pathogens can infect individuals who come into contact with the waste, including healthcare workers, waste management personnel, and the general public. This can result in the transmission of diseases. Proper training and education are essential for healthcare workers to understand and follow biomedical waste management protocols. This helps ensure that waste is handled safely from the point of generation to final disposal.



Fig No. 1 Segregation as per colour code bags

II. RELATED WORK

[1]. Biomedical waste is any kind of waste either solid or liquid containing infectious, potentially infectious materials of medical, laboratory or research origin from activities such as diagnosis, prevention & treatment of diseases [2]The unexpected increase in COVID-19-related waste and its inappropriate disposal had blown up the threat of retransmission of this infection and adversely impacted the environment. The aim of this study was to evaluate the existing knowledge about the handling of biomedical waste (BMW) in the COVID-19 Hospital setting among health-care workers (HCWs). [3] Enormous amounts of hazardous and infectious waste are produced in hospitals across the world in the course of various biomedical procedures. India produces approximately 2kg/bed/day. India has well established protocols for handling and management of biomedical waste, namely, the BMW (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2000. [4] This review study aims at discussing the between COVID-19 and biomedical waste management. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has already turned healthy places around the world into a living hell with massive death tolls because of its fastest-spreading nature, and continuously leading to lockdowns in almost every part of the world. Amid all the problems so far it created, one significant problem that can create major havoc in this already devastating and contagious atmosphere in a densely populated city is, not handling medical waste properly. Here are the abstracts for the provided references [5]This study investigates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on biomedical waste management practices within the healthcare system. Through a comprehensive analysis, the authors explore the challenges faced and measures implemented to address the surge in biomedical waste generation during the pandemic, offering insights for improved waste management strategies. [6]This article examines the challenges encountered in managing the increasing volume of biomedical waste during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the Indian context. The authors discuss measures taken to address these challenges and propose strategies for effective biomedical waste management in the face of public health crises. [7]This paper assesses the implementation of biomedical waste disposal practices in India, examining the gap between policy formulation and practical implementation. Through a detailed analysis, the authors identify areas of improvement and suggest measures to bridge the gap between policy intent and on-ground practices in biomedical waste management. [8]The impact of nanoparticles on biomedical waste management is explored in this study. The authors investigate the potential risks associated with the presence of nanoparticles in biomedical waste and discuss strategies for mitigating these risks to ensure effective waste management practices. [9]This study evaluates the effectiveness of biomedical waste management practices in a tertiary care hospital in South India. Through detailed assessment and analysis, the authors identify strengths and weaknesses in current waste management systems and propose recommendations for improvement to ensure safe and efficient biomedical waste disposal. [10]This article critically appraises the biomedical waste management practices in India. The authors analyze the existing regulatory framework, implementation challenges, and potential areas for improvement in biomedical waste management. Recommendations are provided for enhancing compliance and effectiveness of waste management strategies in India.

III. METHODOLOGY

- 1) A comprehensive Biomedical Waste Management Survey was conducted across various healthcare facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries, aimed at gathering detailed information regarding biomedical waste collection, segregation, and handling processes.
- 2) To facilitate data collection, structured questionnaires were meticulously prepared in both Google Forms and Word formats, ensuring versatility and ease of use.
- 3) Over the course of nearly 30 days, dedicated visits were made to a diverse array of hospitals within the city, allowing for firsthand observation and data collection regarding the implementation of waste management protocols.
- 4) Concurrently, a thorough examination of the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 was undertaken to assess the degree of compliance among the surveyed hospitals, shedding light on adherence to regulatory standards.
- 5) Notably, a comparative analysis was conducted to discern any discernible disparities in waste management systems employed by hospitals prior to and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, offering valuable insights into evolving practices.
- 6) Furthermore, meticulous scrutiny was devoted to examining the utilization of color-coded bags for waste segregation and various methods employed for waste disposal, enabling a comprehensive understanding of prevailing practices and potential areas for improvement in biomedical waste management.

7) The Disposal Methods of BMW are:

1. Autoclaving:
2. Incineration
3. Chemical treatment
4. Microwave treatment
5. Land Disposal
6. Deep Burial



Fig no. 2 Biomedical survey at MGM Hospital



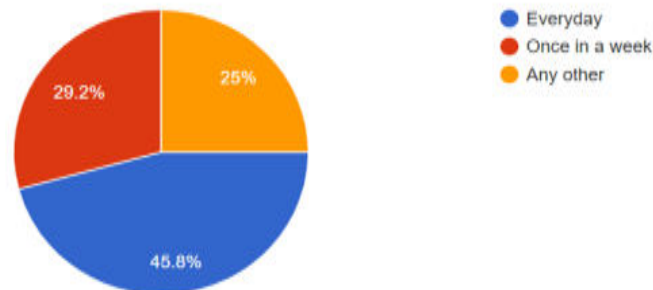
Fig No. 3 Biomedical Survey at other Hospitals (individual)

