Correlation of Work Period and Age with the Compliance with the Use of Ear Protection Equipment on Production Workers in an East Java Animal Feed Industry

Hubungan Masa Kerja dan Umur dengan Kepatuhan Menggunakan Alat Pelindung Telinga pada Pekerja Produksi di Industri Pakan Ternak Jawa Timur

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Ear protection equipment is indispensable for workers exposed to noise exceeding the threshold value. Many studies have shown that the level of labor compliance with the use of ear protection equipment is influenced by the length of work and age of the workers concerned. However, many studies also show different conditions with the results of these studies. For this reason, this study was conducted to determine how the influence of the work period and age of workers on the compliance with the use of ear protection equipment at PT X animal feed industry. Methods: The method used was observational with a cross-sectional approach. The number of population selected from animal feed production workers was 30 workers. The sample was obtained using a simple random sampling calculation of 28 workers. The analysis was done using contingency coefficient statistical tests. Results: The number of workers in the study area whose tenure <12 years is 50% and whose age <37 years is also 50%. By using the contingency coefficient, it is known that there are 39.3% and 35.7% of 64.3% of workers who were not compliant with the use of ear protection equipment, each having a work period of <12 years and age <37 years respectively. It is also known that work period and age of workers have a Sig (0.115)> α (0.05) and Sig (0.430)> α (0.05) accordingly, which means there is no relationship between work period and the age of the workers with the compliance with the use of ear protection equipment. Conclusion: The reasons of the non-compliance of workers with the use of ear protection equipment are they feel uncomfortable, they have a lack of supervision, as well as they have a lack of motivation work.

Keywords: age, animal feed, compliance, ear protection equipment, years of service

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INTRODUCTION

PT. X is a company engaged in the animal feed industry, which produces one million metric tons per year. The types of fodder produced are animal feed for poultry (chickens and ducks), pigs, cattle, goats and fish. According to the results of a company report in 2017 the animal feed industry is one of the industries that influence the consumption of livestock products due to the increased contribution of poultry meat by 65% and of chicken eggs by 70%.

The raw materials used by PT. X in making animal feed is organic dust such as corn, rice, oil (sesame flour, coconut flour, rubber seed flour) and fiber (cotton, cotton), all of which are good sources of protein. The production process in PT. X includes dumping, weighing, grinding, mixing, and packing. Noise is one of the conditions of an unsafe work environment. According to the regulation of the Minister of Manpower number 5 of 2018 concerning occupational safety and health of the work environment, noise is unwanted noise originating from production process equipment or work equipment, which at a certain level can cause hearing loss (Ministry of Manpower of the Republic of Indonesia, 2018).

According to the OHSA (2002) and Farooqui et al. (2009), companies in controlling noise are required to take measurements of noise exposure periodically, provide appropriate hearing protection for workers, notify workers about the results of environmental measurements, and ensure that measurements are made accurately.

PT. X experiences noise from the grinding machine which produces 87.7 dBA sound or exceeds the specified threshold value. The noise generated from the machine has an impact on the hearing of workers in the production department. Based on the results of MCU (medical checkup) in 2018 it is known that there were 9 out of 28 workers experiencing hearing loss.

According to Tarwaka (2004), the impact of noise on the Threshold Limit Value (TLV) includes damage to the sense of hearing, health problems (increased blood pressure, increased pulse, and increased heart rate), and public reactions such as protests to stop the activities. According to the Regulation of the Minister of Manpower number 5 of 2018 concerning occupational safety and health of the work environment, NAB (threshold value) of noise intensity for the exposure time of for 8 hour work should be 85 dBA, and for 4 hour work should be 88 dBA.

According to Ibrahim, Basri and Hamzah (2016), PT. JAPFA Indonesia needs ear protection equipment to protect workers from the noise that exceeds threshold value. Ear protection equipment usage behavior is very influential in someone’s hearing complaint. Controls have been carried out by companies to reduce noise problems that occur, such as giving earplugs or earmuffs to each worker and periodic checking every six months.

