THE STUDY OF AWARENESS OF INFECTIOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT IN NAVAL & AIRFORCE HOSPITAL



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ABSTRACT

This study examined the infectious waste management practices in two hospitals (Naval hospital and Air force hospital) Islamabad in the light of environmental laws and hospital waste management rules. Data were collected using various methods such as survey questionnaires, interviews, informal group discussions, site, photographic documentation to assess the current infectious waste management system and practices. The Study revealed many discrepancies and weaknesses in the hospital waste management system. The results of the survey showed that segregation of all wastes was not conducted according to standards rules and regulations. This study showed that environmental law such PEPA 1997 and hospital waste management rule 2005 was not completely complied. The result also showed that the waste management team was not effective even the team members were not aware about environmental laws and standard waste management practices. Waste handling was also not according to the guideline provided by environmental laws. No protective clothing, gloves, masks were provided to waste management workers. Waste management team, doctors, nurses and sanitary staffs were not trained in dealing with hospital waste. In Naval hospital there was only one gray container for the collection of hospital waste with different bags. According to Naval hospital staff the blood sample were disposed in to laboratory drain using little tap water. It was concluded that the unsatisfactory current hospital waste management practices in both hospitals were mainly due to the lack of training, lack of awareness, and lack of knowledge of hospital waste management regulations.

Contents

	E STUDY OF AWARENESS OF INFECTIOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT IN AVAL & AIRFORCE HOSPITAL1
Cha	apter 111
Intı	roduction11
1.	INTRODUCTION12
1.1	Infectious Waste:
	1.1.1 Hospital waste:
	a) Risk Waste
	b) Non Risk Waste
	1.1.2 WHO's terminology for hospital waste
	1.1.3 Infectious waste and its management:
	b) Environmental Risks:
1.2	Literature Review:16
	1.2.1 Common method of handling and its treatment in developed world:16
	1) Handling method
	2) Treatment Methods
	a) Incineration
	b) Steam Auto Claving
	c) Chemical Disinfection
	1.2.2 Hospital Waste Management Systems in Different Developing Countries18
	1.2.3 Hospital Waste Management Systems In Pakistan:
	1.2.4 Justification of study:
	1.2.5 Objectives of study
	METHODOLOGY21
2.	METHODOLOGY:
	2.1.1 Sample size of the study:
	2.1.2 Study Area:

	2.1.3 Description of Naval Hospital:	24
	2.1.4 Description of Air Force Hospital:	25
2.2	Data Collection:	26
1)	Primary Data Collection:	26
	a) Survey Questionnaires:	.26
	b) Interviews:	.27
	c) Photographic Documentation:	.27
2)	Secondary Data Collection:	.27
3.	Results and Discussion.	.29
3.1	Types of Waste produced:	.30
3.2	Waste Generation Rate:	.31
	3.2.1 Infectious waste generated in PNS Hafeez hospital:	.31
	3.2.2 Infectious waste generated in Air Force hospital:	.33
3.3	Questionnaire Study Participants:	.36
	3.3.1 Hospital Waste Management Team:	.36
	3.3.2 Aware of Hospital waste Policy:	.37
	3.3.3 Infectious waste management Plan:	.37
	3.3.4 Infectious waste management training:	.38
	3.3.5 Training given to newly waste management staff:	.39
	3.3.6 Knowledge of procedures of collection and handling of infectious waste:	.40
	3.3.7 Hospital on-site incinerator:	.41
	3.3.8 Protective clothing when handling infectious Waste	.42
	3.3.9 Treatment of infectious waste before disposal:	.42
	3.3.10 Environmental Management Office:	.43
3.4	Results, discussion and comparison of Naval and Air force hospitals:	.44
	3.4.1 Waste management :	.44
	3.4.2 Segregation	45

	3.4.3 Collection:	47
	3.4.4 Storage, treatment, transportation and disposal:	47
3.5	Challenges at hospitals:	49
4.	Conclusions	51
4.1	Recommendations:	51
4.2	References:	52

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1:Services provided by Naval Hospital	24
Table 2.2: Services provided by PAF Hospital	25
Table 3.1: Number of Questionnaires distributed to hospital's staff members	29
Table 3.2: Types of Waste produced in PAF and PNS Hafeez Hospitals	31
Table 3.3: Quantity of Infectious waste generated in PNS Hafeez hospital / per Day	32
Table 3.4: Quantity of Infectious waste generated in PAF hospital / per Day	34