E-Poster

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A Glance at the Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain, Presenteeism, and Emotional Health Amongst Sex Workers in the Largest Red Light District of Asia

Topic: Specific Target Groups (Children, Women, Elderly, Athletes, Musicians, Refugees, Ethnic Groups, Workers, and Others)

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BACKGROUND

Chronic musculoskeletal pain globally causes neuromuscular dysfunction, substandard quality of life, and suboptimal emotional health. It often affects the work productivity of an individual. Work productivity is measured by either 'absenteeism' or 'presenteeism'. Sex work is a standalone occupational category. Sex workers are a neglected part of society who perform a multitude of ergonomically stressful activities leading to a multitude of musculoskeletal pain. The objective of this study is to assess chronic musculoskeletal pain, presenteeism, and emotional health among sex workers.

METHODS

This cross-sectional study is being conducted at Sonagachhi, the largest red light district in Asia over three months in groups every week by a Physiatrist-led Neurorehabilitation team from a tertiary care hospital in Kolkata, India. Active female sex workers between 18-40 years of age are being included in the study. Informed written consent is obtained from the participant. Every participant is being examined and interviewed and data is collected. A proforma consisting of demographics, clinical examination findings, Visual Analog Scale (VAS) score, Hospital anxiety depression scale (HADS), and Work functioning impairment scale are being recorded. After the data collection, a workshop focussing on the awareness of healthy musculoskeletal health and simple exercises and ergonomics are being taught to every group. Data was collected offline in a Microsoft Excel version 2007 spreadsheet and R software is being used for analysis.

RESULTS

The study is ongoing.

CONCLUSION

The myriad of health hazards faced by this cohort in a traditional low-income country like India requires a sensitive approach. Chronic musculoskeletal pain has both physical and emotional impacts on this population and affects their productivity. A definite conclusion can be commented upon, once the survey is over.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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