

HEALTH HAZARDS AND CLOTHING PATTERN OF THE GRAIN MARKET WORKERS

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in grain markets of Parbhani town to study different activities being carried out by the grain market workers in the market, health problems faced by the male and female workers while working in grain market and clothing pattern of the grain market workers. A total of sixty workers comprised of thirty two male workers and twenty eight female workers were interviewed by personal interview method using pre-structured questionnaire. Health hazards faced mostly by the workers while conducting different activities in grain market are coughing, backache, giddiness, sweating, running nose, nausea, breathlessness, shoulder ache, other body pains, irritation in throat and joint pains. Male grain market workers wore shirt- pant and scarf frequently. Fifty six percent male workers never used face cover while working in grain market. Chappal and shoes were the foot wears used by male grain market workers frequently. Cent percent female workers wore saree- blouse and Chappal as footwear frequently in grain market. Scarf was used occasionally by 21.8% female grain market workers to protect head while working in grain market.

Key words: Grain market workers, Clothing pattern, Health hazards

Introduction

The working condition of the labour engaged in grain market is very uncompromising. The grain handling industry is a high hazard industry where workers can be exposed to numerous serious and life threatening hazards. Workers are exposed to numerous safety, health, environmental, biological, and respiratory hazards. These include heavy load, heat exposure, musculoskeletal injuries, unsanitary conditions, pesticides exposure etc. Workers exposed to hot condition are at a high risk of heat illness, as they are doing heavy work tasks of carrying loads of grain bags. Workers perform hand labor tasks in areas that have been treated with pesticides face contact with pesticide residues on the crop or soil. Several studies carried out among workers who handle food grains have shown a preponderance of respiratory symptoms, (Deacon S P, Padde G M 1998). Workers of grain market has many respiratory hazards causing substances such as organic dusts, microorganisms and chemical toxicants from the breakdown of grain and used during storing of grains. Inhalation of airborne micro-organisms and their associated contaminants in the work place can cause a range of immunological and respiratory symptoms. (J R M Swan, D Blainey & B Crook, 2007). Occupation related health problems necessarily impose long term effects on health that could be curbed up to some extent through the use of appropriate clothing. Hence the study was undertaken to study health hazards and clothing pattern of the grain market workers.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Parbhani grain market. Sixty workers comprised of male and female workers engaged in different activities in grain market were interviewed using structured interview schedule. The information was collected by personal interview method. The information regarding personal profile of grain market workers, type of activities performed and problems encountered by the workers while working in grain market, existing dress pattern of male and female grain market workers was collected, tabulated and presented in tables

Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows personal profile of grain market workers. Out of 60 grain market workers 53.33% were male and 46.66% were female workers. Fifty two percent workers were from the age of 31-40 years and primary school educated, 27% workers were from the age of 41-50 years and middle school educated and 20% from the age of 20-30 years and were illiterate. Forty seven percent workers worked for 8 to 10 hrs. a day followed by 36.67% for 5 to 7 hrs and 16.66% for more than 10 hrs. a day. Daily wage received by 43.33% worker was Rs. 100-200/- while 56.66% workers got Rs. 210-300 per day.

Table 2 shows types of activities performed by the grain market workers. Forty to fifty percent grain market worker performed the activities like cleaning of grains, loading and unloading of grain bags, sieving of grains, packing, labeling and storing of grain bags followed by drying of grains (30.5%) and de-husking of grains (20%)

Health hazards encountered by the workers while working in grain market are illustrated in table 3. While cleaning grains coughing is the health problem faced by 81.6% grain market workers followed by backache (61.6%), soiling of hands (56.6%), irritation in eyes and breathlessness (51.6%), running nose (45%), soiling of hair and skin allergy in hands (35%), sweating (31.6%), skin allergy in other body part (30%) irritation in hands (26.6%), soiling of face and feet, irritation in face and throat, other joint pains and nausea (13-20%).