According to the Regulation of the Minister of Manpower Number: 08 / Men / VII / 2010 (Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, 2010) concerning Personal Protective Equipment, PPE is a device that can protect someone whose function is to partially or entirely cover the body to avoid the potential danger of accidents and diseases in the workplace. According to Notoatmodjo (2007), behavior occurs when something is needed to cause a reaction that is called a stimulus. Thus, a specific stimulus will produce an individual behavioral reaction. Meanwhile, according to Azwar (2005), behavior is a picture of various mental conditions such as emotions, desires, motivations, views, behavior, reactions, knowledge, interests, and others.

Based on the preliminary observation of the behavior in this study, most workers do not use earplugs during their work activities although the company has provided earplugs to each worker. At the same time, the company has provided earplugs to each worker. This study was conducted to determine how the influence of the work period and age of workers on the compliance with the use of ear protection equipment at PT X animal feed industry.

METHODS

This research used an observational method with a cross-sectional approach. The population used was animal feed production workers at PT. X. The research was carried out from August 2019 to the beginning of September 2019. This research has received a certificate of ethical conduct from the Faculty of Dentistry Airlangga University Number: 533 / HRECCFODM / VII / 2019.

In this study, the variables were years of service and age, but there were still other variables discussed in this study as the differentiators of other studies.

The total population was 30 workers. Samples were obtained using simple random sampling calculations, totaling 28 workers. Data were analyzed...
using statistical coefficient contingency tests. In the characteristics of workers at PT X, all variables were categorized into 2 categories each. Specifically, sanctions and rewards were categorized into poor and good, monitoring variable was categorized into poor and good, SOP variable was categorized into poor and good, and PPE availability variable was categorized into poor and good.

The availability of compliance was measured using questionnaires measuring the knowledge of ear protection equipment and respondents’ compliance. Workers' attitudes, punishment and rewards were also measured using questionnaires. Moreover, observations on animal feed workers was conducted for 6 times.

RESULTS

The production process in PT. X includes dumping, weighing, grinding, mixing, and packing. According to Martino, Rinawati and Rumita, (2015), the danger contained in the animal feed industry includes noise caused by grinding machines, inhalation of dust, flammable materials, scratches by sharp objects, and injuries due to being pinched by pallets.

RESULTS

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Based on the observation, it is known that as many as 9 out of 30 people (30 %) of production workers do not wear ear protection equipment when working in the production room, whereas the result of the noise measurement in the production room is 87 dBA. This means that production workers are exposed to noise as high as 87 dBA for 8 hours per day.

Workers' Characteristics in PT. X in 2019

PT.X has a total of 30 workers in the production department. This study took a sample of all animal feed workers in the production department, while the characteristics of the respondents are shown in Table 1.

Based on Table 1, the classification of the working period can be divided into 2, using the median cut. Based on the results, there is the same average between the work periods of <12 years and > 12 years as much as 50%.

Moreover, the results of the frequency distribution of educational level shows that there are more graduates from high school / vocational school as much as 64.3%. Graduates from high school / vocational school usually have more skills and more knowledge.

Furthermore, in the frequency distribution of the age of production workers in PT.X, there is a similar percentage between people aged <37 years old and > 37 years old, standing at 50% each. The age variable of employees is crucial to see the compliance level in using ear protection equipment because a combination of age workers and compliance level can increase the company productivity.

Based on the results of this study, it can be seen that the majority of workers (17 workers or 60.8%) have good motivation. Moreover, based on the results on knowledge, it is shown that at most 21 workers (75.0%) have poor knowledge. A lack of knowledge can influence adherent workers in using ear protection equipment. Furthermore, it can be explained that at most, 20 workers (71.4%) have poor attitude.

Job Factors of Workers at PT. X of 2019

Based on the Table 2, sanctions are penalties for workers who do not use ear protection equipment. Meanwhile, rewards are given for the full compliance of using the ear protection equipment. Based on the results of the assessment of sanctions and rewards of respondents, a higher number of
Correlation between Work Period and the Compliance of Production Workers with the Use of Ear Protection Equipment

To find out the distribution of working period frequency, the data from the questionnaires were processed using the median cut, and the results are given in Table 4. From these data, it is known that the working period between the two groups of the animal feed production workers at PT. X has the same number of years of service; specifically, 14 production workers (50%) have a working period of >12 years and 14 production workers (50%) have a working period of <12 years. Meanwhile, the distribution of the frequency of compliance is given in Table 4. Data in Table 5 explain that as more workers, as many as 18 (64.3%) animal feed production workers at PT. X, behave disobediently in the use of ear protection equipment. According to Geller (2001), factors that can influence the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the environment and the characteristics of people (age, work period, and education).

