

Occupational Health Hazards among Workers at Government Garment Factory in-Al Najaf City

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Abstract

Descriptive design cross-sectional study was conducted in assess the occupational health hazards among workers in Al-Najaf in garment factory and its association with socio-demographic characteristics of workers in the province of Najaf during period from December 23th 2020 to February 9 the 2021. 180 male and female workers were selected through non-probability sampling (purposive sampling) and the data collected using the questionnaire that was designed earlier from three main parts, first part included socio-demographic data characteristic and the second part was included health care facilities that include health services to workers and the three part (health hazards) and that consist of (physical hazards, chemical hazards, biological hazards, psychological hazards) The study found that the overall risk score was moderate, the higher risk was for psychological risks, and the lowest risk was for safety measures and protective equipment, The overall hazard score was found to have a statistically significant relationship with each job title and work location (P 0.05). Further research, as well as an education program and regulations for the use of safety measures, were strongly recommended.

Keywords- Occupational health, Hazard, Workers, Garment Factory

Introduction

According to the studies of the World Health Organization, which stipulates and is concerned with the safety of workers and avoiding them from health risks in the field of occupational health and safety to reduce the work risks for workers they are exposed to while working in the garment factory and apply the field of an integrated health system in building (good health - in terms of mental health - physical health - And mental health - as well as improving the economic situation in terms of worker safety and avoiding all risks to which they are exposed in the work environment) ⁽¹⁾ .

Occupational health is a very important science aims to protect all aspects of workers health in workplace from hazards that may cause injuries to the workers and threaten their lives ⁽²⁾ .

Occupational health was developed from mono-disciplinary to multi-disciplinary and comprehensive approach that deals with person's Physical, mental and social health .the work environment may impose positive or negative influences on person's health and the productivity is influenced by physical and psychological of workers well-being⁽³⁾ .

One of the main reasons for increased occupational hazards level environment is double the costs of care and the lack of commitment by the private sectors in addressing environmental policy and therefore workers exposed to occupational hazards and failure to provide for that slide care (private industry) and the failure to

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provide health insurance for the class labor by the government and with the piece increases injury rate among

Workers of this side and the other hand must coordinate with the industrial government to work to reduce the risks and increase the proportion of occupational safety and health ⁽⁴⁾ .

The well-being of more workers because it represents important segment on the level of industry and social he is human part of life must provide psychosocial support through the equivalent or through training courses on how hazard assessment and increased health awareness to prevent injuries and to improve worker health and increasing trends, skills and knowledge of those risks and thus serve the interests productivity and health, a goal of global safety for the workers organization ⁽⁵⁾ .

Materials and Methods

Samples were collected for workers from the garment factory in Najaf due to the health risks present in it from all sections of the factory, where the average life expectancy of workers was (41-50) years and their rate was 78.1%, where about 180 samples were collected out of 350 workers from different sections of The laboratory and the sample was collected in the interview method and the sample was not probable (purposive sample)

Results

In general, the results or overall showed that the workers in terms of physical hazards, chemical hazards and biological hazards, as they had no such risks, had little to do with the workers, or as for the psychological risks, they were high among the workers, as shown in the table.

Table (1) Overall Assessment and mean of scores of occupational health hazards domains

Items	MS	Assessment
Physical Hazards	1.63	Moderate
Chemical Hazards	1.61	Moderate
Biological Hazards	1.65	Moderate
Psychological Hazards	1.33	High
Overall Occupational Hazards	1.55	Moderate

Table (2) Relationship between physical health hazards and demographic data

Items	Chi Square	P value	Sig.
Age / Years	17.91	0.0001	HS
Gender	0.64	0.42	NS
Residence	1.67	0.19	NS
Levels of Education	3.94	0.68	NS
Marital Status	2.4	0.49	NS
Economic Status	0.44	0.8	NS
Job Title	7.0	0.42	NS
Duration in Service/ Years	2.3	0.33	NS

