

TRACER SURVEY ON OSHC-LED BASIC OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (BOSH) TRAINING PARTICIPANTS FROM JANUARY 2013 TO DECEMBER 2015

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Abstract

This descriptive study covered a final list of 2,257 participants who completed the 5-day OSHC-led mandatory BOSH trainings from January 2013 to December 2015. The database was taken from the training directories of all batches conducted by OSHC.

The study utilized an online self-administered structured questionnaire casted through Google Form containing demographic profile of the participants, training topics mostly learned, interventions done by the participants after they attended the training, facilitating and hindering factors for the application of their learnings, and the effects of the training to them after training. The link to the online survey was sent via electronic mail from June to August 2017. Respondents were followed-up through email at an interval of two (2) weeks after the initial sending of the questionnaires.

The research team was able to collate three hundred twenty (320) respondents representing a response rate of 14%. These respondents were composed of two hundred eighteen (218) males (68%) and one hundred two (102) females (32%). Age range of the participants was 24-61 years old with a mean age of 37 years.

The top 5 BOSH topics that were mostly learned by the respondents were (1) Personal Protective Equipment; (2) Unsafe Acts and Conditions; (3) Housekeeping; (4) Occupational Health; and (5) Fire Safety. In addition, the 5 most applied knowledge and skills learned were: (1) identification of unsafe acts and conditions in the workplace and distinguishing appropriate type of PPE needed; (2) identifying safety and health hazards and risks; (3) understanding causes of accidents, injuries, and illnesses; (4) use of fire extinguisher; and (5) housekeeping. Communication and inadequate resources are the most important facilitating and hindering factors for the respondents.

After taking the course, the respondents appreciated the importance of having and improving OSH policies and programs in their workplaces and to have a safe and healthy workplace in their companies. Through this training, they can advocate OSH in their respective workplaces through crafting and implementing OSH policies and programs, complying with OSH Standards as amended along with the submission of DOLE reportorial requirements. Meeting the objectives of the training qualify them and help gain confidence of the participants in carrying out their expected roles being an OSH practitioner. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the respondents were interested to apply as an accredited OSH practitioner but only twenty-four percent (24%) applied to become an accredited OSH practitioner. Twenty-nine percent (29%) were hired by the company as safety officer.

Respondents gained much knowledge in varied topics especially on unsafe acts and unsafe conditions, identification of occupational health hazards, personal protective equipment,

housekeeping, and fire safety. The objectives of the training were met since BOSH topics learned from the training are essential to awareness, appreciation, and application of OSH policies and programs to their respective companies. The level of technicality of the topics, capacity of the participants to apply what they learned plus the facilitating and hindering factors influenced the degree of implementation of OSH to their workplaces and have an effect for their decision to apply for OSH practitioner.

An in-depth study on the outcome of BOSH participants who were interested to apply as an accredited OSH practitioner to include extensive analyses of the facilitating and hindering factors for their application of their BOSH learnings is recommended. Moreover, increasing the retrieval rate will also be beneficial for a better representation of the data. Strengthening implementation of Department Order 16 series 2001 in requiring safety officers in companies to attend mandatory BOSH training will be an advantage to BOSH graduates in providing opportunities for them to become OSH practitioners. Promoting the advantages and benefits of being an OSH practitioner through an attractive career path will increase demands for application of OSH practitioners; Lastly, developing and implementing measures to strengthen linkages and partnership with industries through networking and supporting job referral system with industries needing BOSH graduates and OSH practitioners will be very helpful to address demands of OSH practitioners.