Soiling of hands is the problem faced by 73.3% grain market workers while drying of grains followed by giddiness, sweating, nausea (50-70%), irritation in hands (45%), headache (38.3%), joint pains (35%), breathlessness, coughing, running nose, backache and soiling of hair (20-25%) soiling and itching in face and eyes, cuts on hands (10-13%). Less than 10% grain market workers had problems of soiling of feet, irritation in throat, skin allergy in face, shoulder ache.

Running nose is the health problem faced by 30% grain market workers while de-husking of grains while 20% had problem of cuts and allergy in hands, shoulder ache, soiling and irritation in hands, skin allergy (10%). A very meager percent 3 to 5 % grain market workers had health problems like soiling of hair and face, etching in face and eyes, headache, back ache and other joint pains, breathlessness and sweating.

While loading and unloading of grain bags grain market workers had health problems like breathlessness (95%), backache (85%), soiling of hair and sweating (75-85%), giddiness (70%), shoulder ache, other body pains (51-53%), cuts on hands (33-48%), running nose (38-42%), skin allergy in neck and other body parts (35%), cuts and irritation in feet (20-22%), irritation in eyes, irritation and soiling of face (10-20%). Three to 5% grain market workers faced the problems of irritation in throat, skin allergy in face and feet, hearing difficulty.

During sieving of grains 80% grain market workers had the health problems of sweating followed by 70-75% had soiling of hands, irritation in throat, joint pains, running nose, coughing. 63% workers had nausea, shoulder ache, irritation in eyes, cuts in hands and backache (53-55%), soiling of hair, irritation in hands, skin allergy in neck (43-46%), hearing difficulty (38%), soiling and cuts in feet (20-28%). Six to thirteen percent grain market workers had problem of etching in feet, skin allergy on face and head ache.

Sweating is the problem faced by 52% grain market worker followed by shoulder ache 40%, cuts in feet 35%, soiling of hands, backache, joint pains, breathlessness (20-22%), irritation in hands 15% and soiling of hair 10% grain market workers while storing grain bags.

Table 4 shows dress pattern of male workers while working in grain market. Shirt and pant was frequently used by 81% male workers while 65.6% male workers used Kurta and Pyjama occasionally and 18.8% used it frequently. Twenty five percent and 18.7% male workers wore T-shirts and Dhoti occasionally respectively. Cap or scarf was used by 62.5% male workers frequently, by 6.2% workers occasionally while 31.2% workers never used it. Fifty six male workers never used face cover while 21.8% workers each used it occasionally and frequently. Chappal was used by 59.6% and shoes by 40.6% male grain market workers frequently.

Table 5 shows dress pattern of female workers while working in grain market. Cent percent female workers wore saree - blouse and Chappal as footwear frequently. Scarf was used by 21.8% female grain market workers occasionally.

Conclusion

Health problems faced mostly by the workers while conducting different activities in grain market are coughing, backache, giddiness, sweating, running nose, nausea, breathlessness, shoulder ache, other body pains, irritation in throat and joint pains. Male grain market workers wore shirt - pant and scarf frequently. Fifty six percent male workers never used face cover while working. Chappal and shoes were the foot wears used by male grain market workers frequently. Cent percent female workers wore saree-blouse and Chappal as footwear frequently. Scarf was used by 21.8% female grain market workers occasionally.

References

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1. Personal Profile of Grain Market Workers

S. no.	Parameters	No. of respondent	Per cent of respondent
1	Sex	Male	53.55
		Female	46.66
2	Age	20-30	20.0
		31-40	51.66
		41-50	28.33
3	Academic Standard	Illiterate	20.0
		Primary	53.55
		Middle	26.66
4	Family type	Nuclear	56.66
		Joint	43.33
5	Working hours	5-7	36.67
		8-10	46.67
		Above 10	16.66
6	Daily Wages (Rs)	100-200	43.33
		210-300	56.66

2. Type of Activities Performed by the Grain Market Workers

Activity	No. of respondent	Per cent of respondent
Cleaning of grains	24	40
Drying of grains	21	30.5
Dehusking of grains	12	20.0
Loading of grain bags	29	48.33
Sieving of grains	26	43.33
Unloading of grain bags	30	50.0
Packing & labeling of bags	26	43.33
Storing of grain bags	24	40