To find out the correlation of work period with the level of compliance of production animal feed workers, the data obtained from this study were

| Work Period | Low | High | Total | % |
|-------------|-----|------|-------|---|
| <12 Years   | 11  | 3    | 14    | 100
| ≥ 12 Years  | 7   | 7    | 14    | 100
| Total       | 18  | 10   | 28    | 100

Statistic Test Sig (0.115)
processed using coefficient contingency where the results are tabulated in Table 6. The results explain that more workers, as many as 11 people (39.3%) of the group of production workers with a working period of <12 years are not compliance with wearing ear protection equipment when working in a production workspace. The results of the Sig value is 0.115, which means that it is greater than the value of 0.05, indicating that there is no relationship between the work period (more than 12 years or less than 12 years) with the compliance level with using ear protection equipment in animal feed production workers in PT. X.

**Correlation between Age and Production Workers’ Compliance with the use of ear protection equipment**

By using the median cut, the age frequency distribution is obtained, and the results are given in Table 7. From these results, it is known that in animal feed production in PT. X there are 14 workers aged >37 years and 14 workers aged <37 years. It indicates that the company, when selecting workers, does not limit itself in the selection of young workers.

Using the coefficient contingency, the relationship between the age of production workers at PT. X and the level of compliance is obtained, and the results are presented in Table 8. From these results, it is known that more workers, as many as 10 production workers (35.7% out of 64.3%) with age group of <37 years old have a low level of compliance to wear ear protection equipment when working in the production workspace. The Sig value of 0.430 is greater than the value of α (0.05), which shows that there is no relationship between age and compliance with the use of ear protection equipment of animal feed production workers at PT. X.

From these results, it was found that more workers with the age of <37 years have low compliance compared to workers with the age of over 37 years. The results of the study also obtain a significant value more than the p-value of 0.430, which means that there is no significant meaning of the relationship between age and compliance.

**DISCUSSION**

**Workers’ Characteristics in PT. X in 2019**

According to research conducted by Farooqui et al. (2009), workers do not wear personal protective equipment (PPE) because they feel uncomfortable wearing it for 8 hours, the size does not fit them, they feel strange wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), and they not been given a training in how to use personal protective equipment (PPE). Moreover, there are no handling and attention the from supervisors.

The results are in line with a study by Wanjiku (2017), stating that some of the respondents do not wear personal protective equipment (PPE) because they have already had experience in carrying out their tasks without injury, so they feel they do not need to use personal protective equipment (PPE). This is also in line with the results of the study by Mashufura, Kurnia, and Ashari (2019), suggesting that one of the reasons for not using PPE is because of uncomfortable feelings experienced by workers such as feeling uncomfortable, hot, bulky, or disturbed.

**The Correlation between Work Period and the Compliance of Production Workers with the Use of Ear Protection Equipment**

The results of this study are in line with the results of research conducted by Sudarmo, Helmi and Marlinae (2017) suggesting that work period is not related to the compliance with the behavior of using personal protective equipment (PPE) because work period is not the main factor, yet the compliance level is likely due to one's education, level of knowledge, supervision, and motivation.
Puji, Kurniawan and Jayanti (2017) also explain that the absence of a relationship between work period and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) is due to the boredom factor, caused by prolonged work periods and the monotonous, repeated works, eventually causing burnout. According to Hasiani (2009), there is no relationship between the work period of workers in the radiation room and the behavior of the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) because work period is not one of the causes of non-compliance behavior in using personal protective equipment (PPE). Hidayat, Suryanto and Ulfah's (2013) research also explains that there is no relationship between the work period and compliance behavior with the use of masks because the longer the work period of a person, the higher the chance for older workers to negatively influence new workers (one example in this industry is not wearing a mask when working).

