Abstracts

Discussion According to the results, blended learning combined with modern teaching techniques and project work seems to be a successful approach for training in OSH. The participants get empowered to jointly organise own research and learning courses even after finishing the studies. This train the trainer concept might contribute to face OSH challenges in Latin America.

1721c ONLINE COURSE ‘WORK AND TECHNOLOGY ON HUMAN TERMS’ FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SAFER AND HEALTHIER WORKPLACES

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Introduction In collaboration with five Swedish universities of technology, Prevent has produced an online course in English, based on the textbook ‘Work and technology on human terms’ to be used as a modern, highly accessible study material. The purpose is to contribute to safer and healthier workplaces and to improve organisational performance.

The online course targets students at universities who are pursuing degrees in engineering, economics or human relations as well as professionals holding equivalent university degrees.

Methods The production of the online course was organised in a project managed by Prevent and a producer in collaboration with lecturers and researchers at the five universities.

Results The online course was available in August 2017 at www.onhumanterms.org. It’s free of charge, held in English and covers subjects as; Human-Technology-System, Psychosocial and organisational environment, Physical environment, Information and interaction in technical systems, Methods and design processes, and Economic and legal conditions (in Sweden). It also contains workplace cases for practical application of the theory.

Theory and theoretical models are presented using animations supported by interviews with experts and researchers active in the various disciplines. The content is closely linked to different types of businesses, as reflected by company reports and interviews with product developers, managers and safety representatives.

The user is free to start and finish the online course independently of others. The course comprises totally approximately 20 hours of study and the user will get a certificate after finishing the complete course including knowledge tests.

Conclusion A comprehensive and scientifically based work environment online course has been developed and made available on internet free of charge. Prerequisites have been a co-operative project management and broad participation from Swedish universities, an online course producer and Prevent, owned by the parties of the Swedish labour market and providing knowledge for improved work environment.

1721d OUTCOME OF THE POSITIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR IMPROVING WORKING CONDITIONS IN INDIA

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Introduction In accordance with the International Labour Organisation’s Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health, it is essential to develop practical training programmes for improving local working conditions in low- and middle-income countries. The Participation-Oriented Safety Improvements by Trade Union Initiative (POSITIVE) programme has involved many workers in developing countries in action-oriented workshops on multifaceted workplace improvements. The programme was introduced in India in collaboration with the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) and the Japan International Labour Foundation (JILAF). This study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme.

Methods The POSITIVE workshops were serially held for training trainers selected from trade union members in 13 engineering companies. Subsequently a training-of-trainers (TOT) workshop was conducted in November 2013, and after a re-training workshop of these trainers, the participants conducted a one-day workshop for their co-workers in their workplaces. An evaluation workshop was held in September, 2014. The results of these workshops and the implemented improvements were evaluated.

Results The POSITIVE workshops proved successful in India. In the TOT workshop, 25 participants from 13 factories learned practical ways to plan multifaceted improvements having real impact. The participants conducted a one-day workshop at 15 workplaces training 476 workers. Almost all of the participants answered that the technical sessions of the programme were useful for increasing knowledge and improving their working conditions. After this one-year programme, the participants reported 188 improvements implemented at their own workplaces.

Discussion The POSITIVE training programme was effective for workers in engineering industries to improve their working conditions by using their own ideas in reducing work-related risks. Practical training tools such as the action checklist, group discussion and local good-practice photos were useful for gaining these results. It is suggested that the POSITIVE programme for factory workers can play important roles in improving their workplace conditions.

1721e OCCUPATIONAL LUNG DISEASES ARE PUZZLING

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Introduction Occupational lung diseases are a broad group of diagnoses caused by a wide range of hazards in the workplace.