Abstract

Original Article

Health-Related Quality of Life and Associated Factors among the Staff at an Iranian Petrochemical Complex

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Abstract

Background: Health-related quality of life (HRQOL) had not previously been investigated for Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex (BIPC) staff members, who often work in dangerous conditions. The present study examined the relationships of several socio-demographic and health-related characteristics with dimensions of HRQOL for BIPC employees.
Methods: In this cross-sectional study, 370 BIPC employees filled out a paper-and-pencil questionnaire, including questions on sociodemographic characteristics (e.g., gender, marital status, educational level, type of employment, and job tenure), measures of health status (e.g., blood pressure, blood fat, and blood sugar), smoking, and HRQOL. The Persian version of SF-36 was applied to assess HRQOL.
Results: The mean values for the physical functioning, bodily pain, general health, physical role, vitality, mental health, and emotional role domains of HRQOL indicate that the employees' HRQOL is relatively good. Multiple linear regressions revealed that the employees' HRQOL scores decreased with increasing age and educational level. Furthermore, the HRQOL scores were lower for male, single, or part-time employees; for those who had worked at BIPC for more than five years; and for those who were in bad health or who smoked. Among the considered variables, smoking had the strongest negative association with HRQOL.
Conclusions: BIPC employees' HRQOL is relatively good. Furthermore, sociodemographic factors and health are strongly associated with their HRQOL scores. Future petrochemical companies' health studies and risk-adjustment models should adjust for these sociodemographic and health factors when assessing the performance of health care programs.

Keywords: Quality of life, Petrochemical employees, Iran