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FREQUENCY OF DAYTIME SLEEPINESS OF FACTORY WORKERS WORKING IN SHIFTS AND ITS EFFECT ON ANXIETY

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Abstract: This descriptive and cross-sectional study was conducted to examine the frequency of daytime sleepiness and its effects on anxiety in factory workers working in shifts. The population of the research consisted of 1052 workers working in two factories. The data were collected using the data collection form, the Epworth Sleepiness Scale, and the Beck Anxiety Inventory. Normally distributed data were presented as number, percentage, mean, and standard deviation. Independent samples t-test and ANOVA were used in statistical analysis. The mean Epworth Sleepiness Scale score of shift workers was 10.4 ± 4.2 and 42.8% had excessive daytime sleepiness. When the Epworth Sleepiness Scale scores and Beck Anxiety Inventory scores of the workers participating in the research were compared, it was determined that the daytime sleepiness levels of shift workers increased as anxiety risk increased, and the effect on vital characteristics was statistically significant (P < 0.05). Therefore, interventions, effective coping methods, and training strategies should be developed in order to improve the sleep quality, especially daytime sleep quality, and vital characteristics of shift workers.

Keywords: Occupational health, Workers, Working in shifts, Sleep disorder

1. Introduction

The work comprising recurring periods where different groups of workers do the same jobs in the relay is called shift work [1]. Shift work accounts for about 20% of the labor force in industrial countries [2], and shift conditions can often cause low sleep quality and excessive sleepiness in workers [3].

Shift times can be fixed or rotating, but are often variable, irregular, and formed according to the needs [4]. Generally, shift work is defined as a non-traditional work type that changes over a 24 hour period and between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm [5]. Previous studies have shown that shift working conditions, especially night shifts, may affect the health of the employees negatively [6]. The health problems in shift working are often closely related to psychological problems, sleep disorders, diabetes mellitus,

metabolic syndrome, obesity, heart disease, and cancer [6-11]. Furthermore, one of the crucial reasons for the differences in health between standard workers and shift workers is sleep problems [11, 12].

Considering that adult individuals need to sleep for an average of 7-8 hours [13], getting enough sleep is critical for an individual's mental and physical health. Also, individuals working under shift conditions may experience conflict and problems in their relations with their families as a result of not being able to spend enough time with their families. However, this could be handled by family support, social support, and a better working environment [14]. Sleep disorders and relationship problems with families due to shifting work is one of the most important problems of modern society and working life. Therefore, this study was conducted to examine the frequency of excessive daytime sleepiness among factory workers working in shifts and its effects on anxiety and to raise awareness among workers on this issue.

Research Questions

1. What is the daytime sleepiness level of shift factory workers?

2. Does daytime sleepiness affect the anxiety of shift factory workers?

2. Material and Methods

2.1. Study Design

This study was a descriptive and cross-sectional study.

2.2. Population and Sample

The population of the research consists of workers working in two factories (a total of 1475 factory workers). However, a simple random sampling method was used to reach 1052 volunteers. The inclusion criteria set by the researchers:

(1) Aged 18 years or older;

(2) Able to read in the Turkish language;

(3) The workers who in Gaziantep where is the South of Turkey;

(4) Full-time working and at least have 1-year working experience in the factory;

(5) Working in a shift.

2.3. Data Collection Tools

Data were collected between 07-12.2016. In the first part of the data collection form developed by the researchers [3, 8, 9, 11]. There are 25 questions on demographics and some vital characteristics of the participants. In the second part, the Epworth Sleepiness Scale and the Beck Anxiety Inventory were used to determine the sleepiness levels of the participants.

2.3.1 Epworth Sleepiness Scale (ESS)

The scale developed by Johns (1991) is a test used to demonstrate daytime sleepiness [15]. The validity and reliability of the scale were conducted by Agargun et al in Turkish society [16]. The possibility of falling asleep in certain situations on an ordinary day is questioned. It consists of 8 questions and the questions are scored between 0 and 3 points. The total score ranges from 0 to 24. A score of ≥ 10 indicates excessive daytime sleepiness [15]. In our study group, the reliability of the scale was tested and Cronbach's alpha coefficient was found to be 0.74.