NS: Non-significant; HS: High Significant

Table (3) Relationship between chemical health hazards and demographic data

Items	Chi Square	P value	Sig.
Age / Years	12.62	0.001	HS
Gender	0.95	0.32	NS
Residence	0.09	0.75	NS
Levels of Education	3.94	0.68	NS
Marital Status	2.53	0.47	NS
Economic Status	3.57	0.16	NS
Job Title	6.51	0.48	NS
Duration in Service/ Years	3.22	0.22	NS

NS: Non-significant; HS: High Significant

Table (4) Relationship between biological health hazards and demographic data

Items	Chi Square	P value	Sig.
Age / Years	7.38	0.02	S
Gender	4.95	0.12	NS
Residence	0.44	0.45	NS
Levels of Education	2.84	0.58	NS
Marital Status	4.22	0.37	NS
Economic Status	1.57	0.26	NS
Job Title	4.51	0.38	NS
Duration in Service/ Years	1.22	0.28	NS

NS: Non-significant; S: Significant

Table (5) Relationship between psychological health hazards and demographic data

Items	Chi Square	P value	Sig.
Age / Years	1.13	0.56	NS
Gender	6.61	0.01	HS
Residence	2.09	0.14	NS
Levels of Education	14.63	0.02	S
Marital Status	0.74	0.86	NS
Economic Status	1.77	0.41	NS
Job Title	7.67	0.36	NS
Duration in Service/ Years	2.33	0.25	NS

NS: Non-significant; HS: High Significant; S: Significant

Discussion

The current study found a moderate level of the physical, chemical hazards, biological hazards among workers while there was high psychological hazards (table) . Biological hazards include infections caused by bacteria and molds , while psychological hazards include stress, anxiety, depression, and work burden . These results are consistent with the study or research that was conducted in Nigeria ⁽⁶⁾ .

According to the table (2) about relationship between physical hazards and demographic data. It shows that there is no significant relationship ($P > 0.05$) between physical hazards and demographic data except for age which was high significant relationship ($P < 0.01$). And according to the table (3) about relationship between chemical hazards and demographic data. It shows that there is no significant relationship ($P > 0.05$) between chemical hazards and demographic data except for age which was high significant relationship ($P < 0.01$). This is due to the fact that workers have not a few years of service in the factory this result is represented by the age of the workers who are more experienced than other workers. Therefore, workers represent a high percentage of all samples this research contradicts my current study, which states that the age relationship is in relation between chemical hazards and demographic information, as there is no significant relationship the age relationship related to physical risks and demographic information also indicated that there is no statistically significant relationship ⁽⁷⁾ .

According to the table (4) about relationship between Biological hazards and demographic data. It shows that there is no significant relationship ($P > 0.05$) between biological hazards and demographic data except for age which was significant relationship ($P < 0.05$) this is due to the fact that the workers have not a few years of service in the factory. As this result is considered and it represents the majority for the age characteristic as they are more experienced than other workers, the current study is consistent with the research conducted in Dhaka ⁽⁸⁾ .

According to the table (5) about relationship between psychological hazards and demographic data. It shows that there is no significant relationship ($P > 0.05$) between psychological hazards and demographic data except for gender which was high significant relationship ($P < 0.01$); This is due to the fact that women love the profession of sewing and are creative in the art of sewing, and because the risks in this profession are much less than the risks, for example in the field of health Or was the reason for women joining this profession because of the poor social and economic conditions within the family due to the lack of family income He current study agrees with the research conducted in the city of Savar in Bangladesh, which found that the percentage of women is the most statistically speaking in this field.

In addition the Levels of Education also was significant ($P < 0.05$). The reason for this is because the profession does not depend on the obtaining an academic certificate, but rather on the acquisition of experience and skill from others and the art of creativity in this profession. His current study agrees with the research conducted in the city of Saver in Bangladesh, Which states that the educational level of the workers was an acceptable percentage ⁽⁹⁾ .

Conclusion

Form a study group Overall, the threat level was moderate, and the health condition was chronic in the workplace for the study population, with a rise in morbidity, In terms of the physical, chemical, and social factors, the results were moderate, while the psychological factors were high, There is a great need for occupational safety and health and training programs for employers and workers in order to improve the level of perception about safety measures.

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