The Correlation between Knowledge, Attitudes toward Occupational Safety and Health and Near Miss

Hubungan Tingkat Pengetahuan, Sikap Kesehatan dan Keselamatan Kerja dengan Near Miss

Febrina Dewi Safitri, Noeroel Widajati
Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Faculty of Public Health, Universitas Airlangga
Campus C Mulyorejo, Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia 60115

ABSTRACT
Introduction: The results of the research conducted by Frank Bird concluded that every occupational safety and health is preceded by a near-injury occurrence or near miss. Near miss is an incidence that potentially causes loss, which is triggered by direct factors, namely unsafe action, and unsafe conditions, and basic factors, such as workers and works. The workers as a basic factor comprise their knowledge and attitudes towards occupational safety and health-related to personal protective equipment (PPE). Methods: This research is descriptive research that aims to identify the strength of the relationship between the knowledge and attitudes toward occupational safety and health that is related to PPE in the Outfitting Unit at PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya by applying the cross-sectional design. The data is obtained by questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire is distributed to all 30 workers in the Outfitting Unit at PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya. Results: Indicate that the majority of the workers experience a low-level of near-miss (90%), while the other 10% experience a moderate-level of near-miss. The correlation coefficient value as many as 0.149 denotes that there is a weak relationship between the workers’ knowledge of occupational safety and health and near miss. Similarly, the relationship between the workers’ attitudes toward occupational safety and health regarding PPR and near-miss is also a weak relationship with the correlation coefficient value of 0.236. Conclusion: It is affirmed that effective communication between units and the provision of PPE are the factors that cause the occurrence of near-miss in the company.

Keywords: attitude, knowledge, near miss

ABSTRAK

Kata kunci: near miss, pengetahuan, sikap

Author for Correspondence:
Febrina Dewi Safitri
Email: febrinadewi27@gmail.com
Telephone: +6281357811875

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INTRODUCTION

Companies in Indonesia begin to pioneer the occupational safety and health controlling and protection for their workers by realizing the importance of health and safety aspects of the workers to improve the workers’ welfare and productivity. Hazard controlling effort has been done to minimize the risk by considering the results of the previous risk analysis. A hazardous workplace potentially leads to unexpected events and incidents. Consequently, unwanted work accidents can happen from those incidents.

Pioneering the effort of occupational safety and health management requires commitments. Commitment is built from within every aspect in the company, start from the supervisor to all of their working team to always obey the rules, for instance, to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriately.

Personal protective equipment can protect the workers from the exposure of hazardous matters in the work area. Awareness which is built among the workers aims to make the habit of wearing PPE, depending on the workers’ knowledge level so that they understand and aware of the importance of wearing PPE appropriately.

Wearing PPE can reduce the occurrence of near-miss. According to the ILCI theory, the absence of adequate PPE is considered as unsafe action that can trigger the near-miss incident, while the knowledge and attitudes toward occupational safety and health of the workers belong in the worker’s factor, which is the basic cause of near-miss.

According to the East Cambridgeshire District Council (2017), near misses or dangerous events are to cause injuries. Therefore, the reporting is necessary in order to investigate the source of the incident. The investigation aims to identify weaknesses in the safety system, procedures, even the workers’ conditions, and actions.

According to University of Bristol (2016), a near miss is an event that does not instantly cause injuries, but can potentially cause it. These events need to be monitored and investigated to ensure corrective actions to carry out to prevent similar accidents.

Several aspects that need to be noted in a near-miss report according to Environmental Health and Safety (2018) are the reporter, reporting time, near-miss source (due to unsafe action, unsafe condition of equipment, unsafe equipment usage, etc), location of near-miss accident, applicable safety advice, and explanation of the potential hazards at the location. Not only the cause of the occupational accident but also the cause of near-miss accidents must be identified to prevent other occupational accidents (Health and Safety Executive, 2004).

The workers in the occupational and environmental safety and health department at PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya, a shipyard company located in the West Surabaya, often experience near-miss events. In fact, near-miss has the potential to cause injury, morbidity, and death (British Standards Institution, 2007).