2.3.2 Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI)

It was developed by Beck in 1988 [17]. The validity and reliability of the scale were conducted by Ulusoy et al in Turkish society [18]. The scale aims to determine the frequency and severity of the anxiety symptoms experienced by individuals. It consists of 21 items and is a Likert type scale. Each item is scored between 0 and 3. A score of 0-7 points is considered as no anxiety, 8-15 points are considered as mild anxiety, 16-25 points is considered as moderate anxiety, and 26-63 points is considered as severe anxiety. The scale measures the frequency of anxiety symptoms experienced by the individual. For this study, Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated as 0.92.

2.4. Data Analysis

Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 22.0 software was used for statistical analyses. Kolmogorov-Smirnov distribution test was used to examine the normal distribution of variables. Descriptive statistical methods (frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation) were used to evaluate the research data, and the t-test and ANOVA tests were used for group comparisons in independent groups.

Ethical Considerations

The Clinical Research Ethics Committee approved the study of Gaziantep University (Decision's date and number: 2016/172) and institutional permission was obtained for this study. Before starting the study, the aim of the research was explained to the workers by the researcher and verbal consent was obtained. Questionnaires were filled in 10-15 minutes by face-to-face interviews.

3. Results

The mean age of the participants was 32.3 ± 6.8 . Table 1 shows the comparison of sociodemographic characteristics and means the Epworth Sleepiness Scale scores of the participants. When the mean ESS scores of shift workers were compared with respect to age, gender, marital status, and educational status, it was found that the difference was not statistically significant (P > 0.05). When the mean ESS scores of the workers were compared in terms of smoking, alcohol use, duration of employment, weekly working hours, shift type, overtime status, presence of occupational disease, and previous occupational accident, the difference was found to be statistically significant (P < 0.05) (Table 1).

				leepiness Scale
	Number	%	X±SD	Significanc
Age				
18-30 years	463	44.0	8.9±3.9	*F=1.559
31-40 years	461	43.8	9.0±3.6	p=0.211
$41 \ge$ years	128	12.2	9.6±4.8	p=0.211
Gender				
Male	876	83.3	9.0±3.8	*t=-0.087
Female	176	16.7	9.0±4.3	p=0.931
Marital Status				
Married	838	79.7	9.1±3.7	t=1.024
Single	214	20.3	8.7±4.5	p=0.306
Educational Status				
Illiterate	19	1.8	9.4±4.7	E 0.000
Primary School	472	44.9	9.2±4.3	F=0.880
High School or above	561	53.3	8.8±3.5	p=0.415
Smoking				
Smoker	540	51.3	9.3±3.7	t=2.801
Non-Smoker	512	48.7	8.6±4.1	p=0.005
Alcohol Use				•
Yes	138	13.1	10.1±4.8	t=3.689
No	914	86.9	8.8±3.7	p=0.001
Duration of Employment	ţ			•
≤ 10 years	674	64.1	8.7±4.0	T 7 7 4 6
11-20 years	309	29.4	9.4±3.4	F=7.745
\geq 21 years	69	6.6	10.3±4.0	p=0.001
Weekly work hours				
48 hours	753	71.6	8.7±3.5	t=-4.361
\geq 48 hours	299	28.4	9.8±4.5	p=0.001
Shift Type				•
Day shift only	167	15.9	7.1±3.1	
Night shift only	76	7.2	9.7±5.1	F=5.442
Rotational shift	809	76.9	9.1±3.7	p=0.028
Overtime (Monthly)				
No overtime	170	16.2	7.5±4.4	
1-16 hours	379	36.0	8.5±3.5	F=15.436
17-32 hours	306	29.1	8.9±4.2	p=0.001
\geq 33 hours	197	18.7	9.9±3.5	E
Presence of occupational d				
Yes	111	10.6	10.8±4.5	t=5.144
No	941	89.4	8.8±3.8	p=0.001
Previous occupational acc				F
Yes*	474	45.1	9.5±3.5	
No	578	54.9	8.6±4.1	t=3.950
Total	1052	100.0	0.0-1.1	p=0.001

Table 1. Comparison of Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Mean Epworth Sleepiness Scale Scores of Shift Workers (N=1052)

* 22.2% of the occupational accidents were sharp object injuries (234 workers) and 22.8% fell (240 workers). *F= ANOVA t-test, *t=Independent-Samples t-test When mean ESS scores of the workers were compared in terms of working hours affecting regular sleep pattern, insomnia affecting health or psychology, feeling psychological burnout during working hours, having an adequate and balanced diet, thinking of having sufficient social relations, shift work affecting family order, spending enough time with children, paying attention to and helping children with their homework, going on vacation with family, and feeling burnout in communicating with family, it was found that the difference was statistically significant (P < 0.05) (Table 2).

