

KINGDOM OF THAILAND

Health Belief and Fabric Dust Preventive Behavior of Textile Workers.

Abstract

Fabric dust in garment industry is chemical hazard which is important and severely inducing respiratory problem. Personal preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards is thus vital. The main purposes of this cross-sectional descriptive study were to describe health belief, preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards, and to examine the association between health belief and preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards. The 238 study sample, employed at a moderate garment industry in Chiang Mai province was included in the study. Data were collected from December 2004 to January 2005. The research instruments used for data collection was a questionnaire, developed by the research based on health Belief Model and literature review. The questionnaire consists of three part: demographic data, health belief, and preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards. The questionnaire was reviewed by the panel of five experts. The content validity index of health belief was 0.93 while that of preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards was 1.00. The reliability of the questionnaire was tested using Crobach's alpha coefficient, and its values of health belief and preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards was at an acceptable level (0.74-0.96) Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Spearman Rank correlation coefficient.

The major findings revealed that, around 62-71 percent of the sample had perceived risk, severity, benefit and barrier to preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards at a moderate level while 15-19 percent of the sample had such perception at a high level. With regard to preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards among sample, it revealed that around 71.4 percent of the sample had such behavior at a moderate level, while 12.2 percent of the sample had such behavior at a high level. Regarding relationship between health belief and prevention behavior of fabric dust hazards, it was found that perceived benefits of preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards was positively significant associated with preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards ($rs=0.164, p<.05$), while perceived barriers to preventing behavior of fabric dust

hazards was negatively significant associated with preventing of fabric dust hazards ($rs+0195, p<.01$).

The results of this study, hence, indicate that occupational and environmental health nurses should promote preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards among garment industry workers, focusing on increasing the level of perceived benefits and minimizing the level of perceived barrier to preventing behavior of fabric dust hazards.

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