

IV.B.2. Hospital Waste, Non-Milch Cows and Toxic Herbal Plantation

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Bio-medical waste forms nearly 10% of all hospital waste. The recent rules of Government of India lay down specific details of their handling and management. The disposal has primarily to done by one of the 3 methods of autoclaving, microwaving and incineration. While the first two methods of autoclaving and micro- waving are out of reach for this country in next 25 years, incineration is the only choice left to us.

Though incineration may be the right choice for disposal of hospital waste by western, developed countries, it is most unsuitable for us. The incineration require high initial capital investment, segregated hospital waste, high recurring cost, non-renewable energy high salary bill and chances of very high failure rates of man & machine and even after this, you have poisonous Dioxins, and lead in air and highly toxic ash - needing special deep burial sites. Our method is based on total hospital waste collection and transportation, composting and maturing it with Gobar gas plant slurry, plantation of toxic medicinal plants followed by separation of biograded waste (plastic, glass, needles, syringes, tubing etc.) for land filling. In last 4 years we have upgraded 6 Hectares of barren land with the help 50, non-milch old cows and are having 3 crops on land which could hardly give one crop. Basically incineration is based on western, capitalist outlook of 'Use & destroy' and increase the demand, ours is on holistic approach, based on use "JUGAD" recycle and reuse, which is economically sustainable, cheap, creates unskilled jobs and is eco-friendly. In addition 10 families have crossed poverty line.