			Epworth S	leepiness Scale
	Number	%	X±SD	Significanc
Do your working hours	affect your regular sle	ep pattern?		t=4.673
Yes	710	67.5	9.4±3.8	p=0.001
No	342	32.5	8.2±3.9	
Does insomnia affect you	ır health or psycholog	y?		t=4.107
Yes	753	71.6	9.3±3.8	
No	299	28.4	8.2±4.0	p=0.001
Do you feel psychological burnout during working hours?				t=4.375
Yes	658	62.5	9.4±3.9	
No	394	37.5	8.3±3.8	p=0.001
Do you think you have a	n adequate and balan	ced diet?		t=-1.988
Yes	265	25.2	8.6±4.1	
No	787	74.8	9.1±3.8	p=0.047
Do you pay enough atter	ntion to daily tasks and	d chores?		t=-0.667
Yes	243	23.1	8.8±3.9	
No	809	76.9	9.0±3.9	p=0.500
Do you think your social	relations are sufficien	nt?		t=-3.347
Yes	380	36.1	8.5±3.7	t=-3.347 p=0.001
No	672	63.9	9.3±4.0	
Does your family want y	ou to work on the nigl	ht shift?		t=-1.760
Yes	200	19.0	8.6±3.9	t=-1.760 p=0.079
No	852	81.0	9.1±3.9	
Does shift work affect yo	our family order?			t-2 681
Yes	726	69.0	9.2±3.7	t=2.681 p=0.007
No	326	31.0	8.5±4.2	
Can you spare enough ti	me for your wife?			t-0.200
Yes	313	29.8	9.0±3.7	t=0.309 p=0.751
No	739	70.2	9.3±4.2	
Can you spend enough t	ime with your childre			t=-3.071
Yes	319	30.3	8.4±3.7	t=-3.071 p=0.002
No	733	69.7	9.2±3.9	
Can you help your child				t- 2 221
Yes	242	23.0	8.5±4.0	t=-2.331 p=0.020
No	810	77.0	9.1±3.8	
Do you go on vacation w				t_ 1 152
Yes	291	27.7	8.2±3.5	t=-4.153
No	761	72.3	9.3±4.0	p=0.001
Do you feel burnout in c				t_ 6 105
Yes	899	85.5	8.7±3.9	t=-6.185
No	153	14.5	10.8 ± 3.1	p=0.001

Table 2. Comparison of Some Vital Characteristics of Shift Workers and Mean Epworth Sleepiness Scale Scores (N=1052)

*t=Independent-Samples t-test

When the mean ESS scores and mean BAI scores of the workers participating in our study were compared, it was found that daytime sleepiness levels of shift workers increased as anxiety risk increased, and the difference was statistically significant (P < 0.05) (Table 3).

 Table 3. Comparison of Epworth Sleepiness Scale and Beck Anxiety Inventory Scores of Shift Workers (N=1052)

		Mean Beck Anxiety Inventory Score	
	N, %	X±SD	Significance
		18.1±7.9	
Epworth Sleepiness Scale (0-24)			
10 < points	602 (57.2)	15.1±6.8	F=146.245
$10 \ge \text{points}$	450 (42.8)	24.8±9.9	p=0.001
		Mean Epworth Sleep	piness Scale Scor
		10.4 ± 4.2	
Beck Anxiety Inventory (0-63)			
No anxiety	56 (5.3)	7.1±2.7	F=57.756
Mild anxiety	249 (23.7)	7.6±3.3	p=0.001
Moderate anxiety	356 (33.8)	8.2±3.5	
		10.9 ± 4.0	

There was a positive correlation between the Epworth Sleepiness Scale and the Beck Anxiety Inventory scores. It was found that the risk of anxiety increased as the daytime sleepiness level increased or the risk of anxiety decreased as the daytime sleepiness level decreased (r = 0.631, P < 0.05) (Table 4).

Table 4. The Correlation between the Epworth Sleepiness Scale and Beck Anxiety Inventory Scores of Shift Workers (N=1052)

		Beck Anxiety Inventory (0-63)	
Epworth Sleepiness Scale (0-24)	r	0.631	
	р	0.001	

*Pearson Correlation Test

4. Discussion

In recent years with rapid industrial growth and increasing demand for industrial products, businesses have switched to a shift system to make their production and service offerings continuous and efficient. Although the shift work system generally makes positive contributions to the enterprises, it can have negative effects on the employees. Shift workers experience certain problems due to irregular living conditions, which directly affects the workers and their families, and may have an indirect effect on the continuity of production and service offerings of the enterprises [14]. When the mean ESS scores of shift workers were compared in terms of age, gender, marital status, and educational level, the difference was not statistically significant (P > 0.05) (Table 1). Ghods et al. (2017) found that there was no statistically significant difference between the mean ESS scores and age in their study on workers working in a textile factory (P > 0.05) [19]. The results obtained in this study are consistent with the literature.

Mean ESS scores of the participants were found to be higher in participants with a longer duration of employment, those working at night shifts only, those with ≥ 48 work hours per week, those performing overtime, and those with previous occupational accidents (Table 1). According to a study, it was concluded that working \geq 32 hours a week increases the risk of injury and increase the risk of occupational accidents [20]. One of the most common problems encountered in shift work systems is a sleep disorder. It has been suggested that long-term shift work leads to chronic insomnia [21]. As in many other countries, shift hours can be changed depending on the request of the employer. The average weekly working time is 40 to 48 hours, which can be changed by the employer. Working hours may vary between occupational groups, the private sector, and government agencies. Shift work and long working hours cause serious health problems such as insomnia and fatigue as they disrupt the body rhythm [22]. The results of this study support this notion. The usual sleep period of the human body is between 23:00 and 07:00. Shift workers who are forced to work between these hours cannot fully rest during the day due to environmental factors such as daylight, traffic, and domestic noise [1]. Therefore, these people experience daytime sleepiness. Increased overtime, long years of shift work, and continuous night shifts lead to daytime sleepiness, suggesting that it can significantly increase the risk of occupational accidents. As seen in the results of this study, daytime sleepiness was found to be higher in those who had an occupational accident (9.5 ± 3.5) compared to those who did not have an occupational accident (8.6 ± 4.1) (Table 1).

It was found that participants who stated that their working hours and insomnia affected their sleep patterns and health had higher mean ESS scores compared to others (Table 2). Many health problems arise as a result of distorted circadian rhythm, lifestyle change, work tension, and stress factors associated with shift work [23]. These health problems include chronic diseases such as obesity, cancer, cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, and diabetes mellitus. It is thought that sleep disorder caused by the shift system forms the basis of these physical and mental disorders [24]. Irregular sleep has been reported to be a health problem seen in 3/4 of shift workers. Research indicates that shift work increases stress, decreases sleep quality, and causes health deterioration as a result of sleep disorders [25]. Workers stated that daytime sleepiness negatively affected adequate and balanced nutrition and social and family relations (Table 2). Within shift work, the most significant irregularities in nutrition and diet are observed, especially in individuals working at night [26]. Shift work increases carbohydrate consumption by changing the dietary habits of the workers and leads to irregular eating habits and a decrease in vegetable consumption. Decreased sleep due to shifts, increased wakefulness time creates more time for food consumption and leads to more food consumption than total calories that should be consumed daily [27]. In the cohort study of Lin et al., it was shown that the risk of metabolic syndrome increased approximately 3-fold in these individuals [28]. The human body is structured to carry out daily activities during the daytime and basic activities such as sleep and rest at night. When working at night, this structure shows a change in the opposite direction. Therefore, individuals in this working system have to work at night hours. As a result of this, night work causes positive and negative effects on family and social life as well as the physiological and psychological structure of the individual. Kazemi et al. (2018) found that night shifts detached workers from social life, created problems of adaptation to social life, and these workers could not take care of their families sufficiently [29]. In particular, both men and women working in the family lead to problems in family relations [15]. Another problem is that the majority of social activities are organized for daytime workers, making socializing impossible for individuals working at night. This situation is defined as "social death" for individuals working on night

