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#### THE INTEGRATION OF FUZZY DELPHI AND FUZZY TOPSIS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE TREATMENT SELECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF GREEN PRACTICE



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#### Abstrak

Sisa farmaseutikal harus dirawat dengan cara yang terbaik bagi mengelakkan berlakunya kemudaratan terhadap kesihatan orang awam dan alam sekitar. Oleh itu, amalan hijau boleh diguna pakai dalam merawat sisa dengan seefektif yang mungkin. Walau bagaimanapun, penyelidikan mengenai rawatan terbaik dengan ciri hijau hanya dijalankan di negara lain dan tidak boleh menjadi rujukan utama untuk Malaysia kerana perbezaan geografi. Secara praktikalnya, pendekatan untuk memodelkan pembuatan keputusan holistik bagi sisa farmaseutikal dalam konteks Malaysia dan menilai kekukuhan sebuah model adalah amat diperlukan. Oleh itu, kajian ini membangunkan satu model pembuatan keputusan bagi memilih rawatan terbaik untuk sisa farmaseutikal dalam konteks amalan hijau di Malaysia. Dengan menggunakan kajian literatur sistematik dan pendapat pakar, satu senarai komprehensif kriteria, berserta sub-kriteria dan kaedah rawatan telah berjaya dikumpulkan. Pengiraan wajaran untuk kriteria dan sub-kriteria serta pemeringkatan rawatan telah dianalisis melalui kaedah TOPSIS Delphi kabur. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa imobilisasi sisa (enkapsulasi) telah dipilih sebagai rawatan pelupusan terbaik dan alam sekitar merupakan kriterion terpenting seperti mana dinilai oleh satu panel pakar. Analisis sensitiviti menunjukkan bahawa gabungan kriteria yang berbeza mempengaruhi susunan keutamaan rawatan. Model yang dibangunkan menyumbang kepada pihak pemegang taruh yang berkaitan dengan pengurusan sisa dalam membantu proses pembuatan keputusan. Ia juga memperluaskan pengetahuan pengurusan sisa daripada perspektif amalan hijau dan dihujahkan sebagai satu mekanisma yang boleh dipercayai untuk dilaksanakan di Malaysia.

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Kata kunci: Sisa farmaseutikal, Pemilihan rawatan, Delphi kabur, TOPSIS kabur

#### Abstract

Pharmaceutical waste should be treated in the best possible manner to avoid harm toward public health and the environment. Thus, green practices can be adopted in treating the waste as effectively as possible. However, research about the best treatment with green features has only been conducted in other countries and cannot be a primary reference for Malaysia due to geographical differences. Practically, an approach to model holistic decision-making for pharmaceutical waste in Malaysia context and evaluate the robustness of the model is essential. Hence, this research develops a decision-making model to select the best treatment for pharmaceutical waste in the context of green practices in Malaysia. By using a systematic literature review and experts' opinions, a comprehensive list of criteria, sub-criteria, and treatments were successfully collected. The computation of weights for criteria and sub-criteria as well as the ranking of treatments were analysed through Fuzzy Delphi TOPSIS. The results revealed that waste immobilisation (encapsulation) is selected as the best treatment and environmental is the most important criterion as evaluated by a panel of experts. The sensitivity analysis indicated that different combinations of criteria could influence the ranking of the treatments. The developed model contributes to the related stakeholders in waste management to assist the decision-making process. It also expands the knowledge of waste treatment in the perspective of green practices and it is argued to be a trustworthy mechanism to be implemented in Malaysia.

Keywords: Pharmaceutical waste, Treatment selection, Fuzzy Delphi, Fuzzy TOPSIS

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## List of Abbreviations

AHP	Analytic Hierarchy Process		
ANP	Analytic Network Process		
CC	Closeness Coefficient		
DEMATEL	Decision-Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory		
DOE	Department of Environment		
DM	Delphi Method		
FD	Fuzzy Delphi		
FDT	Fuzzy Delphi TOPSIS		
FNIS	Fuzzy Negative Ideal Solution		
FPIS	Fuzzy Positive Ideal Solution		
FT	Fuzzy TOPSIS		
MCDM	Multi-Criteria Decision-Making		
MULTIMOORA	Multi-Objective Optimization based on Ratio Analysis		
МОН	Ministry of Health		
NIS	Negative Ideal Solution		
PIS	Positive Ideal Solution		
TFN	Triangular Fuzzy Number		
TOPSIS	Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to the Ideal Solution		
WHO	World Health Organization		

#### **CHAPTER ONE**

#### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Research Background

The introduction of the green practice policy plays an essential role in treating waste in an environmentally friendly manner, especially for the process of managing hazardous waste, namely, pharmaceuticals, which intends to provide a more effective, safe, and secure system (Courtier, Cadiere, & Roig, 2019). This green policy serves to evidently support environmental preservation in Malaysia, reflecting the government's serious and solemn stance in preserving Malaysia's wildlife and biodiversity (Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water Malaysia, 2009).

Nonetheless, Malaysia still faces problems in optimising the best treatment in the context of green practice, especially for pharmaceutical waste, as it involves various treatments, criteria, and sub-criteria that need to undergo thorough considerations. Furthermore, implementing treatment settings that are equipped with the necessary green features still poses a challenge to the relevant agencies due to a lack of knowledge of the green features for such treatments. Hence, the government has sought experts' reviews from various fields of knowledge, such as policymakers and practitioners, for a thorough decision. Unfortunately, the problems mentioned earlier continue to persist since each expert had a distinct perspective relating to this issue in selecting the best treatment for pharmaceutical waste in the context of green practice.

Therefore, a technique is required to put together a solution to ensure all of these experts come to a consensus in making the decision. With the help of a census

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Universiti Utara Malaysia

#### **Appendix A**



#### SCHOOL OF QUANTITATIVE SCIENCES COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

#### THE INTEGRATION OF FUZZY DELPHI AND FUZZY TOPSIS FOR <u>PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE TREATMENT SELECTION</u> <u>IN THE CONTEXT OF GREEN PRACTICE</u>

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Nur Hazera Binti Md Radzi, a master's student (Matric Number: 826423) in Decision Science at School of Quantitative Sciences, Universiti Utara Malaysia. Currently, I am conducting research on 'The Integration of Fuzzy Delphi and Fuzzy TOPSIS for Pharmaceutical Waste Treatment Selection in the Context of Green Practice' under the supervision of Dr. Nurakmal Binti Ahmad Mustaffa and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nerda Zura Binti Zaibidi. In order to complete this research, the following questionnaire have been designed to conduct a survey that can evaluate the green practice for pharmaceutical waste. Therefore, respondents are required to indicate the answer for all the questions in every section based on the scale provided. You are advised to answer the questions sincerely as your opinion is extremely important for my research. Please note that all information is strictly used for the purpose of research and will be kept as private and confidential. Your co-operation to fill up this survey is highly appreciated. If you have any query or interested to know about the result and findings of this research, please do not hesitate to contact me via my email: nur hazera md@ahsgs.uum.edu.my or my supervisors, nurakmal@uum.edu.my and nerda@uum.edu.my.

Thank You.

Best Regards,

#### Nur Hazera Binti Md Radzi

#### SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Please indicate your answer by filling in the blank with the appropriate information or putting a check mark ( $\sqrt{}$ ) on the space provided as below.

1.	Gender					
2.	Organization					
3.	Department					
4.	Work Experience related to Waste Management	□ Below 5 years	□ 6 – 10 years	□ 11 – 15 years	□ 16 – 20 years	□ 20 years & above
5.	Level of Education	□ Secondary	□ Diploma	□ Bachelor's Degree	□ Master's Degree	□ Ph.D

## SECTION B: CRITERIA OF TREATMENT SELECTION FOR PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

For this section, respondents are required to answer the following question regarding the criteria of pharmaceutical waste treatment. Please select and tick ( $\sqrt{}$ ) for each of the criteria that is preferable and can be considered for pharmaceutical waste or indicate your answer if there are any other criteria which have been applied in Malaysia.

