Occupational epidemiology in unorganised sectors agriculture, construction, service sectors

P-332 AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY OF PREVALENCE OF HAND HYGIENE IN FOOD HANDLERS IN A METROPOLITAN CITY

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Introduction Food handlers act as an important source for dissemination of food borne illness and pose as a threat to the public health. Over the years due to high morbidity and mortality due to diarrheal diseases food borne illness have become public health problem of global concern. According to WHO the statistics as on 30th April 2020 it is estimated that almost 1 in every 10 people fall sick due to intake of contaminated food items and 420,000 die every year due to food borne illness.

Material and Method The study was conducted in a metropolitan city. Food handlers of food stalls of the streets formed the study population. Data was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire to evaluate the sociodemographic profile, educational status and hand hygiene practices of the participants. Data were analysed using an appropriate statistical test.

Results From the 75 food handlers which were included in the study 50 (66.6%) were males and 25 (33.3%) were females. It was observed that 35 participants (73.3%) of the participants were practising hand hygiene while handling food. 50 (66.6%) participants would clip their nails once a week, 20 (27.7%) believed that there is no need to clip one’s nails and 5 (6.66%) participants would clip their nails twice a week. Education status of the participants did not show any significant association with the practise of hand hygiene among the food handlers.

Conclusion Food handlers act as an important source in transmission of foodborne illnesses therefore it is necessary to sensitize and create awareness amongst them about the importance of hand hygiene.

Pesticides

P-73 MORBIDITIES AMONG WORKERS OF AN ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDE INDUSTRY

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Introduction Organochlorines pesticide industries are spread world over with large number of employees directly involved in the manufacturing, packing and transport of pesticides.

Prolonged durations of exposure to pesticides are known to adversely affect the health of those exposed, including neurological, endocrine, respiratory, haematological, skin, renal and liver diseases.

Considering the importance of the subject and lack of published evidence, this study was conducted with an aim of assessing morbidity among pesticide industry workers and to suggest suitable recommendations.

Materials and Methods The present study was conducted on 526 workers from a pesticide industry after obtaining ethical clearance. Selected health parameters were evaluated socio demographic details, routine blood investigations (haemoglobin levels, HbA1c, lipid profile, liver function tests, renal function tests), ECG and audiometry findings.

Results A total number of 526 workers were evaluated, of which 499 workers (94.9%) were males and 27 (5.1%) were females. The mean age of the study population was 33.12 years.