Referring to the data, East Java is reported as the province with the highest number of occupational accidents. In 2011 alone, out of all occupational accidents in Indonesia, 9,891 of those occurred in East Java (Data and Information Center of the Ministry of Health, Data and Information Center, 2015).

The difference between an accident and near-miss according to the Pennsylvania Training for Health and Safety (2012) is that there are no losses caused by near-miss events, while accidents cause losses. Those losses may have an impact on workers, company assets, environment, and company reputation. However, both accidents and near-miss events must be reported to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

According to Mbuvi, Kinyua and Mugambi (2015), a near miss is an unplanned event that does not cause injury, pain, or damage but potentially causing it. Nonetheless, there are positive and negative sides of near-miss accidents. The positive aspect includes the improvement opportunities that the company or workplace will get. In this case, the improvements can be in the form of the working environment, the workers’ safety, and health, and the existed occupational safety and health system.

The research conducted by Fitri (2016) stated that the most important aspect in any occupational safety program is the reported near-miss incidents because it leads to the identification, investigation, and improvement of the problems before occupational accidents actually happen. According to Rizky (2003), one of the basic events that lead to the accident is the lack of knowledge.

Thus, based on the background elucidated beforehand, the aim of the research is to identify
the correlation between the knowledge and the attitudes toward occupational safety and health and near-miss in the Outfitting Unit at PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya.

METHODS

This research is descriptive research that applies a cross-sectional design. This research was conducted in the shipbuilding and repair industry in Surabaya, namely PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya or commonly referred to as PT. DPS. The output generated in the Outfitting Unit is ship interior, such as shelves, tables, chairs, doors, pipes, and windows. The stages of work carried out in the unit include welding, sandblasting, and painting. The study was conducted at the riskiest work stage which is at the sandblasting stage.

The population of this research was 30 workers in the Outfitting Unit. Moreover, this research applied total populated sampling, so it did not use a calculation in determining the research sample. The independent variable was the workers’ knowledge level of occupational safety and health and their attitudes toward occupational safety and health that is related to PPE, while the dependent variable was near-miss.

The data used in this research was the primary data collected through questionnaires on the knowledge level and the attitudes toward occupational safety and health that is related to PPE.

The research was conducted from January to February 2018. The questionnaires were collected during the break time at around 11:15 to 13:00 WIB. The data presentation techniques used are coding, checking, entry, and data analysis. The coding was done to put the data easily, then continued with checking the data obtained, starting from the completeness of questionnaire fulfillment and the clarity of the answers from respondents, followed by entering the data into the data processing software. The research data obtained were then analyzed by using statistical calculations through data processing software. The analysis used were univariate and bivariate analysis. Univariate analysis is a statistical analysis used to find out the distribution of the knowledge level of occupational safety and health, attitudes toward occupational safety and health, and near-miss. The results of the analysis were used to identify the strength of the relationship between variables experienced by the workers in the Outfitting Unit.

RESULTS

The results of this research are in the form of the answer to the questionnaire distributed to 30 respondents. The respondents are reported working as sandblaster, painter, welder, and plate cutting workers in the company.

Univariate Analysis

Knowledge Level of Occupational Safety and Health

Table 1. The Distribution of the Workers’ Knowledge Level of Occupational Safety and Health related to PPE in the Outfitting Unit at PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge Level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 explained that almost all of the workers in the Outfitting Unit had a high knowledge level, that is as much as 83.3% or 25 out of 30 people. Additionally, none of the workers had a low knowledge level of occupational safety and health related to EPP.

Attitudes toward Occupational Safety and Health

Table 2. The Distribution of Workers’ Attitudes toward Occupational Safety and Health related to EPP in the Outfitting Unit at PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitudes</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the results of the univariate analysis regarding the attitudes toward occupational safety and health, it can be seen that none of the workers had negative attitudes toward the wearing of EPP. In addition, the
majority of the workers had positive attitudes, that is as many as 20 workers, while the other 10 workers belong to the neutral category of attitudes.

