

KNOWLEDGE REGARDING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND TO IDENTIFY THE COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS OF SANITARY WORKERS AT NAGAPATTINAM

¹ P.Gomathi, M.Sc.,(N), ²Prof.Dr.K.Kamala, M.Sc.,(N),Ph.D,

¹Asso.Professor, ²Principal

Nursing,

Vinayaka Mission's College Of Nursing, Karaikal.

Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation-Deemed to be University, Salem.

ABSTRACT

A descriptive study was conducted to identify the health problems and to assess the knowledge on use of personal protective equipments to prevent health problems among sanitary workers at Nagapattinam. The data was collected through semi structured interview schedule. For this study 50 samples were selected by using convenience sampling technique. The demographic characteristics revealed that majority 36% of workers were belongs to 30-40 years, 60% workers were male 82% of workers were married, 94% of workers were Hindu, 66% of workers had only primary education, 36% of workers were earning from Rs.10,001 to Rs.20,000/-, 60% of workers belongs to nuclear family, 58% of workers were lives in thatched house. Present study revealed that 26% of workers had inadequate knowledge, 28% of workers had moderately adequate knowledge and 46% of workers had adequate knowledge. The study reveals that 25% of workers had musculoskeletal problem, 6% were suffered with skin diseases, 12% with infectious diseases and 26% were suffered with respiratory diseases. The results obtained on chi square analysis of association between demographic variables and the level of knowledge. It reveals that there was no significant relationship between the level of knowledge regarding age, sex, marital status, religion, education, monthly income, type of family and type of house.

Keywords: Knowledge, personal protective equipments , sanitary workers

Sanitation workers form the backbone of the civic cleaning system of any society. With improper segregation of waste materials at the source and all types of garbage being disposed on the streets, these workers are exposed to dirt, infective organisms, and other hazardous materials like chemicals, animal excreta, and sharp objects. As a result of this, they suffer from skin diseases, respiratory and gastrointestinal problems, eye and ear infections and accidental injuries. Communal wastes comprise organic dust and bio-aerosol stuffed with micro-organisms (bacteria, viruses and fungi), endotoxins, and various toxic organic and inorganic chemicals that are aggravated in leachate resulting present in the air of the workplace. Workers can be protected by employing safety procedures in the workplace and ensuring the use of adequate personal protective equipment. from a sanitary landfill. However, control of these work conditions and enforcement of appropriate hygienic measures are difficult due to the lack of hygiene standards for biohazardous materials

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM :

A study to assess the knowledge regarding personal protective equipments and to identify the common health problems of sanitary workers at Nagapattinam.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To assess the knowledge regarding personal protective equipments
2. To find the association between the knowledge on personal protective equipments with selected demographical variables.

3. To prepare a health education package on personal protective equipments.
4. To identify the common health problems of sanitary workers.

ASSUMPTION

- ❖ The sanitary workers may have some knowledge regarding personal protective equipments
- ❖ Knowledge of sanitary workers regarding personal protective equipments may influence by different variables such as age, sex, religion, educational status, income and type of family.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A descriptive non experimental research design was adapted for this study. The study was conducted in Nagapattinam. The population for the present study was sanitary workers who were residing at Nagapattinam. Fifty sanitary workers were selected for the study by convenient sampling technique. Data collection tool consists of Demographic variables, semi structured interview schedule and Health assessment proforma were used to assess the knowledge regarding personal protective equipment and common health problems.

DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE

The permission was obtained from the concerned higher authority to conduct the study. The purpose of the interview was explained to all the sanitary workers with self introduction. Prior to interview, a separate place was selected in the house for an interview and subjects were made comfortable and relaxed. The investigator personally interviewed each and every sanitary worker individually. Nearly 30 to 45 minutes were spent for each interview. The investigator was visited 5-8 subjects daily. During the interview and health assessment, all the subjects were cooperative.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected from subjects were grouped and analyzed using appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical tests.

TABLE : FREQUENCY AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AMONG SANITARY WORKERS.

