ABSTRACT

Solid waste workers are exposed to health and safety hazards at the workplace. As per estimates related to workers involved in waste management fields, over 213 million workers are exposed to non-fatal accidents. A cross-sectional quantitative study was carried out to explore the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) of solid waste workers of Sindh for the betterment of workers and solid waste management. A Questionnaire adopted from (Kasemy et al., 2021a) was used to collect from 384 solid waste workers, data analysis on SPSS version 22 , using t-tests and One-way ANOVA. (age mean = 38 years) working in the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), district Hyderabad. An independent t-test was conducted on residents of rural and urban areas showed statistically significant between urban and rural areas and mean of rural(m=47.2500) are higher than urban on the same way t-test was performed on smokers and non-smokers, non-smoker mean(m=47.5633) are higher than smokers which revealed non-smokers had significantly higher scores as compared to smokers and showed statistically insignificant in these two groups. One-way ANOVA was performed results exhibit that there is a significant difference in knowledge and attitude of age groups, marital status and attitude, level of education knowledge, attitude and practice, experience knowledge and attitude and BMI knowledge, attitude and practice of solid waste collectors, However, Age groups and practice, marital status knowledge and practice and experience practice are statistically insignificant. Dust and used syringes & needles are high risk, Offensive odours, leachates and sludge containing worms, debris, bone, animal waste, dead animals and rodent carcasses, metal cans, wood, food waste and broken glass and other sharp items are medium physical risk, Clothing, Plastic bottle and glasses, rubber/leather, paper and cardboard are lower hazards because of minimal sharpness. Results revealed the gaps in knowledge, positive attitudes, and a mix of practices towards safety measures. Such results highlight the need for training to improve the KAP of solid waste workers.

Keywords: Solid Waste Management, Waste Workers, KAP, Occupational Safety and Health, Hazards, Solid waste management policies.