

**ABSTRACT**

The preliminary observations for years showed that technicians are working in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (EME) Base Workshops have occupational risks caused by unsafe work environment filled with various workplace hazards. Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) is a new science to most of EME workshops. Therefore, this cross sectional study was conducted in three base workshops at Colombo, Katubedda and Udawalava with the purpose of assessing awareness of occupational hazards and use of safety measures among technicians. The mixed method i.e. quantitative and qualitative was adapted in the research. The elimination of hazards as the best way to prevent or control exposure to harmful substances at work may not be practical in all the cases in EME workshops. Therefore, assessment on use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), quality of PPEs, readiness of organization to promote them and low-level managers' knowledge on the subject were conducted to achieve mitigated hazardous working environment. The findings with respect to factors associated with the awareness were highlighted for making recommendations to bridge the information gap. It was learnt that more than 50% of technicians of the sample engaged in their basic trade for minimum four hours per day. The study found that technicians had low level of PPE and hazard knowledge and lack of periodic training on safety aspects. Further, it was found that the managerial approach towards occupational health and safety aspects such as effective intervention, supervision of PPE use, motivate tradesmen for safety practices, adaptation of WHMIS, and maintenance of workshop standards have to be improved. Moreover, all three workshops were full of occupational hazards and not subjected to any mitigation. Therefore, it was recommended to conduct intensified PPE training among tradesmen with effective managerial intervention. The health effects due to occupational hazards and relations to productivity of workshops were future study areas in relation to the discipline.

Key words: Occupational Health and Safety, PPE, WHMIS, tradesmen, EME base workshops.