shifts [15]. Working in the period when social life stops and having to rest in the period it starts are the source of the sociological effects of night work. Since night workers cannot spend enough time with their families during the daytime, they try to take part in social life during the daytime hours when they need to rest and end up going back to work without enough rest. This is undoubtedly the most important factor in occupational accidents that occur during night shifts [26]. The mean ESS score of shift workers is 10.4 ± 4.2 . ESS score of ≥ 10 indicates excessive daytime sleepiness. In this study, it was found that 42.8% (450 people) of workers experienced excessive daytime sleepiness (Table 3). In their study, Halvani, Zare, and Mirmohammadi (2009) found that the mean ESS score of workers with rotational watch duty was 6.9 ± 3.6 [24]. Wu et al. (2012) found that the mean ESS score of Chinese participants was 6.75 and 22.16% had excessive daytime sleepiness [31]. Swanson et al. (2011) found that approximately 18.0% of workers experienced excessive daytime sleepiness [32]. In this study, it is noteworthy that the mean ESS score and the ratio of workers with excessive daytime sleepiness are much higher compared to other studies. Based on these findings, and also taking into account the different requirements of sectors, it can be said that daytime sleepiness rates of the employees are also variable. The development of sleep disorder due to shift work decreases the work efficiency of the person, may cause an increase in occupational and traffic accidents, and thus may present as a serious public health problem.

It was found that anxiety risk increased as daytime sleepiness increased among the workers (Table 3) and a positive correlation was found between BAI and ESS (Table 4). These results indicate that deterioration in sleep quality increases anxiety [33]. Kalmbach et al. (2015) found a significant correlation between daytime sleepiness and anxiety [34]. In another study, a positive correlation was found between sleep quality and anxiety [35]. In the present study, the mean BAI score of the participants was found to be 18.1 ± 7.9 , indicating moderate anxiety (Table 3). Teker and Luleci (2018) found that the mean BAI score of the workers was 8.6 ± 9.9 and there was a moderate correlation between daytime sleepiness level and anxiety [36]. Unlike other studies, the mean anxiety score was higher in the present study. The reasons for high anxiety levels are not only daytime sleepiness or stressful working conditions. Difficulties in family and social life, economic conditions of the country, or dismissal can also influence anxiety levels. Individuals with high anxiety levels may have a decrease in their ability to cope with stress. At the same time, there is a loss of resistance to prevent the emergence of psychological problems. It is thought that the mechanism underlying mental problems is the disruption of circadian rhythm synchronization and psychosocial stress [31]. Based on these results, the H₁ hypothesis "Daytime sleepiness affects some vital characteristics in factory workers working in shifts" is accepted.

5. Conclusion

It was found that the deterioration in sleep quality increased anxiety and the increase in anxiety worsened sleep quality. There was a positive correlation between daytime sleepiness and anxiety.

Since shift work is common in Turkey, the majority of the population is at risk for shift work sleep disorder. Irregular working hours induce strong and rapid effects on sleep and wakefulness. The potential consequences of this circadian rhythm sleep-wakefulness disorder cover health, functionality, performance, and occupational safety as well as a social function of life. Symptoms similar to insomnia may be seen and significant health problems and economic costs due to fatigue accidents and low

productivity may be encountered. Shifts should not be changed before five days to minimize the inconsistency between circadian rhythm and working hours is the main problem in SWSD and to facilitate adaptation to working hours. Shift changes before five days lead to insomnia, chronic sleep deprivation, and hypersomnia. For this reason, it is of great importance that workers in the shift system are selected from individuals who can adapt to this system, the shift times and change periods are arranged following the circadian rhythm, and shift-related sleep disorders are recognized early and effectively treated. Also, employees should be provided with a room where they can rest and relax before and after shifts, the rest period should be kept long, and employees suffering from sleep disorders should be identified and treated. Sleep hygiene training should be included in health improvement practices in the workplace, health promotion programs specific for sectors that can be adopted by the participants such as prevention of tobacco-alcohol use, balanced nutrition, and regular sleep pattern should be established, and further studies should be carried out.

Ethical Considerations

The Clinical Research Ethics Committee approved the study of Gaziantep University (Decision's date and number: 2016/172) and institutional permission was obtained for this study. Before starting the study, the aim of the research was explained to the workers by the researcher and verbal consent was obtained. Questionnaires were filled in 10-15 minutes by face-to-face interviews.

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The study was carried out conformed to all procedures of tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki.

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