S.NO	Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Inadequate	13	26%
2.	Moderately Adequate	14	28%
3.	Adequate	23	46%

FIG: LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

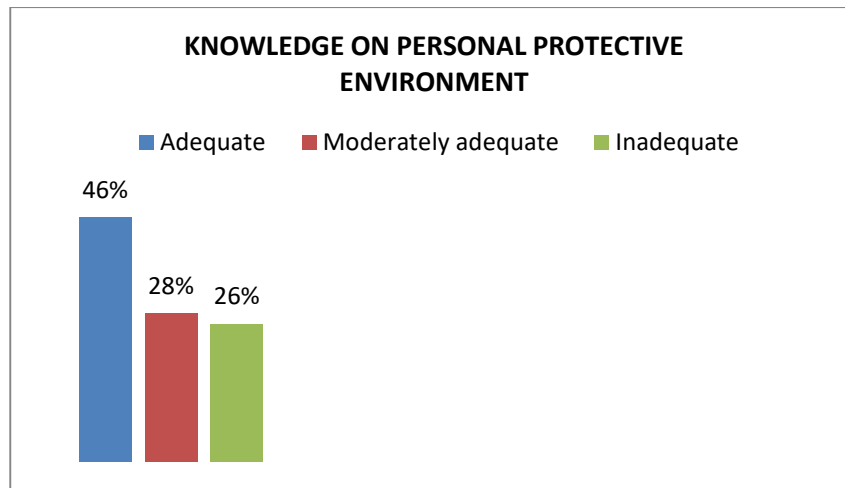


Figure shows that the (26%) of sanitary workers had inadequate knowledge, (28%) of sanitary workers had moderate knowledge and (46%) of sanitary workers had adequate knowledge.

TABLE : COMMON HEALTH PROBLEMS OF SANITARY WORKERS

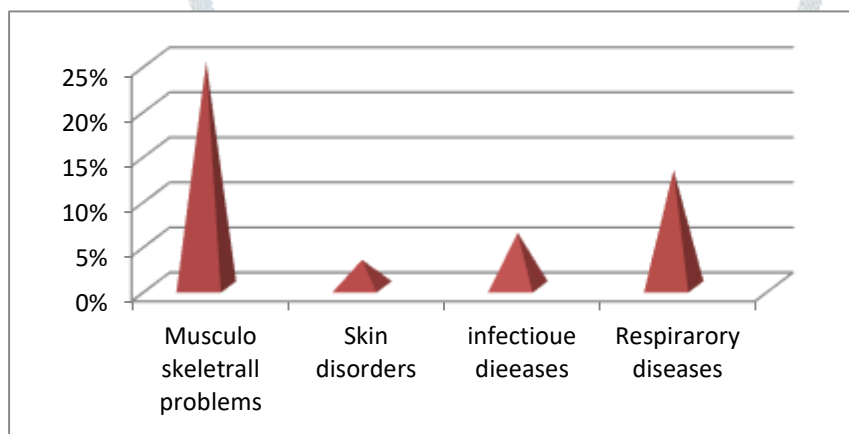


Figure shows that the (26%) of sanitary workers had inadequate knowledge, (28%) of sanitary workers had moderate knowledge and (46%) of sanitary workers had adequate knowledge.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Majority 36% of workers were belongs to 30-40 years, 60% workers were male 82% of workers were married, 94% of workers were Hindu, 66% of workers had only primary education, 36% of workers were earning from Rs.10,001 to Rs.20,000/-, 60% of workers belongs to nuclear family, 58% of workers were lives in thatched house.
- Present study revealed that 26% of workers had inadequate knowledge, 28% of workers had moderately adequate knowledge and 46% of workers had adequate knowledge.
- The results obtained on chi square analysis of association between demographic variables and the level of knowledge. It reveals that there was no significant relationship between the level of knowledge regarding age, sex, marital status, religion, education, occupation, monthly income, type of family and type of house.
- The study reveals that 25% of workers had musculoskeletal problem, 6% were suffered with skin diseases, 12% with infectious diseases and 26% were suffered with respiratory diseases

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that 26% of sanitary workers had inadequate knowledge, 28% of sanitary workers had moderately adequate knowledge and 46% of sanitary workers had adequate knowledge. This shows that there is a need to improvement of knowledge on environmental sanitation and its impact on health.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ The study can be replicated on large sample.
- ✓ Various demographic details can be taken in various settings and evaluation of the study can be done.
- ✓ Study can be conducted to assess the prevalence of diseases caused by improper use of personal protective equipment.

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