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Bio-Medical Waste and COVID-19 Pandemic

A State-wise Analysis

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Abstract

Generation of biomedical waste (BMW) is unavoidable, especially during a pandemic. Improper management of BMW adversely impacts health, well-being and the environment. There is a strong relation between Human Development Index (HDI), and health related waste management (Caniato, et al., 2015) which makes this study very relevant in a highly globalised world. Literature shows that developing countries are not efficient in handling medical waste, when compared to developed countries where institutions are stronger (Khan, et al., 2019). India, a developing country with the largest population in the world, could not escape this problem. During the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, around 22 Indian states generated BMW more than their treatment capacity. This serves as a reminder of the burden the pandemic-generated waste has placed on the country's already struggling bio-medical waste management system. Growth of BMW during the pandemic in India was found