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Based on the observations from our survey conducted in hospitals, we identified several gaps in biomedical waste disposal and handling practices. To address these gaps, we implemented the following measures:

- i. Color Coding: Recognizing that only 12.5% of hospitals were employing proper color-coded systems for waste segregation, we introduced comprehensive color-coding guidelines to enhance segregation efficiency and reduce the risk of contamination.
- ii. Storage Facility Enhancement: With 70.8% of hospitals lacking adequate storage facilities for biomedical waste, we prioritized the improvement of storage infrastructure to ensure proper containment and minimize the risk of environmental pollution and cross-contamination.
- iii. Disinfectant Protocol: Since only 69.6% of hospitals were consistently adding disinfectants to biomedical waste, we implemented stringent disinfection protocols to mitigate the spread of infectious agents and ensure the safety of healthcare workers and the public.
- iv. Record-Keeping Practices: Recognizing that only 34.8% of hospitals maintained accurate records of biomedical waste disposal, we implemented robust record-keeping systems to track waste generation, segregation, transportation, and disposal, thereby ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements and facilitating accountability.

Frequency of collecting waste:



color coded bags and bar code system

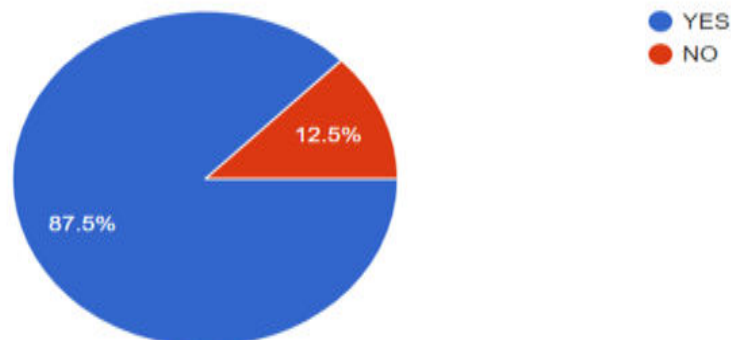


Fig No. 4 BMW Management Bar Chart

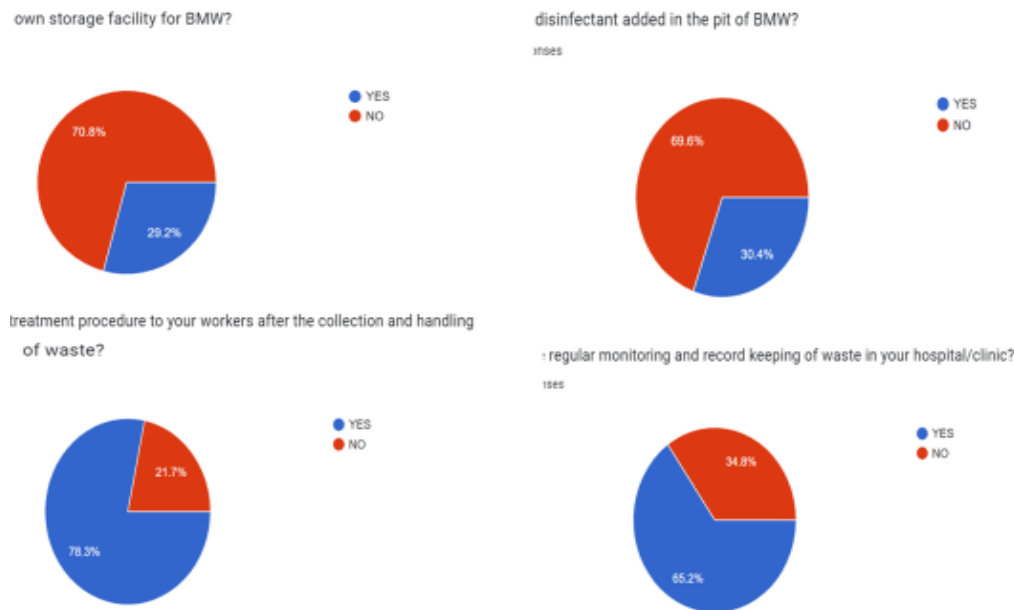


Fig No. 5 BMW Management Bar Chart

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the study conducted on Biomedical Waste Management practices in hospitals, several findings are emerged. The analysis of responses of healthcare institutions has stated the current state of biomedical waste management and identified various areas of improvement. There are commendable efforts taking place in the city whereas, there are also notable gaps and challenges that require urgent attention. the survey about how hospitals handle bio-medical waste (BMW) is really helpful. It helps them see what they're doing well, what they're not so good at, and where they can do better in managing waste. When they look at the results and take action to fix any problems they find, it makes the hospital safer for everyone, makes sure they follow the rules, and helps protect the environment.

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