

Quality of life, work ability and other important indicators of women's occupational health

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OBJECTIVES:

Work ability may be considered as an important aspect of well-being and health status. One of the most important factors in association with work ability is health-related quality of life (HRQoL). The aim of this study has been to determine the association between work ability, individual characteristics and HRQoL of female workers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

The design of this study has been cross-sectional. The work ability index (WAI) and Short-Form General Health Survey (SF-17) questionnaires were used to collect data. Three hundred and twenty female workers were selected from food supplier factories in Karaj. One-way analysis of variance, Pearson's correlation analysis, independent sample t-test and multiple linear regression methods were used to analyze data.

RESULTS:

Mean (M) and standard deviation (SD) of the WAI stood at ${}^{\circ}\circ,{}^{\circ}$ and ${}^{\circ}\circ^{\circ}$, respectively. The categories of the WAI for women being as follows: ${}^{\wedge},{}^{\wedge}$ poor, ${}^{\circ}i'$ moderate, ${}^{\circ}\circ,{}^{\circ}i'$ good and ${}^{\circ},{}^{\circ}i'$ excellent. Mean±SD for the physical component summary (PCS) and mental component summary (MCS) of quality of life was ${}^{\circ}\wedge,{}^{\wedge}i{}^{\pm}11,1i'$ and ${}^{\circ}v,{}^{\circ}i{}^{\pm}i,{}^{\circ}i{}^{\circ}$, respectively. There was a positive significant association between the PCS and MCS with the WAI (p = ${}^{\circ},{}^{\circ}i{}^{\circ}$). Workers with higher education had a better work ability (p = ${}^{\circ},{}^{\circ}i{}^{\circ}$) and shift-work workers had a worse work ability (p = ${}^{\circ},{}^{\circ}i{}^{\circ}$).

CONCLUSIONS:

Work ability of majority of women was moderate. Considering mean age of studied women ($\gamma\gamma$, γ years old), this work ability is not satisfactory. Physical and mental components of the HRQoL were the important factors associated with work ability.

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KEY WORDS:

Mental health; job satisfaction; quality of life; women workers; women's health; work ability index