**Near Miss**

**Table 3.** The Distribution of Near Miss Incidents Experienced by the Workers in the Outfitting Unit at PT. Surabaya Dok dan Perkapalan in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Near Miss</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 explained that near-miss incidents experienced by the workers in the Outfitting Unit were mostly considered as the incidents in the low category, that is as much as 90% or 27 out of 30 workers. Meanwhile, none of the workers encountered near-miss accidents that are considered a high category (0%).

**Bivariate Analysis**

**Knowledge Level of Occupational Safety and Health related to PPE**

**Table 4.** Cross-tabulation between the Knowledge Level of Occupational Safety and Health and Near Miss in the Outfitting Unit at PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge Level</th>
<th>Near Miss</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Modera te</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0.767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As seen in table 4, the workers who encountered low category of near-miss accidents were the workers who had a high knowledge level of occupational safety and health related to EPP (76.7%). On the other hand, the workers who had the lowest percentage of encountering near miss were the workers who had moderate knowledge level of occupational safety and health (3.3%).

**Attitudes toward Occupational Safety and Health related to PPE**

Based on table 5, most of the workers that encountered low category of near-miss accidents were the workers who had a high level of attitude of occupational safety and health as much as 63.3% or 19 workers. Meanwhile, there was only one worker who encountered moderate category of a near-miss accident which came from the worker who had a high attitude of occupational health and safety towards PPE, that was as much as 3.3%.

**Table 5.** Cross-tabulation between the Attitudes toward Occupational Safety and Health and Near Miss in the Outfitting Unit at PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attitude</th>
<th>Near Miss</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Modera te</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>63.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After implementing the cross-tabulation analysis between knowledge level of occupational safety and health and near-miss incidents, the next step performed was calculating the strength of the relationship between variables by using the Spearman correlation test. Spearman correlation test was done to prove the closeness of the relationship of one variable with another or independent variable with the dependent one. In addition, the test is also used when the variable has ordinal scale data.

The result showed a strong correlation between the variable of the knowledge level of occupational safety and health related to PPE and the variable of near-miss with the correlation coefficient value of as much as 0.149. Other than that, there was also a correlation between attitudes toward occupational safety and health variable and near-miss variable which correlation coefficient value was 0.236. The categorization of the results was based on the category that is shown in table 6.
Based on table 6, the strength of the correlation between the variable of the knowledge level of occupational safety and health and near-miss was as much as 0.149, which was classified as a weak correlation. Closeness correlation level between the attitudes toward occupational safety and health and near-miss accidents in the Outfitting Unit was as much as 0.236, which was also classified as a weak correlation.

**DISCUSSION**

There are various of the work done in the Outfitting Unit that the PPE work by the workers is varied. For example the sandblasting. The sandblaster must wear the safety face shield and helmet along with hearing protection, as well as the oxygen tube/mask as a breathing source while working. The PPE that the workers must wear in the Outfitting Unit consists of safety helmet, safety shoes, gloves, wear pack or coverall, mask, and face shield, especially for those who work on sandblasting and welding.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is important equipment that is necessary for the workers or the people in the workplace area, whether they are doing fieldwork practice, internship, or visiting. Safety helmet covers the workers’ head from a collision, while coverall protects the whole body from particular exposure, such as chemical matters and dust. Similarly, safety shoes help to cover the workers’ feet from tripping, falling materials, and particular exposure.

PPE decreases the possibility of near-miss accidents. For example, wearing proper safety shoes can minimize the slipping incident. In addition, hearing protection such as earplugs or earmuffs helps the workers to avoid the possibility of deafening. Thus, wearing PPE recklessly can be the factors of the near-miss incident, for example wearing a helmet in an inappropriate way that may cause the helmet to fall and result in tripping.

The awareness of the workers to wear PPE properly starts from the awareness to protect themselves from potential danger that can hurt them. It is necessary to get support from the company by putting the facilities in the form of PPE to build the attitude of wearing appropriate PPE while working.

**Knowledge Level of Occupational Safety and Health**

Knowledge is obtained from the process of sensing and thinking of an object which is seen, touched, felt, smelled, and heard. Thinking makes people understand and aware of the observed object. Knowledge is the result of the individuals that understand and comprehend in cognitive or affective terms (Zins, 2007).

