

**AWARENESS ON HAZARDS AND PREVENTIVE
PRACTICE ON NEEDLE STICK AND SHARP
INJURY AMONG MENIAL WORKERS AT
YANKIN CHILDREN HOSPITAL**

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ABSTRACT

Needle stick and sharp injury (NSSI) is one of the most important major risk factors for healthcare workers in the world. This study aims to assess the hazard and preventive practice on needle stick and sharp injury among menial workers who were engaged in handling, collecting and disposal of health care waste which includes needles and sharp waste. This cross-sectional descriptive study was done on 104 menial workers of Yankin Children Hospital from September to December, 2019. The data were obtained voluntarily from the participants with structured questionnaire which were already pretested. Most of the participants were females (69.2%) and the mean age for the participants was 33 years (SD=7). More than half (59.6%) of them already passed middle school level with total working experience of over 6 years. Occurrences of NSSI was found in one fourth of menial workers. Among them, more than half (68.2%) reported that occurrence to superiors. The major reason for not reporting was they thought no action was required for such small injury (57.1%). Only 48.1% of menial workers were considered to have high level of knowledge with the maximum score of 15 and minimum score of 7. Three fourth of the respondents had not taken any HBV vaccine before and nearly all of the menial workers (86.5%) did not get any training on prevention of NSSI. Over half of the menial workers had high level of practice score on prevention of NSSI. There was association between age and occurrence of NSSI, the older the age of workers, the higher the occurrence of NSSI (P value=0.016). Gender and occurrence of NSSI was also significantly associated as male workers were more prone to NSSI (P value= 0.038). Knowledge and attitude have significant association (P value=0.047). Knowledge was also significantly associated to practice (P value=0.039). The higher the knowledge, the better the attitude and practice. By increasing knowledge, both attitude and practice of menial workers can be improved. This study revealed that the menial workers had low level of education, practice and awareness on prevention of NSSI when compared to other health workers. To improve this, development of trainings and educating programs for basic menial workers in health sector should focus on improving knowledge, attitude and practice on prevention of NSSI as almost all of the menial workers never get any kind of training or education against NSSI.