

**Leading as example; creating a learning platform about practice of safe healthcare waste management system to health students**  
**Kathmandu Model Hospital, Nepal**

**GGHH Agenda Goals**

- Leadership
- Waste

**Hospital Goal**

- Raise awareness of safe healthcare waste management
- Provide platform for practical training place of "Safe Healthcare Waste Management System" (SHCWMS).
- Develop as learning center for safe healthcare waste management system.

**Progress Achieved**

- 25 hospitals visited to observe the system.
- Two organizations visited the hospital to observe SHCWMS as part of their training.
- 3 health care facilities (Paropakar Maternity and Womens’ Hospital, Health posts of Chitwan and TUTH (Trivuban University Teaching Hospital) have already received on-the-job training for safe healthcare waste management from this hospital. Eight people have been trained for 2 weeks.
- 7 groups of students (Nursing and public health students) from 6 colleges have visited the safe waste management system.
- Each new batch of nursing students {Proficiency (40), post basic bachelor (40) and Bsc. Level (20)} and dental students (40) of the colleges which are affiliated to this hospital receive orientation about the system.
- The fee for both training and observation visit is 100Nrs (0.97 US Dollars) per person per day.
- Kathmandu municipality evaluation gave the waste management system scores of 85% and 87.5% in February 2015 and December 2015 respectively. This evaluation is a positive point developing the hospital as a learning center in future.



**Figure 1. MS. Radhika Ghimire, GGHH Coordinator facilitating observation visit for nursing students**

**The Issue**

Safe healthcare waste management is neglected in the curriculum of health students. For students of proficiency level of nursing (PCL/General Nursing) or bachelor's level, the subject is just touched in theory without sufficient hours of study. The curriculum for students of bachelor's in public health only addresses healthcare waste as hazardous waste under the topic of solid waste management. This creates gaps in knowledge of HCWM, day to day practices in the health care facilities and actual safe practice.

This is also contradiction to medical students' principle "do no harm" as in their education they are taught and trained to provide service to the public by treating their ailments, preventing illness and promoting their health and in contrast to this, they are not taught about management of important aspect (HCWM) which they have to deal every day in their working life.

Even if a hospital wanted to start the safe health care waste management system, there was nowhere which could train new staff in the proper working setting.

### **Sustainability Strategy Implemented**

We provide a platform by allowing the people to observe and be trained on the safe healthcare waste management system. The colleges, hospitals and different organizations who approached us for observation visits and training were welcomed with minimal cost 0.97 USD (100 Nepali Rupees) per person per day. These low fees were set by the hospital with the guidance of HECAF (Health Care Foundation Nepal, HCWH strategic partner in Nepal) since we believe that if we fill this gap in theory and practice regarding healthcare waste management in the fresh mind of undergrads, there are more possibilities to spread the awareness of its importance.

### **Implementation process**

As the awareness of safe health care waste management system has increased in Nepal, different health care facilities and institution have contacted HECAF and/or our hospital as they want to observe our system. With the guidance of HECAF, our hospital decided to charge 0.97 USD per person for the visit.

HECAF directs the health care facilities or institutions to us. Healthcare facilities need to make a formal application for a visit or training to us. The date and time is fixed. Usually the GGHH Coordinator from the hospital facilitates the visit with the help of employees at the waste treatment center and HECAF. The visit covers the storage site, wards and waste treatment center. Then it is followed by a short presentation about the system and discussion.

Similarly, for the training, the institute needs to make an official application for training, and pay the relevant fees. They are trained for 2 weeks on waste segregation, collection, transportation, treatment (autoclaving), and sorting, storing and selling recyclables.

### **Tracking Progress**

- Feedback from the participants.
- The demand of other visits also signifies that we are able to provide that platform
- Evaluation of the Kathmandu municipal governmental authority and their referral of participants to our hospital for field visit.

### Challenges and lessons learned

- In our city center site, our waste treatment center has very little space, and we fear students will get the impression that this is all that is needed. To prevent this, we always clarify the reason for having congested space during discussion session.
- Taking a large group of students to observe waste management practices on the ward could hamper the patients' comfort. We try to prevent this by splitting the bigger groups into smaller ones, trying to arrange visits during less busy hours of wards and allowing the students to ask the questions only in discussion room.
- Providing the platform for training provides motivation for other institutes to initiate their work in safe healthcare waste management system implementation.
- Exposure to real practice helps to raise more awareness than just with lectures.

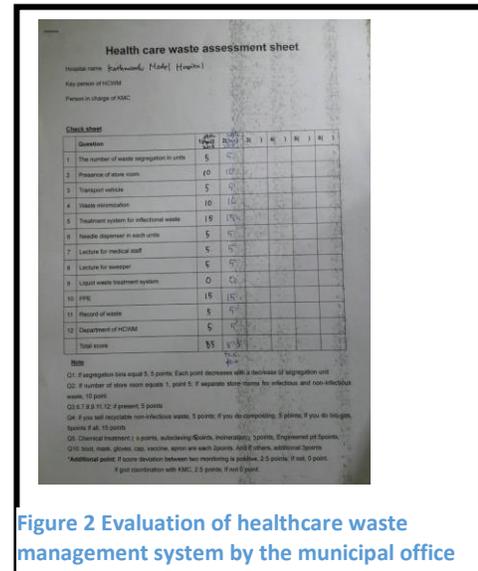


Figure 2 Evaluation of healthcare waste management system by the municipal office

### Next Steps

- Develop this hospital as training center for safe healthcare waste management.
- Develop proper evaluation and feedback forms for visits and trainings.

### Demographic information

Kathmandu Model Hospital (KMH) is a non-profit making NGO hospital. It was founded in 1993 as an 18 bed community referral hospital. The capacity expanded to 50 beds in 1995 and additional services were added at this time. Since 2003, KMH has been a tertiary care hospital with 100 beds. Despite limited resources, KMH attempts to make state-of-the art technology available to its clients.

KMH envisions health services not only in a biomedical context but also in social context. In accordance with the beliefs of phect-Nepal, KMH firmly believes that health services should empower the sick to fight all type of suffering.

### Links

<http://web.phectnepal.org/kathmandu-model-hospital/>

**Quotes:**

"In spite of all the constraints and challenges, at this stage, promoting our activities for developing an ideal center for observing, learning and training in a proper way of safe health care waste management system and in a broader way to raise the awareness, training and also educating the community should be of prime concern and extreme importance for promoting the leadership." - Dr. Bharat Pradhan, Director, KMH

"Creating training that supports a true goal is only possible with active participation of a team of professionals within an organization and also the key to its sustainability." - Ms. Radhika Ghimire, HCWM and GGHH Coordinator

"Showing undergrads about good practice can make them aware of the need to have this system in the institutions where they will work in the future. As a professional teacher I found the HCWM system at Model Hospital really impressive at teaching students real safe practice"- Ms. Rama Ghimire, Lecturer, KAMHSON

**Keywords / topics:**

Leadership, healthcare, waste, awareness, training

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