The knowledge of occupational safety and health can be obtained from training, experience, and the school learning process. The majority of the workers in the Outfitting Unit are noticed as high school graduates who already have experiences in applying their abilities and skills into real work situations. In fact, it is known that vocational school graduates have special skills or specialty in particular jobs due to the focusing of learning in high school. Hence, it causes the learning process to become easier and more applicable in the workplace.
The knowledge related to PPE is about the proper wearing of safety helmets, gloves, safety shoes, and earplugs. In accordance with the results of the research, it was stated that 76.7% of the workers who had a high level of knowledge of occupational safety and health related to PPE experienced the low-category of near-miss incidents. The effect of the high knowledge level of occupational safety and health can be seen as a support of the campaign of wearing the PPE properly.

The Spearman correlation test results disclosed a weak correlation between the variable of the knowledge level of occupational safety and health related to PPE and near miss. Apparently, it was caused by the presence of other factors that were more influential in the occurrence of near-miss.

There are other independent variables that have a correlation with the incidence of near-miss. According to the Health and Safety Executive (2007), accidents and near-miss at work happen due to communication problems. In other words, effective communication contributes to a huge factor in the occurrence of near-miss.

The effective communication meant is the communication occurs within the work units or departments, such as production units that discuss work shift, company policies, or less effective work procedures that may trigger problems or errors in working processes that result in a near-miss.

Communication is an attempt to convey the messages from the communicator to the communicant that allows for feedback as a form of reciprocity. In addition, effective communication is an important factor to resolve problems or conflicts in order to build a good relationship. Furthermore, according to the National Interagency Fire Center, there is a way to build effective communication. One example is two-way communication, which depends on the communicator or communicant by considering the strengths and weaknesses of the communicator/communicant. Overall, the purpose of communication is to comprehend and understand each other’s messages. The communicant or communicator tries to provide good feedback and an active listener.

Various factors may affect the effectiveness of communication, such as the type of media they used, verbal and non-verbal communication, and noise or the presence of disturbances in other communications. Building the effective communication regarding occupational safety and health between the superiors to subordinates will form a good understanding for workers related to risks and hazards of work, time span, work goals, vision, and mission of corporate, unsafe actions, and unsafe conditions.

Those understandings form the desire and awareness of behaving safely and healthily at work as the efforts to reduce unsafe actions that lead to the decrease of near-miss accidents. Thus, the workers are able to work more productively along with getting better economic condition. In addition, the availability of PPE supports the awareness of the workers to wear it to create a safer workplace and to minimize near-miss incidents.

Moreover, another variable that becomes the source of the near-miss incident, according to Nik Mahdi et al. (2014), is sleep disturbance. It was investigated in an article entitled “Risk Factors for Near Miss Incident Among Long Distance Bus Drivers in Malaysia.” People who have sleep disorders will have a low quality of sleep and unhealthy condition. Workers who experience sleep disorders will easily lose concentration at work. They feel tired and sleepy faster due to reduced and irregular sleeping hours.

Some of the characteristics of sleep disturbance, according to the Directorate of Health Promotion and Community Empowerment (2017), are loss of focus and concentration, an increase of stress, older skin looks, forgetfulness, and bad condition of health. The tired and drowsy workers increase the occurrence of a near-miss accident because it is considered as unsafe actions. For example, the workers can trip and fall in the workplace due to loss of concentration.

Similarly, workers who get a lack of sleep will experience frequent disremembering. It has the potential of the occurrence of near-miss injuries, for example, workers who put the material carelessly can harm the other workers, such as tripping, hitting, etc.

**Attitudes toward Occupational Safety and Health**

Attitude is passive responses of individuals, whether negative or positive, even agree or disagree with a particular object of thought. The object of thought is gained from the individual’s sensing results. The research about
the attitudes toward occupational safety and health related to PPE focuses on the wearing of PPE, whether it bothers the work process or not, the response of agree or disagree with regard to the company's obligations in providing PPE, the need for procurement of sanctions for workers who do not wear PPE, the importance of using PPE, the exact time of wearing and storing PPE, and the compatibility of PPE used with the applicable standards or procedures.

