

To Assess the Knowledge and Attitude Related to Use of Safety Measures against Respiratory Disorders Caused by Air Pollution among Traffic Policemen in Selected Areas of Pune City with a View to Devel of A Self Instructional Module

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Health is not something that one possesses as a commodity but connotes rather a way of functioning within one's environment (work, recreation, and living). The work environment constitutes an important part of man's total environment, so health to a large extent is affected by work conditions. **AIM:** To assess the knowledge and attitude related to use of safety measures against respiratory disorders caused by air pollution among traffic policemen in selected areas of Pune city. **METHODS:** A descriptive research design was used to conduct the present study. Convenient sampling was used to select 100 policemen. Sociodemographic profile, self-administered knowledge questionnaire and self-administered attitude scale was used to collect the data. **RESULTS:** The present study results revealed that the p-values corresponding to age, education, monthly income and number of children are small (less than 0.05), the null hypothesis is rejected. Age, education, monthly income and number of children were found to have significant association with attitude of traffic policemen regarding use of safety measures against respiratory disorders caused by Air Pollution. It proved that the correlation coefficient between knowledge and attitude was found to be -0.19 and this correlation coefficient is negative. **CONCLUSIONS:** The study concluded that the traffic policemen with more knowledge had negative attitude regarding use of safety measures against respiratory disorders caused by Air Pollution.

KEYWORDS: *Traffic Policemen, Respiratory Disorders, Air Pollution, Knowledge and Attitude.*

Background of study:

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.¹ Health is not something that one possesses as a commodity, but connotes rather a way of functioning within one's environment (work, recreation, and living). The work environment constitutes an important part of man's total environment, so health to a large extent is affected by work conditions.²The environment is a primary determinant of health status of individuals and communities. Environmental hazards are widespread and poorly understood. The five parameters of

exposure pathways for environmental hazards include source of contamination; environmental media and transport mechanism; point of exposure; route of exposure; and receptor population. Routes of exposure to environmental hazards include percutaneous (dermal); inhalation; ingestion gastrointestinal tract; and transplacental. Humans vary widely in their susceptibility to potential environmental hazards. The human response to environmental conditions varies with a variety of personal characteristics including age, weight, gender, nutritional status, psychological status, pre-existing

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disease states, concomitant or previous exposures, and even behaviour and lifestyle factors. The unique knowledge and skills possessed by occupational and environmental health nurses make them an important resource for clients, community members, and other health care professionals.1

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study design: A descriptive research design was used to plan and organize the present study.

Study setting: The study was conducted on traffic policemen in Pune City at traffic police headquarters.

Study subjects: Total 100 traffic policemen was selected for data collection.

Inclusion Criteria

1. Traffic policemen in the age group of 25-50 years.
2. Traffic policemen who know Marathi.
3. Traffic policemen who are willing to participate in the study.

Exclusion Criteria

1. Traffic policemen who are not available at the time of data collection

Sampling: Convenient sampling technique was used to select the sample.

Study instrument: Self-Administered Knowledge Questionnaire And Self- Administered Attitude Scale was used to collect data.

Ethical consideration: Ethical clearance was taken from research and ethical committee of Symbiosis College of Nursing, Pune City for the study to be conducted. Apart from this, written informed consent was taken from each study subject and permission was taken from authorities of the respected area to collect the data. Confidentiality & privacy of the study subjects was also maintained.

Pilot study: Pilot study was conducted to ensure the reliability of the tool and feasibility of the study. The pilot study was conducted on 10 subjects. It was conducted in traffic police headquarters.

Data collection: An informed written consent was taken from the participants. Pune city. Convenient sampling technique was used for data collection. The data was collected from the participants who are present at the time of data collection.

Data analysis: Analysis of the data was done in accordance with the objectives. It was done by using the descriptive and inferential statistics i.e by calculating frequency, percentage distribution mean and inferential statistics (Chi square test, paired t – test) was used to assess the knowledge and attitude

related to use of safety measures against respiratory disorders caused by air pollution among traffic policemen in selected areas of Pune city with a view to develop a self-instructional module.

RESULTS: The present study results revealed that the p-values corresponding to age, education, monthly income and number of children are small (less than 0.05), the null hypothesis is rejected. Age, education, monthly income and number of children were found to have significant association with attitude of traffic policemen regarding use of safety measures against respiratory disorders caused by Air Pollution. It proved that the correlation coefficient between knowledge and attitude was found to be -0.19 and this correlation coefficient is negative.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion of the study: The study concluded that the traffic policemen with more knowledge had negative attitude regarding use of safety measures against respiratory disorders caused by Air Pollution.

Recommendations:

- A similar study can be replicated in different setting to strengthen the findings.
- The same study could be replicated on a large sample size.
- A study to assess the effectiveness of utilization of mask on respiratory status among traffic police personnel.
- Same study can be replicated on auto driver.
- Same study can be replicated on those are living near traffic signal or heavy traffic road.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest.

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