

What Makes Occupational Health Services Seems Difficult to Be Implemented?

Amalina Mohd Roze, Niza Samsudin, PhD, Nor Azlina A. Rahman, PhD, Muhammad Zubir Yusof, PhD, Ailin Razali, PhD, Nik Mohamed Nizan Nik Mohamed, Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmood, PhD, Mohd Shaqif Syed Jamaludin, Suriati Sidek, PhD, Ahmad Fitri Abdullah Hair, Rajinderjit Singh Hullon

Department of Biomedical Sciences, Kulliyah of Allied Health Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Department of Physical Rehabilitation Sciences, Kulliyah of Allied Health Sciences, IIUM, Department of Community Medicine, Kulliyah of Medicine, IIUM, Department of Otorhinolaryngology & Head-Neck Surgery, Kulliyah of Medicine, IIUM, Montoques Sdn. Bhd., Kuantan, Pahang, Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, IIUM, Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, IIUM, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Ministry of Human Resources

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: The estimation of occupational accidents or work-related illness globally by International Labour Organization (ILO) has reached up to 2.3 million each year. From this estimation, 160 million workers fall victim to work-related diseases annually. Despite this, the accessibility to occupational health services is still low. Almost 80% of the total working population do not have access to OHS. Competent occupational health professionals are required to have good OHS accessibility. However, certain challenges faced by these professionals may cause poor coverage of OHS. This study aims to describe the difficulties faced by occupational health doctors in providing the occupational health services in Malaysia. **METHODS:** Qualitative methods were utilised for the study using focus group discussions and interview responses. The responses were recorded and transcribed precisely. NVivo version 11 was used to facilitate the data analysis process which follows the thematic analysis strategies. **RESULTS:** Four codes were identified as underlying factors that causing the occupational health services difficult to be implemented which include reporting issues, industries attitudes, standard and guidelines, and practising issues. **CONCLUSION:** The results suggested that all factors need to be critically addressed on a national basis to help facilitate the implementation of OHS in Malaysia.

KEYWORDS: Occupational Health Services, Occupational Health Doctor, Qualitative Study

Workplace Violence Among Healthcare Workers (District Health Offices and Health Clinics) - Pulau Pinang 2018

Mohd Ridzuan Janudin, DrPH, Shazlin Umar, DrPH, Abdul Syukur Abdul Aziz, MD, Shazatul Shazmin Samsudin, MD

Occupational Environmental Health Unit, Penang State Health Department, Seberang Perai Selatan District Health Office, Penang State Health Department, Public Health Development Unit, Penang State Health Department

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: For long a ‘forgotten’ issue, workplace violence has gained momentum recently and now a global concern. Underreporting is a major barrier to institution of effective programs to assess and manage workplace violence. Only two notifications reported in 2018 from District Health Offices and Health Clinics in Pulau Pinang. **OBJECTIVE:** To determine the incidence of workplace violence in 2018 and factors associated with it. **METHODS:** Cross-sectional study conducted among healthcare workers in District Health Offices and Health Clinics involving Doctors, Nurses, Medical Assistant, Environmental Health Officer and Assistant Environmental Health Officer. A validated and pretested questionnaire was used. Incidence rate and adjusted odd ratios of workplace violence were calculated to examine associated factors to workplace violence by using logistic regression analysis. **RESULTS:** The response rate for survey completion was 92.7% (1186/ 1280). Among the respondents, 368 (31.0%) experienced workplace violence in 2018; 19.9% experienced verbal abuse, 5.1% written abuse, 2.8% experienced physical aggression, and 1.4% experienced sexual harassment. Majority (31.0%) involved Nurses. The significant risk factors found to be associated with workplace violence were Job Categories ($p < 0.05$) and Years of Service ($p < 0.05$). **CONCLUSION:** The incidence rate of workplace violence in 2018 (District Health Offices and Health Clinics) in Pulau Pinang was 0.3 per 10,000 healthcare workers. Most of the cases were not notified. Certain Job Categories and Years of Service had higher probability to experience workplace violence. Concerted effort to increase notification and the countermeasures for workplace violence at those high-risk group should be investigated.

KEYWORDS: workplace violence, healthcare workers, Pulau Pinang