

**Health Care Waste Management Cell, Department of Community Medicine,  
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Health care waste management and infection control are neglected issues in the developing world. Realizing this need, an attempt is being made to address the need since 1995 December through Health Care Waste Management (HCWM) Cell, Department of Community Medicine, M. S. Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore. Established in 1997 by a group of likeminded professionals and supported by Dept. of environment, Government of Karnataka.

Important publications from HCWM cell are its training manual – Information and Learning Units for Safe Management of Health Care waste (available in English, Kannada, Tamil and Hindi and Short customized guidelines on Health Care Waste Management (available in English and Tamil translation under print).

With humble beginnings of designing, executing training programmes for health care personnel in Bangalore, Karnataka, other States in the country, it is providing training to Countries of South East Asia Region since 1995. As a WHO Regional Training Institute on Health care Waste Management in collaboration with WHO SEARO training programmes for Maldives, Myanmar and Srilanka were conducted by HCWM cell.

M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Health Care Waste Management Cell is a founding member of Indian Society of Hospital Waste Management (ISHWM) and had the privilege to host the inaugural conference of ISHWM in 2001, national level scientific session in 2004 and 11th annual conference in Dec 2011. It also undertakes technical work of journal of Indian Society of Hospital Management, till date eleven issues of the journals were released.

M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Health Care Waste Management Cell collaborates with Government of Karnataka, Government of India, WASTE – Netherlands, WHO SEARO, GTZ, CEE, NGOs, Hospitals. It has supported Health Care Waste Management work in tsunami affected areas in Banda Aceh , Indonesia (WHO SEARO) , Health Care Waste Management National plan at Papua New Guinea (WHO WPRO) and Health Care Waste Management work in tsunami affected areas of Srilanka (WASTE – Netherlands).

M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Health Care Waste Management Cell coordinated with GEF/UNIDO/GOI for “Environmentally Sound Management of Medical Wastes in India” project to prepare Full Size Project Document as part of initiation of National Implementation Plan to fulfill the obligations of Stockholm convention by Government of India.

M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Health Care Waste Management Cell had the privilege to draft the new rules of Bio Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules of 2011 for Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India and currently the same is notified for public comments before being gazette to replace the existing Bio Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules of 1998.

M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Health Care Waste Management Cell has designed and implemented Training programme on health care waste management to cover 30 districts of Karnataka state in coordination with Environment Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI) of Government of Karnataka. Evaluation of the training program is being planned and is underway.