Criteria	
Economic	
Environmental	
Social	
Technical	

#### Please write below if there are any additional criteria:

## SECTION C: SUB-CRITERIA OF TREATMENT SELECTION FOR PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

For this section, respondents are required to answer the following question regarding the sub-criteria of pharmaceutical waste treatment. Please select and tick ( $\sqrt{}$ ) for each of the sub-criteria that is preferable and can be considered for pharmaceutical waste or indicate your answer if there are any other sub-criteria which have been applied in Malaysia.

Criteria	Sub-Criteria						
	Capital cost						
	Disposal cost						
Economic	Installation requirements						
	Net cost per ton						
	Operation and maintenance cost						
	Emission of air and secondary pollution						
	Efficacy of microbial inactivation						
UT/	Energy consumption per kg of waste						
S	Extent of use of renewable energy						
ER	Mass and volume reduction						
	Material consumption						
P. 18	Noise						
Environmental	Odour Malaysia						
SHU BUD	Odour Release with health effects						
	Resource recovery capabilities						
	Risk level for communities, workers, and						
	environment						
	Space requirement						
	Waste residuals						
	Water consumption per kg of waste						
	Acceptability of treatment residues by local						
	landfill						
	Acceptance cost						
	Extent of necessary resettlement of people						
Social	Land requirement						
Social	Policy level						
	Public acceptance						
	Technology acceptance						
	Technology acquisition						
	Visible or aesthetic impact						
Technical	Ability to treat wide range of infectious waste						
rechinical	Adaptability to future situations						

Availability of local experts/skilled operators
Availability of spare parts and usage of local
materials or manufactured technologies
Compatibility with existing technology and
natural conditions
Level of automation/sophistication
Occupational hazards
Reliability/Ease of operation
Security
Treatment effectiveness/capability
Track record on performance

#### Please write below if there are any additional sub-criteria:

#### SECTION D: TREATMENT SELECTION OF PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

For this section, respondents are required to answer the following question regarding the treatment of pharmaceutical waste. Please select and tick ( $\sqrt{}$ ) for each of the treatment that is preferable and can be considered for pharmaceutical waste or indicate your answer if there is any other treatment which have been practiced in Malaysia.

Alternative	
Incineration	
Chemical Disinfection	
Waste Immobilisation (Encapsulation)	
Waste Immobilisation (Inertisation)	
Plasma Pyrolysis	
Landfill	

#### Please write below if there are any additional alternatives:

#### **Appendix B**



#### SCHOOL OF QUANTITATIVE SCIENCES COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA

#### THE INTEGRATION OF FUZZY DELPHI AND FUZZY TOPSIS FOR <u>PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE TREATMENT SELECTION</u> <u>IN THE CONTEXT OF GREEN PRACTICE</u>

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Nur Hazera Binti Md Radzi, a master's student (Matric Number: 826423) in Decision Science at School of Quantitative Sciences, Universiti Utara Malaysia. Currently, I am conducting research on 'The Integration of Fuzzy Delphi and Fuzzy TOPSIS for Pharmaceutical Waste Treatment Selection in the Context of Green Practice' under the supervision of Dr. Nurakmal Binti Ahmad Mustaffa and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nerda Zura Binti Zaibidi. In order to complete this research, the following questionnaire have been designed to conduct a survey that can evaluate the green practice for pharmaceutical waste. Therefore, respondents are required to indicate the answer for all the questions in every section based on the scale provided. You are advised to answer the questions sincerely as your opinion is extremely important for my research. Please note that all information is strictly used for the purpose of research and will be kept as private and confidential. Your co-operation to fill up this survey is highly appreciated. If you have any query or interested to know about the result and findings of this research, please do not hesitate to contact me via my email: nur hazera md@ahsgs.uum.edu.my or my supervisors, nurakmal@uum.edu.my and nerda@uum.edu.my.

Thank You.

Best Regards,

#### Nur Hazera Binti Md Radzi

#### SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Please indicate your answer by filling in the blank with the appropriate information or putting a check mark ( $\sqrt{}$ ) on the space provided as below.

