



Examination on Environmental Impacts of Irregular Storage of Medical Wastes: Case of Turkey

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Abstract:

Irregular (wild) storage of urban waste brings with it many environmental problems. These problems are garbage fires, explosions, mixing of leachate into groundwater and surface water, smell, visual pollution, harmful gas emissions and greenhouse effect. Especially, irregular storage of medical wastes causes these problems to reach more dangerous dimensions. For this reason, it is vital to analyse the medical waste storage process from all aspects and keep it under control. In this context, the main purpose of this study is to emphasize the importance of regular disposal of medical wastes by sterilization method. In this context, medical waste storage methods will be classified in two groups. The first group will be accepted as “medical wastes sent directly to the landfill without any treatment”, and the second group as “medical wastes sent to the landfill after sterilization”. The environmental impacts of both groups will be examined on an urban scale with data from the last ten years specific to Van Province of Turkey. In this analysis, the compliance of waste storage areas with the relevant legislation and international standards will also be questioned. Finally, the results will be discussed in terms of environmental impacts and human health.

Biography:

Arzuhan Burcu Gültekin was graduated from İstanbul Technical University, Department of Architecture in 1997. She received her M.S. degree from İstanbul Technical University, Construction Sciences Graduate Program in 2001. Thereafter, she received her Ph.D. degree from Gazi University, Architecture Program in 2006. She worked as a research assistant in Gebze High Technology Institute, Department of Architecture between 1998 and 2001, and in Gazi University, Construction Education Department between 2001 and 2007. She worked as an assistant professor in the same department between 2007 and 2015, and as an associate professor in Ankara University, Department of Real Estate Development and Management between 2015-2019. She carries out her duty in Gazi University, Department of Civil engineering as an associate professor.

She has 17 international scientific papers, 67 international congress papers, 23 national scientific papers, 19 international book chapters, 2 books, chairmanship in 12 international and



national events (workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia), 6 national and international research projects, numerous expert positions, scientific journal refereeing, master/doctorate jury memberships and editorial duties.

Recent Publications:

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