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Safe Disposal of unwanted or Expired Medicines: Current Scenario in India

Rajesh Sharma¹, Mansi Rajput¹ & Rahul Kumar¹

¹School of Medical and Allied Sciences, K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram, Haryana, India-122103

Email Id: editorjohp@gmail.com

Abstract

A substance which show a physiological effect if devoured or else introduced in body by other routes is called a drug. As per **drug and cosmetic act** a **drug** is defined as “All medicines for internal or external use of human beings or animals and all substances intended to be used for or in the diagnosis, treatment, mitigation or prevention of any disease or disorder in human beings or animals, including preparations applied on human body for the purpose of repelling insects like mosquitoes” in India disposal of drugs is a big problem in itself. In addition to the industrial **pharmaceutical waste**, expired and unused medicines with other **health hazards** comprise a hegemonizing cause of environmental contamination. India neither a legislative rule for drug disposal nor any proper mechanism are followed for drug disposal. Moreover, nobody takes accountability and responsibility for safe and appropriate drug disposal. According to the our latest survey including around **328 people from more than 20 states**, there is a gigantic need to educate people a proposing safe disposal of medicines as the census showed about **78% of people** do not know about legal ways to dispose **expired medicines** and about **73% people** hold up expired medicines at their place. Pharmacists play a very important role in guiding people and taking an initiative towards the safe disposal of medicines. society can be awared with the introduction of some new techniques like **“TAKE BACK INITIATIVE “at public place,” CEMENTING TECHNIQUES”, “FLUSH METHOD” and many more.**

Keywords: Drug and Cosmetic act, drug, disposal, pharmaceutical waste, expired medicines, pharmacists

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