



TITLE: OCCUPATIONAL SKIN DISEASE AMONG BUILDING CONSTRUCTION WORKER, IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

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ABSTRACT (upto 300 words)

Introduction: Construction industry is amongst established growing industries worldwide which contribute to about 7.5% of the world labor force and 16.4% of global occupational diseases and accidents. Varieties of activities are practiced in construction works such as masonry, painting, welding, carpentry, plastering, and concrete and cement mixing. These may eventually lead to exposures that can subject the workers to risks of developing occupational skin disease. Most studies done in construction industry in Tanzania have focused on effects such as injuries, respiratory problems and psychological disorders, very little have been done on skin diseases. This study aimed at assessing occupational skin diseases and associated factors among building construction workers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Simple random sampling was applied to select construction sites, and participants were randomly selected. Nordic Occupational Skin Questionnaire (NOSQ) was adapted and used for assessing development of skin diseases among constructions workers. Analysis of categorical variables, associated factors and skin preventive measures was done using Chi-square tests. Bivariate and Multivariate logistic regression analyses were performed to determine odds ratio and adjusted odds ratio for factors that indicated to influence the occurrence of skin diseases among construction workers.

The study consisted of 420 building construction workers from different working sites with the mean age of 32.7 years. The participants were masons, assistant masons and carpenters. The mean work duration was 6 years. Prevalence of skin disease was 228 (54%) among the workers. Carpenters had higher prevalence of skin disease, 12(67%) followed by assistant masons 43 (64%). Also, workers who worked for more than 4 years were reported to experience skin diseases. After adjusting for age; being a carpenter was associated with increased occurrence of skin diseases. Timely provision of safety trainings to workers, use of PPE, training and guidance on utilization of those PPE lowered the occurrence of skin diseases. High number of construction workers experienced skin diseases, especially those who have worked for more than 4 years. Workers who received safety training before the work shift had lesser prevalence of skin diseases compared to those who did not. Receiving proper information on PPE usage and proper wearing gloves had protective effect.

BIOGRAPHY (upto 200 words)

Rabia Yussuf Esmail has completed her Masters Degree in Science in Environmental and Occupational Health at the age 31 years from Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania. She has been tutoring as Principal tutor at Muhimbili College of Health and Allied Sciences for 10 years. Currently she has been promoted to Ministry of Health-Tanzania, Head Quarters, as Occupational Health and Safety Expert. She has one publication and two inline for the process



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