

## **INTRODUCING AN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY TO THE HOSPITAL SECTOR IN SRI LANKA: A CASE STUDY OF KANDY TEACHING HOSPITAL**

*Dissanayaka, DMCS<sup>1</sup> Jayasuriya KAJS<sup>2</sup>*

There are various deficiencies in the hospital system throughout Sri Lanka. Among them, although some hospitals deal properly in disposing of garbage and waste, many hospitals do not have a proper system. There has been no quantitative research on the use of environmental management systems for hospitals in Sri Lanka. Since the primary intention of hospitals is to provide maximum healthcare to patients, their focus on environmental management is very minimal. Therefore, identification of significant environmental aspects is the main research problem of this study. The primary objective of this study was to introduce an appropriate environmental management policy for the Kandy Teaching Hospital. The specific objective of this study was to study EMS methodology and practices in hospitals in Sri Lanka. This is a qualitative research and uses both primary and secondary data. Open questionnaires and interviews under sampling method were used in primary data collection and quantitative information was obtained from PHI and accounting officers for the study of hospital waste as secondary sources. In addition, significant information was provided through literature review. According to the information gathered, it was clear that the waste is mainly segregated into infectious and non-infectious, and a color code is used for the different types of waste disposed. Through this research, it was identified that approximately 1000 kg of clinical waste, 100 kg of shells, 850 kg of food waste, 100 kg of cardboard, 50 kg of paper and 100 kg of plastic are disposed of each day. It was also clear that the use of polythene among these wastes is very high. The main problem here is that the use of polythene is not controlled. Although various measures have been taken by the hospital and the government to carry away the waste, not enough steps have been taken to control the waste institutionally. The waste brought by people visiting patients on a daily basis has increased. Therefore, the main attention should be paid to the garbage brought to the hospital inside and outside the hospital. Also, measures such as introduction of eco-friendly bags instead of uncontrollable polythene, public awareness, implementation of appropriate environmental management policy plans can be suggested through this research.

**Keywords** - *Hospital waste, waste disposal methods, environmental management policy, ISO14001:2015 standard, IER*

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. [dchamu98@gmail.com](mailto:dchamu98@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. [dchamu98@gmail.com](mailto:dchamu98@gmail.com)