Reviewer’s report

Title: Assessment of occupational injuries among Addis Ababa city municipal solid waste collectors: A cross-sectional study

Version: 2
Date: 1 December 2013

Reviewer: Samar Kumar Hore

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions: No major comments

Minor Essential Revisions:
The manuscript is well written on important public health issue. However I have some minor comments on it.

Introduction:
1. In 5th row of the 4th paragraph, by the following statement “(state the size or volume)” – as if someone reviewed earlier and suggested such. So, please fill as suggested.

Result section:
1. About text under heading as “Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents”:
Some of the figures are from table-1. If so, please mention about table-1 in text and describe which figures are being described from the table. General description of figures (not shown in table) could be stated at the beginning of the paragraph.

2. About text under heading as “Occupational safety and behavioral factors”:
a) “No access 72 (83.7%), discomfort 22 (25.6%) and to save time 11 (12.8%) were main reasons mentioned for none use of PPE by the respondents.” – The figures used in this sentence of 3rd row of the 1st paragraph are not clear from the table-2. Also the total percentage exceeds 100 and none of the three values (72, 22 and 11) are found in the table. Please make it clear both in text and table.
b) Last line of 1st paragraph describes as “Only 19 (2.2%) study participants had vaccine for infectious diseases that are risk for cleaning workers.” No mention about vaccination in table-2. Either delete the statement or incorporate in table-2
c) In 1st line of 2nd paragraph- the word “hat” should be deleted from text (as it is not in table or questionnaire) and the whole sentence could be replaced from result section to any other relevant section as text.
d) In last line of 2nd paragraph- please mention the values of all PPE in text. Similarly values could be written in legend within parenthesis against PEP categories of Figure-1.
3. Occupational injury:

“Workers were ………………… from the ground.” –could be deleted as this is repetition of previous text.

Discussion:

In 5th paragraph, the following sentence “Those who had more children might spend more times on duty to satisfy the need or requirements of their large families which might increase the risk of occupational injuries among this group.” Might be correct it or it might be due to extra thinking about their children making absence mindness of the mother causing injury –the prior statement could be validated by analyzing existing variables. Please do that. If correct, keep the sentence as it is.

Table:

1. In table-3: Injury in the past 12 months was comparatively less than that of past one month. Does it indicate recall bias for previous history? Please make it clear in text, may be in discussion section.

2. What does the word “Frequency” (in column heading) mean? Is it # of injury or # of injured person? Please create 2 separate column headings for these 2 types of frequency

Figure:

In figure-2, please put the values on the top or body of the bars. So that the reader can understand easily.

Discretionary Revisions: Nothing such

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests