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Reasons of workplace hazards faced by elderly

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Abstract

Later adulthood or period of old age starts from the age of sixty. At this age most individual lost their job because they are retired from active services. But in the present scenario, when elderly try to keep them busy by doing some or the other jobs. They try to keep them engaged in varied jobs. They try to do even those jobs which are entirely new to them and in this context; they faced workplace hazards which could be because of various reasons. Therefore need was identified to identify "Reasons of Workplace Hazards Faced by Elderly". The major findings of the study showed that 85.7% male respondents whereas 100% female respondents said that excessive work pressure was the reason while 52.3% male respondent and 66% female respondent agreed that too much noise was the reason of workplace hazard, while 47.6% male respondent and 66% female respondent were agreed that slippery flooring was the reason of workplace hazards. 61.9% male respondent said that not well lighted stairs was the reason of workplace hazards. The descriptive research designs were used for the study. A total of 120 respondents were selected from Lucknow city. The sample was collected from four different areas of Lucknow city. The data were collected using a self prepared interview schedule along with checklist.

Keywords: Elderly, reasons, hazards, workplace

Introduction

Later adulthood or period of old age starts from the age of sixty. At this stage most individual lost their job because they are retired from active services. They have to fear related to their physical and psychological problems. According to the societal perspectives elderly are not so active, their intellectual ability is decreased they are narrow minded and attaching themselves to significance to religion. Many of the older person suffer from the emotional insecurity due to the death of their spouses, relatives, close friend (Hurlock E.B.1981) [2]. Workplace health hazards are the most common in different working sectors. Headache, back pain, neck pain, shoulder pains and arm pain are common problems which can be caused due to poor workstation design and posture and elongation of time in a similar position. Older workers have more disabling conditions like fractures and multiple injuries than do younger workers. And similar events lead to more severe injuries in older workers than in others. William J. Wiatrowski, 2005 [4]

Stress at work resulting from increasing complexities of work and its divergent demand, has become a prominent and pervading feature of the modern organization. Caplan Cobb and French (1975) [1] have accordingly defined occupational hazards as "any characteristics of job environment which poses a threat to the individual" have expressed that "by occupational stress is meant negative environmental factors or stressors associated with a particular job". Maslach and Jackson (1982) view "work pressure as one of the determinants of burnout" have found that only one burnout dimensions. i.e. emotional exhaustion was closely related to work stress".

Objective: To identify the reasons of workplace faced by elderly.

Hypothesis

Ho1: There exists no significant difference between age and reasons of workplace hazards faced by elderly.

Ho2: There exist no significant difference between gender and reasons of workplace hazards faced by elderly.

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Material and methods: The descriptive research design was used for the study. This study was carried out with the working elderly of the Lucknow city. The sample was selected from four areas of Lucknow i.e. Rajnikhand, Utrethiya, Bangla Bazaar and Ashiyana. 120 respondent were randomly selected from different selected areas using purposive random sampling technique. A self made interview schedule and checklist

related to reasons of workplace hazards faced by elderly was used to analyze the workplace hazards faced by elderly at workplace. Statistical analysis was done by using SPSS version 20.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents on the basis of reasons of workplace hazards faced by elderly

S.No	Reasons	Gender of the respondent (N=120)			
		Male (N=84)		Female(N=36)	
		No	Yes	No	Yes
1	Use of acids	84(100)	0(0)	32(88.8)	4(11)
2	Use of caustic substances	80(95.2)	4(4.7)	28(77)	8(22)
3	Low lighting facilities	48(57.14)	36(42.8)	16(44)	20(55)
4	High lighting facility	80(95.2)	4(4.7)	32(88)	4(11)
5	Too much noise	40(47.6)	44(52.3)	12(33)	24(66)
6	Work with chemicals	72(85.7)	12(14.2)	32(88)	4(11)
7	Slippery floorings	44(52.3)	40(47.6)	12(33)	24(66)
8	Long working hours	52 (38.09)	35(61.9)	20(55)	16(44)
9	Stairs are not well lighted	52(61.9)	32(38.09)	16(44)	20(55)
10	Uncomfortable sitting facility	44(52.3)	40(47.6)	4(11)	32(88)
11	No ramp facility	64(76.19)	20(23.8)	28(77)	8(22)
12	Improper ventilation	60(76.19)	24(28.58)	32(88)	4(11)
13	Excessive heat at work place	76(90.47)	8(9.5)	36(100)	0(0)
14	Working with high tech equipment	80(95.2)	4(4.7)	36(100)	0(0)
15	Excessive work pressure	12(14.2)	72(85.7)	0(0)	36(100)

(Figure in parenthesis shows percentages)

Results in table no. 1 showed the reasons of workplace hazards faced by elderly. Majority of the male respondents (95.2%) and 88% female respondent said that high lighting facilities were not the reasons of workplace hazards while 52.3% male respondent and 66% female respondent agreed that too much noise was the reason of workplace hazards. The majority of male respondent and female respondents said that working with chemicals was not the reason of workplace hazards. While 47.6% male respondent and 66% female respondent were agreed that slippery flooring was the reason of workplace hazards. 61.9% male respondent said that improper lighting was the reason of workplace hazards but 55% female said that it is not the reason of workplace hazards. Nearly half of the male respondents and majority of female said that uncomfortable sitting arrangement was the reason of

workplace hazards among elderly. 76.19% male respondent and 88% female respondent agreed that improper ventilation was not the reason of workplace hazards while 90.47% male respondent and 100% female respondent agreed that excessive heat at workplace was not the reason of workplace hazards. The majority of male respondents (85.7%) and all female respondents agreed that working with high tech equipment not were the reasons of workplace hazards. While 85.7% male respondent and all female respondents (100%) agreed that excessive workplace is major cause of workplace hazards among elderly.

Ho1: There exist no significant difference between age and workplace hazards

Table 2: t value between age and reasons of workplace hazards

Component	Age	Mean	S.D.	t value	Df	P	Conclusion
		Reasons of workplace hazards	60-70	1.91	.663	-1.756	
	70-80	2.12	.583				

P=> 0.05 level of significance

Data shows that the t value (2.646) was found non-significant at .05 level of significance. Which means that null hypothesis was accepted. The means value shows that there was no significant differences between the age and reasons of

workplace hazards faced by elderly.

Ho2: there exist no significant difference between gender and reason of workplace hazards.

Table 3: t value between gender and reason of workplace hazards

Component	Gender	Mean	S.D.	t value	Df	P	Conclusion
		Reasons of workplace hazards	Male	1.36	.482	.279	
	Female	1.33	.478				

P=> 0.05 level of significance

Data shows that the t value (.279) was found non-significant at .05 level of significance which, means that null hypothesis was accepted. The mean value shows that there was no significant

difference between gender and reasons of workplace hazards faced by elderly.

Conclusion

Excessive work pressure elongated working hours, low lighting facility, too much noise, sitting arrangement, improper ventilation, no ramp facility etc. These reasons create problems for elderly to perform their work easily and in better way. Although sitting require less muscular stress in comparison to standing, it can cause physical fatigue and a person need to hold their body steady for long period of time. Thus it is recommended that when elderly are appointed the physical environment should make viable for them. These reasons are like hurdles for the elderly to perform their task well. Elderly are physically weak but they more knowledge and experience than other age group so they give their best if these reasons are minimized.

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