

PP09 Occupational health and safety related practices & factors influencing on it in motor vehicles repair & maintenance centers in the area of MOH, Nallur & Jaffna.

Shanmuganathan T¹, Sufad MMM¹, Coonghe PAD¹ and Nagendran K¹

¹Dept. of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna

INTRODUCTION: Nowadays motor vehicles are an essential part of our lives. Increased need of repair & maintenance of these vehicles lead to high number of repair & maintenance centres. Without proper knowledge on health and safety related practices in work leads to threat to their life and the population. Implementing health & safety related practices will improve their productivity and minimize the medical cost.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of this study was to describe the selected health hazards, welfare facilities and health & safety related practices and factors influencing on it, in Motor vehicle repair & maintenance centers.

METHODS: A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted among 103 motor vehicle repair & maintenance centres in Nallur & Jaffna MOH areas. Interviewer administrated questionnaire and observation schedule were used. Analysis was done with SPSS package.

RESULTS: 83.5% of the owners were selftaught in the field. Availability of sanitary conveniences (95.8%) drinking water (97.1%) and washing facilities (94.2%) were satisfactory. Availability of dining rooms 10(9.7%), rest rooms 12(34%), Dress changing room 7 (6.8%) & first aid facilities 44(42.7%) were not satisfactory. common occupational hazards identified were ergonomical hazards (98%), chemical hazards (80%), poor housekeeping (53%), and electrical hazards (35%). Provision & usage of personal protective equipment was (7.8%). An association was found between adequate welfare facilities and geographic area of centre ($p=0.000$)and income from the centre ($p=0.034$). Another association was between usage of personal protective equipment and geographic area of centre ($p=0.001$), education level ($p=0.018$)and training method of owner ($p=0.003$).

CONCLUSION: The occupational health status in motor vehicle repair & maintenance centres in Jaffna & Nallur MOH areas was found to be highly unsatisfactory with exposure to multiple hazards, poor welfare facilities and poor safety related practices.