1.	Gender					
2.	Organization					
3.	Department					
4.	Work Experience related to Waste Management	□ Below 5 years	□ 6 – 10 years	□ 11 – 15 years	□ 16 – 20 years	□ 20 years & above
5.	Level of Education	□ Secondary	□ Diploma	□ Bachelor's Degree	□ Master's Degree	□ Ph.D

## SECTION B: CRITERIA OF TREATMENT SELECTION FOR PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

For this section, respondents are required to answer the following question regarding the criteria of pharmaceutical waste treatment selection. Please identify tick (/) whether the criteria are either benefit or cost criteria. Benefit criteria: Desire the highest value in the criteria. Cost criteria: Desire the lowest value in the criteria.

Criteria	Benefit	Cost
Economic		
Environmental		
Social		
Technical		

Next, please select and tick (/) the score for each of the criterion that can be considered for pharmaceutical waste in the context of green practice which have been applied in Malaysia in the space provided by referring to the importance scale in the table below.

Scale	Explanation
1	Least important (LI)
2	Least to moderately important (LMI)
3	Moderately important (MI)
4	Moderate to strongly important (MSI)
5	Strongly important (SI)
6	Strong to very strongly important (SVSI)
7	Very strongly important (VSI)
8	Very strong to extremely important (VSEI)
9	Extremely important (EI)

Criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Economic									
Environmental									
Social									
Technical									

# SECTION C: SUB-CRITERIA OF TREATMENT SELECTION FOR PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

🛇 Universiti Utara Malaysia

For this section, respondents are required to answer the following question regarding the sub-criteria of pharmaceutical waste treatment selection. Please select and tick (/) the score for each of the sub-criterion that can be considered for pharmaceutical waste in the context of green practice which have been applied in Malaysia in the space provided by referring to the importance scale in the table above.

Economic										
Sub-criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Capital cost										
Disposal cost										
Installation requirement										
Net cost per ton										
Operation and maintenance cost										

	-	<b>Envir</b> o	nmen	tal					
Sub-criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Emission of air and secondary pollution									
Extent of use of renewable energy									
Mass and volume reduction									
Noise									
Odour									
Release with health effects									
Resource recovery capabilities									
Risk level for communities, workers, and environment									
Space requirement									
Waste residuals									

A UTARA		So	cial						
Sub-criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Acceptability of treatment residues by community									
Land requirement									
Acceptance cost	J E V	ersit	Ē	ата	ra	ays			
Extent of necessary resettlement of people									
Inclusion of society's wellbeing in waste disposal related policies									
Public's perception on aesthetic impact (i.e.: noise, odor, litter and greasy)									

	Technical										
Sub-criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Category of pharmaceutical waste (i.e.: Class I, Class II and Class III)											
Adaptability to future situations											
Availability of local experts/skilled operators											

Availability of spare parts and usage of local materials or manufactured technologies					
Compatibility with existing technology and natural conditions					
Level of automation/ sophistication					
Occupational hazard					
Track record on performance					
Treatment effectiveness/capability					
Waste-to-Energy (WtE) requirement					

#### SECTION D: TREATMENT SELECTION OF PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

For this section, respondents are required to answer the following question regarding the treatment of pharmaceutical waste. Please select and tick (/) the score for each of the treatments that are relevant to be used for pharmaceutical waste in the context of green practice which have been applied in Malaysia in the space provided by referring to the relevance scale in the table below.

Scale	Explanation
1	Not relevant at all (NR)
2	Not very much relevant (NVMR)
3	Not much relevant (NMR)
4	Not very fairly relevant (NVFR)
5	Fairly relevant (FR)
6	Very fairly relevant (VFR)
7	Much relevant (MR)
8	Very much relevant (VR)
9	Exceptionally relevant (ER)

Economic										
Treatment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Incineration										
Chemical disinfection										
Waste immobilisation (encapsulation)										
Secured landfill										

Environmental										
Treatment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Incineration										
Chemical disinfection										
Waste immobilisation (encapsulation)										
Secured landfill										

Social										
Treatment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Incineration										
Chemical disinfection										
Waste immobilisation (encapsulation)										
Secured landfill										

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Technical										
Treatment	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Incineration										
Chemical disinfection										
Waste immobilisation (encapsulation)										
Secured landfill										