



International Ionizing Radiation Symbol



Symbol for Bio-hazard



Symbol for Recycling

Health Care Waste Management Users' Guide



Users' Guide
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Preface

At present health care facilities are growing in a rapid pace in Bangladesh and improper management of waste from these facilities has become serious threat to our health and environment. Poorly managed health care waste (HCW) exposes health-care workers, waste handlers, and the community to diseases like hepatitis and AIDS (HIV), infections, and may damage the environment.

Lack of proper policy and awareness regarding bio-medical waste has made the situation more detrimental. To assess the situation recently, Waste Concern under the Component 3.3.2 of Sustainable Environment Management Program (SEMP) conducted a study on 'Cross Sectional Survey of Selected Health Care Establishments for the situation analysis of bio-medical waste management in Dhaka City'. Interestingly this study shows that a significant number of professionals and staffs (i.e., doctors, nurses, ward boys, ayas and cleaners) directly linked with healthcare related waste are not at all aware of proper management bio-medical waste. This study also shows that a large fraction of a bio-medical is non-infectious (78-85%) and the rest 15-22% fall in hazardous and infectious waste categories, which can be easily segregated and managed in an environment friendly manner at the source. Recently, it is also noticed that bio-medical waste with economic value is being extensively recycled and reused for economic reason by a large group of poor informal sector.

Proper health care waste management (HCWM) is a process that can help ensure proper hygiene and safety of health care workers and communities. In this backdrop, to improve this situation Waste Concern, under SEM, has been carrying out a range of activities related to hands on training programs and pilot intervention on effective bio-medical waste management in Dhaka city. This manual is based on Waste Concern's field experience and relevant literature review.

This manual provides an overview of hospital waste generation processes and presents options for minimizing waste generation through source reduction and recycling. We strongly believe that by reducing the generation of these materials at the source, or recycling the waste on or off site, will benefit health care facilities by reducing liabilities associated with infectious and hazardous waste disposal.

We tried to make this manual as far as possible user friendly and useful for medical practitioners, administrators, NGOs private sectors and policy makers linked with health care related issues in the country.

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