

## Poor Medical Waste Management (MWM) Practices and Its Risks to Human Health and the Environment

**Authors :** Babanyara Y. Y., Ibrahim D. B., Garba T., Bogoro A. G., Abubakar, M. Y.

**Abstract :** Medical care is vital for our life, health, and well-being. However, the waste generated from medical activities can be hazardous, toxic, and even lethal because of their high potential for diseases transmission. The hazardous and toxic parts of waste from healthcare establishments comprising infectious, medical, and radioactive material as well as sharps constitute a grave risks to mankind and the environment, if these are not properly treated/disposed or are allowed to be mixed with other municipal waste. In Nigeria, practical information on this aspect is inadequate and research on the public health implications of poor management of medical wastes is few and limited in scope. Findings drawn from Literature particularly in the third world countries highlights financial problems, lack of awareness of risks involved in MWM, lack of appropriate legislation and lack of specialized MWM staff. The paper recommends how MWM practices can be improved in medical facilities.

**Keywords :** environmental pollution, infectious, management, medical waste, public health

**Conference Title :** ICAET 2014 : International Conference on Aviation Engineering and Technology

**Conference Location :** Cape Town, South Africa

**Conference Dates :** November 20-21, 2014