

SURVEY AND CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY ON NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS OF POLICE CONSTABLES AND OFFICERS WORKING IN HEAVY TRAFFIC AREAS-AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

The traffic noise on existing urban road-ways lowers the quality of life and property values for persons residing in vicinity of these urban corridors. Road traffic noise in big cities is an important issue. Automobiles are important source of noise pollution. It is high time to realize the importance of protection against noise pollution on both local and global bases. Nellore city is a fast growing city in Eastern coast of India . However the pollution has increased in nowadays .In this aspects the present study aims to find the prevalence of hearing loss in police constable and officers working in heavy traffic areas(60db) and to correlate the hearing loss with duration exposure to noise. A survey based cross sectional study conducted in the Department of ENT, Narayana Medical College, Nellore during 2013-14 .A total 60 respondents were considered for the study with prior permission from the government or competent authority. The respondents were categorized in to two groups and Viz., Constables, Assistant Sub inspector and Traffic Inspector. In this study 24 complaints of tinnitus or ringing in the ear and only 3.3 % complaints of deafness. 05 respondents had mild to moderate high frequency sensorineural hearing loss, and affected mainly frequencies of 4-6 KHz. Among 10 mild hearing loss cases, (16.66 %) have had duration of exposure between 6-10 years, 2/24 (8.33%) had duration of exposure between 11-15 years and 4/ 24(16.66%) had duration of exposure between 16-20 years.

The present study concludes that, Hearing loss is very common in police constables and police officers who are working in heavy traffic zones. The measures that can be implemented to reduce the prevalence of hearing loss include; Mass transportation, Distribution of traffic

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