



“A STUDY TO ASSESS THE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING HEALTH HAZARDS OF UNSAFE RAG PICKING AMONG RAG PICKERS IN SELECTED SLUMS AT REWA DISTRICT”.

Laxmi Patel

M.Sc Nursing in Community Health Nursing, People's College of Nursing and Research Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Mrs. Nirapure Jyoti*

Professor and Vice Principal, Department of Community Health Nursing, People's College Nursing and Research Centre, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh *Corresponding Author

ABSTRACT A non experimental descriptive research was conducted on 60 rag pickers aged above 14 years selected by Non probability convenient sampling technique living in slum areas of Anantpur at district Rewa, M.P. The main aim of the study was to assess the knowledge of rag pickers regarding health hazards of unsafe rag picking. The finding in the present study shows that majority 41 that is 68.66% had poor knowledge whereas 19 that is 31.66% had average knowledge and none of the rag pickers had good knowledge regarding health hazards of unsafe rag picking.

KEYWORDS :**INTRODUCTION**

Rag pickers or chiffonier, both indicates persons who make their living by collecting the refuse from the street or waste dumping site. They collect scrap of cloths, broken glasses, paper and other recyclable material. Rag picking is very much common in third world countries like India. Rag pickers usually belong to the poorest of the society. They earn money by selling usually the collected waste to feed their hungry stomach.

In India rag pickers have to face many problems during rag picking, they are continually exposed to hazardous substance and live on poor wages. During segregation of waste they are exposed to harmful waste like, soiled cloths, metals broken glass, needles, sanitary waste, chemicals and injections which leads to many health issues like fever, rashes etc.

Khanna A. et.al (April 2015) conducted a cross – sectional study to assess morbidity pattern among rag pickers in urban city of Uttar Pradesh. 265 subjects were selected as samples in this study. Morbidity pattern was described of the last month. The result revealed that 80% suffered from bronchitis, 79% suffered from pneumonia, 75% had asthma and 67.2% of rag pickers suffered from T.B.

Dr. Singh Abhay et.al (January 2018) conducted an exploratory study on health hazards and problems faced by female rag pickers at urban areas of Sirsa, Haryana. 120 samples were enrolled in this study using purposive random sampling technique. Data was obtained by scheduled interview. The result revealed that 33.3% had respiratory problem, 18.3 had tetanus, 16.6% had skin problem, 12.5%, 7.5% had infection had backache, 6.6% had pain in joints and 5% had frequent stomach pain.

OBJECTIVES:

- To assess the knowledge regarding health hazards of unsafe rag picking among rag pickers in selected slum areas at Rewa district.
- To find out the association between knowledge of rag pickers related to the health hazards of unsafe rag picking with their selected socio-demographic variables.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: The research approach used by the investigator for this study was quantitative approach. Non experimental descriptive research design was selected for the study. Samples comprised of 60 rag pickers who fulfilled the inclusion criteria and Non probability convenient sampling technique was used for the selection of samples. The present study was conducted in Anantpur District Rewa, M.P, scheduled from 4th April 2019 to 12 of April 2019. The data was collected and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULT: Description of the demographic variable of the school children

The study finding showed that from among 60 school children majority of the rag pickers that is 31 (51.66%) of the subjects were within the age group of 35-44yrs. Majority of the rag pickers 32 that is (53.33%)

were female, majority of the rag pickers 55 that is (91.66%) were Hindus, majority of the rag pickers 53 that is (88.33%) were illiterate, majority of the rag pickers 29 that is (48.33%) worked for 4-6 hrs, majority of the rag pickers, majority of the rag pickers 34 that is (56.33%) selected rag picking because of unemployment, and majority 47 that is (78.33%) of the rag pickers were married.

Table No-1 Association of knowledge of rag pickers regarding health hazards of unsafe rag picking with selected demographic variables

N=60

S. No.	Variables	Good	Average	Below average	Df	Chi value	P value	Inference
1.	Age							
	14-24 yrs	0	0	2	3	8.292	7.82	Significant
	25-34 yrs	0	2	10				
	35-44 yrs	0	8	23				
	45above	0	9	6				
2.	Gender							
	Male	0	9	19	1	0.031	3.84	Not Significant
	Female	0	11	21				
3.	Religion							
	Hindu	0	18	37	1	0.341	3.84	Not Significant
	Muslim	0	1	4				
	Christian	0	0	0				
	Others	0	0	0				
4.	Educational status							
	Illiterate	0	16	37	1	0.457	3.84	Not Significant
	Primary education	0	3	4				
	Secondary education	0	0	0				
	Graduate	0	0	0				
5.	Duration of work							
	0-3 hrs	0	0	7	3	8.494	7.82	Significant
	4-6 hrs	0	8	21				
	7-9 hrs	0	9	13				
	10-12 hrs	0	2	0				
6.	Reason for choosing rag picking							
	Unemployment	0	2	6	3	0.201	7.84	Not Significant
	Family pressure	0	1	2				
	Illiteracy	0	5	10				
	Poverty	0	11	23				
7.	Marital status							
	Married	0	14	33	2	0.501	5.99	Not Significant

Unmarried	0	3	4			
Divorced	0	0	0			
Widow	0	2	4			

Table No- 2 Frequency and percentage distribution of knowledge score of subject based on the basis of level of knowledge regarding health hazards of unsafe rag picking.

Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Good	0	0%
Average	19	31.66%
Below average	41	68.33%
Total	60	100%

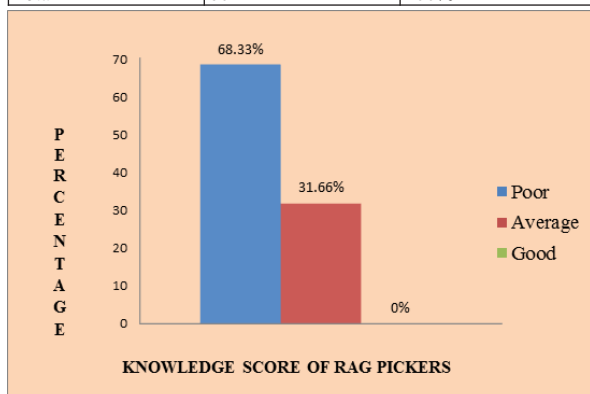


Fig: 1 Distribution of knowledge score of rag pickers regarding health hazards of unsafe rag picking

DISCUSSION

The present study shows the knowledge score of rag pickers regarding knowledge of health hazards of unsafe rag picking. It is clear that majority of the rag pickers 41 that is 68.33% rag pickers had poor knowledge and 19 that is 38.33% of the rag pickers had average knowledge and none of the rag pickers had good knowledge regarding the health hazards of unsafe rag picking.

CONCLUSION

The present study was undertaken by the researcher to describe the knowledge of rag pickers regarding health hazards of unsafe rag picking among rag pickers living in slums area of Anantpur, District Rewa, M.P. rag pickers one the most vulnerable group. Rag pickers are considered as informal stakeholder whose activities are concerned with waste management. The waste picking activity makes them prone to various health problems. From the data presented in the present study it can be concluded that majority of the rag pickers were unaware of the health hazards of unsafe rag picking.

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