The Spearman correlation test showed the weak correlation between variables of the knowledge level of occupational safety and health related to PPE and near miss. The research conducted by Pratiwi (2003) disclosed that there was a correlation between PPE provision and near-miss (p-value = 0.032).

Based on the definitions in the Health and Safety Executive (2013), PPE is defined as protection for workers against occupational safety and health risks in the workplace. Facilities that are provided by the company support the campaign of the workers' attitude to put their safety into first priority. If the company provides PPE, the workers will easily wear it before doing the work.

The company's obligation to provide PPE for the workers, visitors, and interns of the company have been written in the Law Number 1 of 1970 on Occupational Safety, so as with the workers' obligations to wear PPE when working. Workers who do not wear PPE will be more likely to experience an accident or near-miss because the worker's body is not protected. These matters are classified as unsafe actions that have the potential for a near miss.

Near Miss

Referring to Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (2007), events that have the potential to cause injury, illness, and death are called near miss or close call. Meanwhile, according to Pertamina Hulu Energi West Madura Offshore (2017), near-miss definition, is an unexpected event that has a potential loss. Every near-miss that occurs must be reported to Quality Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (QHSSE) to prevent ongoing incidents by workers and contractors that work at PHE WMO within a maximum of 2 hours after the event. In other words, a near miss is an event that has the potential to cause serious consequences (Dundalk Institute of Technology, 2012).

Bestowing to Phimister et al. (2003), there are seven stages of near-miss investigation, namely identification, reporting, priority and distribution, source analysis, solution identification, dissemination, and resolution.

In this research, near-miss incidents were scrutinized as the dependent variable. The identified variables of near-miss were the incident of near injury and pain the workers experienced, including the intensity of the worker in violating work procedures, in using damaged tools or machines, in working without proper procedure to get faster result, their ignorance of incident in the workplace, and probability of avoiding harmful incident in the workplace. The latest covered tripping over material across the work area, almost falling from a top floor, working in tired and sleepy condition, and losing the concentration at work.

The majority of the workers in the Outfitting Unit at PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya experienced low category of near-miss, which meant the intensity of near-miss incident rarely occurred or not often. According to the unit manager, the work that has a high intensity of near-miss is sandblasting. Sandblasting is carried out outside or in the workshop, precisely on the sea alongside the ship that needs cleansing from contamination, such as corrosion/rust and peeling paint.

The sandblasters can experience risky incidents, such as slipping and falling into the sea. It will be hard to help them if there is no supervisor or the Health, Safety, Security, and Environment (HSSE) officers. In addition to the risk of slipping, sandblasting workers are also at risk of occupational diseases, for example from exposure to abrasive dust used as sandblast material that may cause silicosis or other lung diseases, depending on the type of the dust or sand itself.

Near miss, the incident has the potential to start the butterfly effect in the workplace. It leads to unsafe conditions or unsafe actions. The role of the company is crucial to improve and develop knowledge and attitudes, even the actions of the workers at work related to occupational safety and health.

The workers who have realized understood and comprehended the importance of health and safety in the workplace will avoid the conditions that have the potential to cause themselves harm. They will do the preventive actions, such as wearing PPE, keeping the focus and concentration while at work, doing the
maintenance of the tools and machines periodically, avoid smoking in the workplace, and always being careful.

CONCLUSION

There are several working departments in PT. Dok dan Perkapalan Surabaya, for instance, sandblasting, painting, and welding. The results of the research indicated that the correlation between the knowledge level of occupational safety and health and the near-miss incident was as much as 0.149 and was classified as a weak correlation. In addition, another factor of the near-miss incident was ineffective communication among the worker. From the results of the Spearman correlation test, the correlation coefficient value between the attitudes toward occupational safety and health and near-miss was as much as 0.236, which was noticed as a weak correlation. Moreover, there was a factor that affected the result of the test, namely the provision of PPE. In fact, the Outfitting Unit worker majority experiences low near-miss incident even though there were still several workers who experience a moderate category.

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