

PREFACE

The proliferation of the modern globalised era necessitated the establishment of the health care institutions for the treatment of patients for various diseases. Besides the duty to provide health care services, the duty to dispose of the Bio-Medical Waste is *sine quo non* and is the necessary corollary ever since there is a tremendous growth of such institutions. It is ironical that health care institutions on the one hand curing the diseases by providing health care services to the needy, at the same time it is the source of numerous diseases. This is primarily due to the improper handling, segregating and irrational and unscientific treatment and disposal mainly of the waste, which is infectious in nature. Therefore, maintenance of a proper balance between two types of duties is the first and foremost criteria for a healthy, germ free hospital environment and it is possible if the collection, segregation and disposal is made in accordance with the existing Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016. What is required is a positive attitude towards the proper implementation of the Rules and then only the successful management of the waste would be possible.

It has been seen that country's health care institutions are not properly disposing off the Bio-Medical Waste as per the Rules. An alarming percentage of the waste is improperly disposed off in the open area making it obnoxious to live in as it is spreading pollution (air, water and land) everywhere. An interesting but highly alarming fact is that majority of the hospitals are located within the close proximity of either residential or commercial area making it convenient and easily accessible for the patient and its relatives with a view to avail immediate health care service when emergency arises. The outcome is that it increases the risk factor not only to those living in the vicinity, it also affect the people living in the adjacent areas thereby putting the whole area in danger and is required to be looked into seriously.

Although the Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 made it mandatory for all the health care institutions strictly to abide by it but unfortunately the response has been seen very poor. With innovative approaches, emphasising on the need of environmental sustainability and economic viability the management and disposal of the Bio-Medical Waste can be made successful.

The increasing number of the health care institutions in India gives rise to the problem of the management and disposal of the Bio-Medical Waste. Siliguri is not an exception in this regard. Being the gateway of the north-eastern States and situated adjacent to the bordering countries, there has been tremendous growth of the health care institutions in the city which prompted me to undertake the research work with a view to understand the present disposal scenario of Bio-Medical Waste in Siliguri town.