

**SELF ASSESSMENT OF BEHAVIOR IN INFECTIONS WASTE
MANAGEMENT BY HEALTH CARE WORKERS OF NATIONAL
REFERRAL HOSPITAL, THIMPHU, BHUTAN**

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**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Public Health in Health Systems Development**

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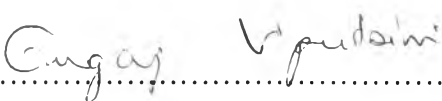
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Inadequate and inappropriate handling of infectious wastes could result in serious public health consequences and significant negative impact on human and the environment. The study on behavior and related factors among health care workers in proper management of infectious waste at national referral hospital Thimphu, Bhutan was conducted from 5th to 10th May 2004. This is a cross-sectional descriptive study. A total of 283 health workers participated in the study. Self-administered questionnaire was used to obtain information from 36 doctors, 112 nurses and 80 technicians. The information from 55 auxiliary staff was obtained by two trained interviewers through structured questionnaire. The completed questionnaires were coded, entered and analyzed by SPSS.

The mean scores of knowledge were 8.42, 9.21, 9.69, and 9.94 for auxiliary, technicians, nurses and doctors respectively from total of 10 scores. The mean scores of attitude were 41.82, 41.93, 43.42 and 44.91 while the mean scores of behavior were 44.48, 42.11, 42.10 and 43.35, from total of 50 scores, for auxiliary, technicians, nurses and doctors respectively. Socio-demographic factors like age, gender, level of education, job category, waste management training and duration in service were not significantly associated with behavior. The mean scores of knowledge and attitude of professionals were significantly higher than auxiliary staff ($p < .001$). The mean of behavior scoring by auxiliary staff was slightly higher than by professionals, however, there was no statistically significant difference ($p = .350$). Regarding policy content, manual on infectious waste management has been top ranked by all health workers. Deployment of policy, availability of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment had been ranked top two.

It is strongly suggested that the national referral hospital Thimphu should have a policy commitment and strategic plan for effective continuous quality improvement on the infections waste risk management of the hospital.

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