3. Health Hazards Encountered by the Workers While Working in Grain Market

Problems encountered		No. and percent of respondents						
		Cleaning	Drying	Dehusking	Loading	Unloading	Sieving	Storing
Soiling of	Hair	21(35)	14(23.3)	2(3.3)	48(80)	21(35)	27(45)	6(10)
	Face	7(13.3)	6(10)	1(1.66)	10 (16.6)	6 (10)	11(18.3)	4(6.6)
	Hand	34(56.6)	44(73.3)	8(13.3)	18(30)	15(25)	42(70)	12(20)
	Feet	9(15)	2(3.3)	--	5(8.3)	7(11.6)	12(20)	2(3.3)
Itching/ irritation in	Face	9(15)	6(10)	2(3.3)	11(18.3)	18(30)	22(36.6)	3(5)
	Eyes	31(51.6)	10(16.6)	2(3.3)	12(20)	7(11.6)	32(53.3)	4(6.6)
	Throat	8(13.3)	4(6.6)	--	3(5)	3(5)	43(71.6)	5(8.3)
	Hands	16(26.6)	27(45)	6(10)	32(53.3)	41(68.3)	26(43.3)	9(15)
Skin allergy	Feet	--	--	--	11(18.3)	12(20)	8(13.3)	--
	Face	2(3.3)	3(5)	7(11.6)	2(3.3)	2(3.3)	4 (6.6)	-
	Hands	21(35)	18(30)	12(20)	--	--	22(36.6)	--
	Feet	--	--	--	3(5)	3(5)	--	--
Body ache	Other body parts(Back and neck)	18(30)	--	3(5)	21(35)	21(35)	28(46.6)	--
	Headache	2(3.3)	23(38.3)	2(3.3)	--	---	8(13.3)	---
	Shoulder ache	--	4(6.6)	12(20)	32(53.3)	31(51.6)	38(63.3)	24(40)
	Backache	37(61.6)	4(23.3)	2(3.3)	51(85)	51(85)	32(53.3)	13(21.6)
Cuts/abrasion /ailments	Other joints	9(15)	21(35)	3(5)	32(53.3)	32(53.3)	42(70)	13(21.6)
	Hand	3(5)	8(13.3)	12(20)	29(48.3)	20(33.3)	33(55)	4(6.6)
	Feet	--	--	--	12(20)	13(21.6)	17(28.3)	21(35)
Running nose		27(45)	14(23.3)	18(30)	25(41.6)	23(38.3)	46(76.6)	1(1.6)
Coughing		49(81.6)	12(20)	--	18(30)	--	46(76.6)	--
Breathlessness		31(51.6)	13(21.6)	2(3.3)	57(95)	57(95)	35(58.3)	13(21.6)
Nausea		12(20)	31(51.6)	---	---	---	38(63.3)	2(3.3)
Giddiness		----	42(70)	---	41(68.3)	43(71.6)	----	---
Sweating		19(31.6)	30(50)	2(3.3)	51(85)	46(76.6)	48(80)	31(51.6)
Hearing Difficulty		--	---	---	3(5)	5(8.3)	23(38.3)	---

4 Dress Pattern of Male Workers While Working in Grain Market

N-32

Dresses	No. and percent of respondents		
	Frequently	Occasionally	Never
Shirt and Pant	26(81.2)	---	---
Kurta and Pyjama	6(18.8)	21(65.6)	---
T –Shirts	--	8(25)	--
Dhoti	--	6(18.7)	---
Cap/ Scarf	20(62.5)	2(6.2)	10(31.2)
Mask\Face cover	7(21.8)	7(21.8)	18(56.2)
Chappal	19(59.3)	--	--
Shoes	13(40.6)	--	--

Dress Pattern of Female Workers While Working in Grain Market N-28

<i>Dresses</i>	<i>No. and percent of respondents</i>		
	<i>Frequently</i>	<i>Occasionally</i>	<i>Never</i>
Saree - Blouse	28(100)	--	--
<i>Cap/ Scarf</i>		6(21.8)	
<i>Chappal</i>	28(100)	---	--