



HEALTH PROBLEMS OF AUTO RICKSHAW DRIVERS IN KOLHAPUR CITY: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Health has been a major cause of concern in driving occupation specially among auto rickshaw drivers. Auto rickshaws are one of the major mode of transport system in Urban India. Auto rickshaw are relatively cheaper and easily available form of public transport in the cities of India. Auto rickshaw drivers spend a considerable amount of time in an environment with pollution, noisy and vibration of full body. They follow the harmful lifestyle like irregularity of meals unavailability of restrooms stressful occupational conditions and so on resulted into the rising their health problems. There have been studies found regarding health problems of long distance truck and bus drivers but unfortunately very rare studies have been conducted about the short distance auto rickshaw drivers. The present study was planned to identify the health problems in Kolhapur City

STUDY AREA:

Kolhapur is one of the famous destination as a holy place for goddess Mahalaxmi and having historical importance of great Chh. Shahuji Maharaj. So the number of visitors on regular basis in Kolhapur are notable in numbers. The researcher has selected the major rickshaw stops of Kolhapur City like Kolhapur Central Bus Stand, Kolhapur Railway Station, Bindu Chowk, Bhavani Mandap and Dasara Chowk for the present pilot study researcher had selected 50 respondents randomly.

METHODOLOGY:

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For the present study a suitable interview schedule was carried out consisting of different questions pertaining to their health problems. The collected data was analysed by using simple Statistical tools found the most prevalent health problems among the auto rickshaw drivers.

RESULTS:

On the basis of data analysis and interpretation the certain findings has been listed-

- Very basic problems facing by the auto rickshaw drivers are eye pain. This happens due to majority 76% of the respondents reported the feeling of pressure in the eye causes the watery eyes, redness and burning of eye etc. This is also outcome of continuous driving of auto rickshaw in busy roads.
- Around 68% auto rickshaw drivers reported of headache caused by hypertension anxiety or depression. It may lead to other problems like high blood pressure. This shows that out of the total respondents majority of them have had the headache problems.
- The present study also reveals that 88% of respondents reported back and shoulder pains. Maximum respondents are engaged for 8 to 10 hours of driving causes back and shoulder pains.
- Another important health the problem is identified among the auto rickshaw drivers are piles. As the study reveals almost 62% of the respondents had reported piles problems which is outcome of irregular and lack of nutritious food. Due to continuous driving their digestive system gets affected and even majority of them choose to have fast foods or tea and vada pav commonly as a substitute for a food and this habit might be one the reason this food habit and driving might a cause for facing the problem of piles.
- One of the health issue like urinal problems is also associated with this occupation. As almost 90% of the respondents revealed that due to uncertainty of the nature of occupation and availability of limited urinals is a cause behind this health problem. In most of the places the rickshaw stops and urinals are little for or are at little dimensions and so to park an auto and go for urinals they keep on holding the urinals leads the urinal problems including kidney stones, burning while passing the urine and so on.



Suggestive Measures

The findings of the study attracts the intervening suggestions for the betterment of auto rickshaw drivers. As the prevalence various health problems which is high among the auto rickshaw drivers need a urgent attention to overcome the situation. Some of the needful measures are-

1. A health training and planning is to be taught to the auto rickshaw drivers community by the concern authorities or welfare organizations.
2. A basic physical exercise to be taught to the auto rickshaw drivers for relaxing on the basis of some quick and easy tips.
3. A periodic health check-up camps to be conducted by the leaders or Union activists of the auto rickshaw drivers.
4. The concern municipal corporation authority should construct a handy urinals at least to the crowded auto rickshaw stops.
5. For avoiding the air pollution the use of mask must be insisted.
6. For improving the mental health and intervention is required from the trained counselors and psychologists.
7. For reducing physical pains the cushioning of driving seat and the condition of auto should be kept well by the auto rickshaw drivers themselves.
8. Especially as a need of hour the health insurance should become mandate for the auto rickshaw drivers at large for reducing their health related expenditure.

CONCLUSION-

Auto rickshaw drivers in Kolhapur city Has faced a lot of health problems inspite of playing a major role in city transportation and giving services to the city dwellers. In reality the health problem is only one dimension of lifestyle of auto rickshaw drivers they ought to have other social problems too. The health issues always carries a lot of importance in the human beings life. As the oresent study reveals the major reason behind facing the health problems by the auto rickshaw drivers are not only their nature of occupation but a major cause lies in absence of health awareness among auto rickshaw drivers.

Thus, health awareness must be a priority to reduce the burden of such health problems.

Health Cycle for the auto rickshaw drivers

Safe Driving

Good Health

Good Behaviour



Proper Training
Health insurance



Awareness and
healthy lifestyle.



Positive and

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