

A Study to Assess the Health Status and Knowledge of Unsafe Rag Picking with a View to Educate the use of Safety Measures among Rag Pickers of Durg District (C.G.)

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Abstract: Clean environment is very necessary to live a peaceful and healthy life. But our environment is getting dirty day by day because of negligence of human beings. Not enough attention has been paid on the crucial linkage between the crippling waste disposal system, a by-product of the population explosion and degradation of both environmental as well as human health. Waste management remains a major challenge for any society. A high incidence of illness is caused such as dysentery, typhoid fever, enteritis, cholera and diarrhoea. The objectives of the study were 1) To identify the socio demographic variables of rag pickers of Durg district Chhattisgarh. 2) To assess the health status of rag pickers of Durg district Chhattisgarh. 3) To assess the knowledge of rag pickers related to unsafe rag pickers. 4) To assess the knowledge regarding use of safety measures among rag pickers of Durg district Chhattisgarh. 5) To find the association between knowledge of rag pickers related to unsafe rag picking and selected sociodemographic variables. 6) To find the association between knowledge of rag pickers regarding use of safety measures and selected socio demographic variables. 7) To provide need based awareness regarding unsafe rag picking and use of safety measures among rag pickers.

Keywords: Rag Pickers, Unsafe Rag, Safety measures, Health status, Knowledge

1. Introduction

A rag picker is a term for someone who makes a living by rummaging through refuse in the streets to collect material for salvage, in the developing countries this material can consist of almost anything – plastic bottles, paper, rags, bones, cardboard, scrap metals, glass etc. as per the records on an average more than 50% rag pickers are not using any safety precautions leading to serious disease conditions.

Globally rapid and unplanned urbanization is the trend for most of the developing countries including India. Waste is an unavoidable by product of human activities. Solid waste arising from human activity as become one of the major environmental problems causing extensive pollution and a threat to the human life.

Illiteracy, Poverty, migration of the family are the main causes for poor working condition for Rag picking activity which has become one of the important social problems.

The reason for choosing this study is developing countries have greater work risk. Rag pickers have less protection and inadequate knowledge regarding use of safety measures and this study and its findings can help to develop some guidelines and increase the awareness of Rag pickers regarding their health issues and safety norms to be followed while rag picking.

2. Literature Survey

Ravindra & Kaur (2016), conducted a study among municipal solid waste workers in Chandigarh where they found that workers were exposed to various occupational issues like respiratory disorders, injuries, allergies

3. Methods/Approach

The qualitative research approach and non-experimental descriptive survey design was used.

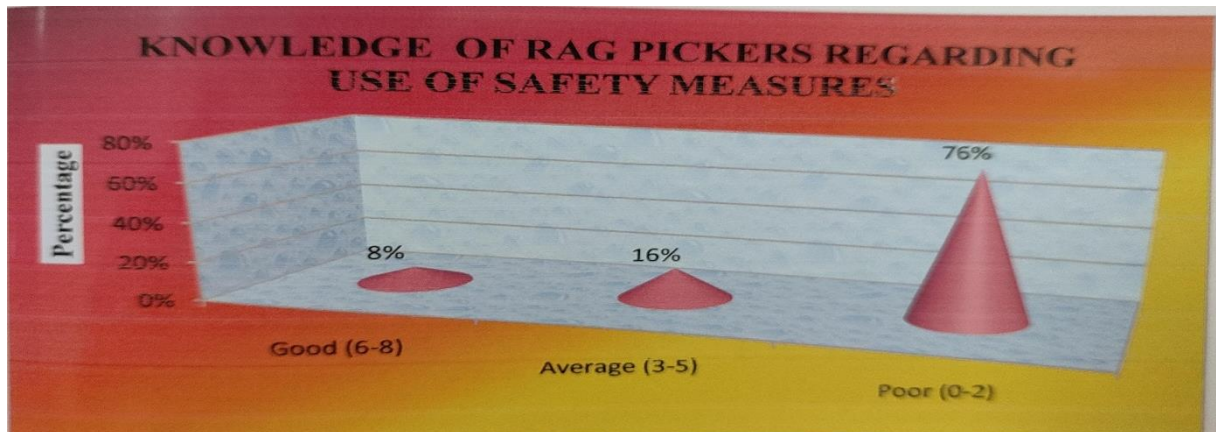
4. Results/Discussion

Analysis to assess the health status of rag pickers of Durg district (C.G.) reveals that majority of the rag pickers i.e., 82(82%) had confronted cuts and injuries during work the other health problems they suffered were dental carries i.e., 78(78%), respiratory problem (cough cold) 58 (58%), muscular pain (joint pain) 60(60%) and back pain 36(36%), eye problem (redness) 30(30%). 62(62%) skin problem(itching). 30 (30%) of the rag pickers also had the problem of loss of appetite, 23(23%) had suffered from fever and 11(11%) had past history of tuberculosis. Regarding chronic illness 16(16%) and 28(28%) were having hypertension and diabetes respectively. Regarding health care facility from private and district hospitals respectively.

Analysis to the knowledge of rag pickers regarding unsafe rag picking reveals that majority of the rag pickers i.e. 62

(62%) had knowledge regarding concept of rag, 61 (61%) knew about safe disposal method, 58 (58%) were aware about most serious environmental effect caused by hazardous waste, only 44 (44%) were aware regarding non-hazardous waste and 46 (46%) could understand the harmful effect that the rag pickers confronted due to rag picking.

Overall knowledge of Rag pickers regarding unsafe Rag picking represents that among rag pickers majority of them i.e. 67 (67%) had average knowledge regarding unsafe rag picking, 22 (22%) had poor and 11 (11%) had good knowledge regarding unsafe rag picking.



Analysis of knowledge of rag pickers regarding use of safety measures during rag picking shows that 47 (47%) of the rag pickers knew regarding changing of cloths daily and perform hand hygiene before eating while on work, 36 (36%) had knowledge regarding taking daily bath, 28 (28%) knew to perform hand hygiene after rag picking and only 12 (12%) were aware to stop rag picking if infected.

Over all knowledge of rag pickers regarding use of safety measures represents that among rag pickers majority of them i.e. 76 (76%) had poor knowledge, 16 (16%) had average and 8 (8%) had good knowledge regarding use of safety measures.

Chi square analysis to find the association between knowledge of rag pickers related to unsafe rag picking and selected socio demographic variables reveals that there was no association of knowledge of rag pickers with socio-demographic variables i.e. age, educational qualification, monthly income. reason of choosing work, occupation is chosen under the influence of, as the chi square value i.e. 2.79, 8.07, 5.99, 9.49, 9.49 was less than the table value at 0.05 level of significance respectively.

Association between knowledge of rag pickers regarding use of safety measures and selected socio demographic variables depicts that there was significant association of knowledge of rag pickers regarding use of safety measures with selected socio demographic variables i.e. educational qualification as the chi square value 7.79 was greater than the table value 5.09 at 0.05 level of significance.

5. Conclusions

Since the study reveals that there is lack of awareness regarding unsafe rag picking and the use of safety measures during rag picking, it is there for necessary to take prompt action regarding

creating awareness among rag pickers to prevent them from hazardous infections which they confront during rag picking.

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