However, the results of this study are not in line with the study conducted by Nizar, Tuna, and Sumaningrum (2016) which states that years of service could be related to the compliance with the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The longer the work period, the higher the level of knowledge because workers get a lot of experience. Notoatmodjo (2007) also states that the longer work experience the workers have, the more skillful and easier the workers are in understanding the task. Thus, they can improve their performance and get a better experience in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Conversely, the shorter the work period, the less experience gained. Likewise, according to Wibowo, Suryani, and Sayono (2013), work period can be related to compliance because the experience is a combination of knowledge and behavior; the length of work is identical to one's experience, so the longer they work, the more knowledge and experience they have.

The Correlation between Age and the Compliance of Production Workers with the Use of Ear Protection Equipment

The results of this study are not in line with previous research conducted by Kurniawan, Setyaningsih, and Wahyuni (2017) which states that there is a relationship between age and compliance behavior in using ear protection equipment because younger workers are more obedient and more comfortable in following the rules or procedures. According to Notoatmodjo (2007), the older the people are, and the higher level of maturity they have in the way they work and think. Moreover, Apriluana, Khairiyati and Setyaningrum (2016) suggest a relationship between age and the level of compliance with the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) because the age of 20-25 years old is the phase starting when someone enters the adulthood and the world of work, and looks for social relationships. Meanwhile, the age of >26 years old becomes more critical because in that stage, people become more stable and mature enough from the experiences gained.

The results of this study are also in line with the results of research conducted by Sari, Wiediartini, and Rachman (2015) suggesting that there is no relationship between age and the level of compliance in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The results of this study are also supported by another research conducted by Sari (2014), which states that there is no relationship between age and the level of compliance in using personal protective equipment (PPE) because there are still many workers in the field who are not compliant with PPE. According to Hidayanti and Kasman (2018), having a mature age and long working period do not guarantee that workers are obedient in using PPE. Another research of Damalas and Abdollahzadeh (2016) also explains that there is no relationship between age and compliance behavior to use PPE because older age can have adverse effects for workers such as burnout and laziness to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) compared to younger workers. This is further supported by the results of research conducted by Chahak, et al. (2018) stating that there is no relationship between age and years of service on the level of compliance with the use of PPE. Likewise, previous research done by Agustina (2015) also states that there is no relationship between the age of workers (younger or older age groups) with compliance behavior of using personal protective equipment (PPE).

According to Lombardi (2009), older workers mostly tend to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) different from the behavior of younger workers due to a lack of experience and knowledge about personal protective equipment (PPE). Holte and Kjestveit (2012) further add that workers aged <30 years old are more likely to have an accident because they do not use personal protective equipment (PPE). However, according to Madyanti (2012), older workers are relatively limited in physical abilities compared to younger workers. Based on Kalasuat (2019), the obedience
of workers in using personal protective equipment (PPE) is not parallel to age levels, either older or younger age groups, because as time goes by the physical and mental development of individuals will experience changes, depending on the type of work they handle.

CONCLUSION

From the description and analyses presented above, it can be concluded that the results of this study are as follows: the number of workers whose working period <12 years is 50%, and the number of workers aged <37 years is also 50%.

Moreover, it is also found that there is no relationship between the work period (≥12 years or <12 years) and the compliance with the use of ear protection equipment among production workers in the animal feed industry in PT. X. Specifically, 39.3% out of 64.3% of workers who do not comply with the ear protection equipment regulation have a working period of <12 years; this is indicated by the value of Sig =0.115, which is greater than 0.05, which means that there is no relationship between work period and the compliance with ear protection equipment. Furthermore, there is no effect of age (≥37 years or <37 years) on the compliance with ear protection equipment among production workers in the animal feed industry at PT. X. Specifically, 35.7% out of 64.3% of workers who do not comply with the use of ear protection equipment are in the age of <37 years; this result is supported by the Sig value of 0.430, which is greater than 0.05, which means that there is no relationship between age and the compliance with ear protection equipment.

Some reasons for the disobedience of animal feed production workers at PT. X to the use of ear protection equipment are discomfort, a lack of supervision, and a lack of motivation.

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