



CONTACT DERMATITIS AND OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES

PATTERN OF DERMATOSES IN TEA PLANTATION WORKERS IN EASTERN NEPAL

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Introduction: The tea industry has 25,000 people working under it. Occupational dermatoses, both infectious and allergic are common in this population.

Aim and Objectives: The aim of this study was to evaluate the pattern of dermatoses in tea garden workers and also to see the prevalence of dermatoses in this group of people.

Methods and Methodology: This study was conducted at Hile, in eastern Nepal, at three tea gardens. All tea plantation workers were informed prior to the visit so that a large number of workers could be examined. On the assigned day workers were enrolled after obtaining informed consent and were examined by two Dermatologists. Treatment was given where needed. The study was conducted after obtaining ethical clearance from the Institutional Ethical Committee of BPKIHS.

Results: The total number of patients seen has 375. Dermatoses were present in 275 patients. Fungal infections were seen in 100 patient, followed by hand eczema, urticaria and scabies. Majority 80% of the ladies had vague complaints of headaches and body aches. There workers were living alone as their husbands were migrant workers.

Conclusion: The dermatoses seen in tea plantation workers were mainly of the infectious and allergic types. As most of the workers were females and their husbands were migrant workers, they had vague complaints too which has to be addressed too.

Keywords: Tea Plantation, workers, pattern, dermatoses

