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INFLUENCE OF HOSPITAL SET-UP IN BIOMEDICAL WASTE HANDLING AND MANAGEMENT

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Statement of the Problem: Biomedical waste mismanagement is one of the biggest hurdles in the present health-care system. Countries have drafted the guidelines to guide the whole process of biomedical waste disposal. However, there are gaps in implementing these guidelines. The current analysis was performed in six health-care facilities of West Delhi, India to assess waste handlers and hospital administrators' knowledge and ways of biomedical waste management and level of implementation of the guidelines.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: To answer the study objective questions, field surveys, interviews, and a cross-sectional survey was employed. After reviewing the literature, the research framework was designed, the cross-sectional questionnaire was developed, and the fieldwork was completed from January 2015-October 2016.

Findings: Results of the survey demonstrated that the administrators and the staff members were well aware of the 2011 rules of biomedical waste management; a gap in awareness of the new and updated 2016 rules associated with biomedical waste management was noted. Interviews of the staff using the questionnaires showed a statistically significant difference between small-size (1-99 beds) and medium-size hospitals (100 beds–249 beds) (P=0.0025) and small size and large hospitals (>250 beds) (P=0.0047), while statistically non-significant differences were noted between mid-size and large health-care facilities. Separate budget heads were available for most of the studied hospitals for providing the resources for waste management. However, shortage of availability or resources and hindrance in use of personal protective equipment were observed.

Conclusion & Significance: The study results highlight the need for training for the best practices on reporting of accidents from mishandling of biomedical waste and new rules.