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**Original article:**

**Awareness of Bio-medical waste management among the health care workers in rural area**

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**Abstract**

Lack of awareness and inadequate knowledge on Bio-medical Waste Management has led to the hospitals becoming hub for spreading illness.So the present study was undertaken with the aims to know the Awareness and practice of Bio-medical Waste Management among the health care workers.

**Materials& Methods:** The Prospective, cross-sectional survey was carried out in the 125 health care workers. A pretested, self-administered questionnaire on awareness of Bio-medical waste management policy and practice were given to the health care workers. Informed consent was obtained from the health care workers (HCW’s).

**Results:** Among 125 HCW, 83(66.40%) knew about the Authorization to be obtained from Pollution Control board, but only 20 (16%) knew when it is required.89% technicians, 83% Doctors, 70% nursing staff, 16% Class IV knew about Bio-medical waste management policy. Overall 45% HCW haveundergone the training programs. However 7/41 (17.1%) of Doctors and 2/25(8%) of Class IV staff were reluctant to undergo training programs.

Knowledge of color code and waste segregation was better in technical staff as compared to sanitary staff. Nursing staff 20 (86.96%) had highest scores as far as knowledge about Segregation and colour code of BMW followed by Technicians 14(77.78%), Doctors 27(65.85%), Interns 10(55.56%) and Class IV 9(36%).

Awareness of Bio-medical waste increased as years of experience and educational qualification increased. Gender-wise no difference was noted as far as knowledge regarding Bio-medical waste was concerned.

**Conclusion:**Importance of Bio-medical Waste Management awareness needs to be emphasized to the HCW. Intensive training and orientation programs for the staff at regular intervalsshould be conducted for the new-comers to understand the hospital function and Bio-medical waste management and handlings.

**Keywords:** Bio-medical Waste Management, practice, experience and educational qualification