OCCUPATIONAL STRESSORS AND JOB SATISFACTION AMONG COURT WORKERS: A CROSS-WORKPLACE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STUDY

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This study aimed to investigate the association between occupational stressors and job satisfaction among firefighters from a unit from Belo Horizonte City, Brazil. The cross-sectional study was conducted in 2014. Among 138 eligible, 115 (83.3%) firefighters participated in this survey. The mean age was 36.57 (SD = 8) years old and the majority were male (83.3%) and married (64.50%). Regarding schooling, 57.9% had completed high school. The lowest rates were reported by passive work group (low demand and low control). The results support the hypothesis that occupational stressors are associated with job satisfaction levels in the dimensions of the constructs assessed by questionnaires. ANOVA was used to compare the work satisfaction among demand-control groups. The level of significance in the analysis was 0.05. In relation to overall job satisfaction, the results showed mild score levels. The highest satisfaction rates were observed in the active work group (high demand and high control). The lowest rates were reported by passive work group (low demand and low control). The results support the hypothesis that occupational stressors are associated with job satisfaction levels among firefighters. The results are discussed considering the assumptions of Demand-Control Model.

SLEEP PROBLEMS AMONG COURT WORKERS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY IN MINAS GERAIAS STATE, BRAZIL

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Sleep problems are related to a wide range of depressive and anxiety disorders. The condition can be very disabling and lead to chronic physical and mental health problems. About etiological factors, exposure to adverse life events and occupational stressors are often mentioned. In this sense, the present cross-sectional study was designed to evaluate if psychosocial factors as work are associated to sleep problems among Court workers in Minas Gerais State, Brazil. All 12,251 permanent workers who were active in the 296 Minas Gerais law districts were eligible. The estimation of the sample size (n = 1000) considered number of workers, prevalence of sick leave of 40% and 95% confidence interval. A stratified proportional random sampling was performed. Data was collected by telephone survey, including socioeconomic, occupational, and health information. Psychosocial factors of work was evaluated in consonance with the Karasek Demand-Control model. Logistic regression analysis indicated associations between sleep problems and occupational variables. A basis for mental health policies in Brazilian judiciary services is presented.

RESULTS FROM A SURVEY OF THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF STONE SCULPTORS IN NAKHON RATCHASIMA PROVINCE, THAILAND

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This project was a cross-sectional survey of the working environment and health outcomes of 102 Thai stone sculptors in northeast Thailand. In addition, postural analysis was conducted on 25 stone sculptors using the REBA method.

Most stone sculptors were male (90%), had worked an average of 9.6 years, worked 6 days/week, an average of 6.9 hours. About 67% reported being exposed to high levels of noise and 10% reported reduced hearing. Postural analysis by REBA found that 80% were in a MSD high risk category. Reports of musculoskeletal disorders in the past 3 months were common with symptoms reported by 28% for the lower back and 17% for the upper back. Moreover, 5% of the stone sculptors reported an abnormal chest x-ray, 5% had silicosis and over 29% reported cough or cough with phlegm. The stone sculptors also reported that in the past 3 months 64% had an accident with the tools used on the job (power drills, grinders, saws and hand tools), 20% reported sharp injuries and 7% electric shocks.

Although most workers (93%) knew that silica dust could cause silicosis, use of controls was limited. Although 87% reported wearing a mask regularly, only 60% reported having an N95 respirator. Only 46% reported wearing eye protection regularly, only 27% reported using hearing protection regularly and only 17% used safety shoes. Therefore, an important initial step is further education and provision of adequate PPE at lower prices. In addition, introduction of engineering controls would help eliminate silica, ergonomic and safety hazards at the source.

WORKPLACE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CONDITIONS OF THE TURKISH DIETETIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

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