

## BIO-MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT IN RURAL HEALTH INSTITUTIONS: LEGAL AND POLICY DEFICIENCIES IN INDIA

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*Rural primary health services are inextricably linked to healthcare facilities' biomedical waste (BMW) management, but they all have serious issues. Although the Bio-Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016, seem strong, rural healthcare facilities have low compliance rates. Lack of infrastructure, monitoring systems, treatment centre access, and inter-departmental coordination are the main causes of this inadequacy. In this paper, I examine legal and legislative barriers to rural biological waste management, focusing on regulatory implementation, institutional alignment, and capacity. I believe that the severe implementation gap, not the legislative framework, is the main barrier, based on CPCB reports, NGT decisions, and the latest empirical data. Thus, to close this gap, I propose a set of recommendations to improve district governance, finances, and monitoring.*

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