

ABSTRACT

To assess the knowledge and hygienic practice of workers in bottled drinking water factories in northern district, Yangon division, a cross sectional study was conducted in 2010. A total of 102 production workers from 16 manually bottling drinking water factories were interviewed by using semi-structured questionnaires and their practices during working were observed and assessed by checklist. Factories were also observed and assessed by inspection checklist based on routine checklist form of food and drug administration. Majority of the workers are younger than 24 years of age and were in their basic education level. About 75% of workers had less than 2 year working experience. More than 60% of workers have good knowledge on color, taste and odor of bottled water. Only 60.8% of workers knew the diseases which can be transmitted by drinking contaminated water. Among those 60.8% of workers, less than 40% did not know hepatitis A and typhoid are the diseases that can be transmitted by drinking contaminated water. About 15% and 75% of workers had misconception about HIV/AIDS and malaria respectively that those diseases can be transmitted by drinking bottled water. About 97% of workers did not recognize that proper hand washing was a six step process. Only 61% could identify the source of contamination and half of them did not recognize jewellery and watch as source of contamination. Nearly 40% of workers still used shared towel for drying purpose instead of hand dryer or tissue. The younger age group had less knowledge than older ones and also male workers had lower knowledge than female workers. Knowledge score tend to higher in those groups with longer duration of work. There were 31.25% of factories scoring grade 2, 31.25% of factories scoring grade 3, 25.0% of factories scored for grade 4 and 12.5% of factories scored for grade 5. Approximately 60% of factories were in grade 2 and 3. More than half of the factories did not use standard operating procedure. Health education, close supervision and continuous monitoring in every steps of production should have given to those workers working in these factories to prevent contamination of bottled water from human source