Sewer Safety

Greetings.

According to surveys hundreds of sewer workers are dying every year in the country due to health hazards include exposure to harmful gases such as methane and hydrogen sulfide, cardiovascular degeneration, musculoskeletal disorders like osteoarthritis changes and intervertebral disc herniation, infections like hepatitis, leptospirosis and Helicobacter, skin problems, respiratory system problems and altered pulmonary function parameters.

This can be prevented through engineering, medical and legislative measures. While the engineering measures will help in protecting against exposures, the medical measures will help in early detection of the effects of these exposures. This can be partly achieved by developing an effective occupational health service for this group of workers. Also, regular awareness programs should be conducted to impart education regarding safe work procedures and use of personal protective devices.

In Hyderabad, on behalf of the National Academy of Construction (NAC), we have successfully delivered awareness program for Hyderabad Metro Waterworks and Sewerage Board over 120 sewer workers.

During the program and interactions, we found that there are bottlenecks with respect to safety in work areas and provision of proper Personal protective equipment and tools such as a tripod. Our program design is suitable for not for supervisory cadre but also for minimum or illiterate workers.

The program contents designed in such way:

The program approach is counselling type (so that the participant will understand the things clearly)

Highlights:

- Workplace health hazards with live examples and preventive measures, occupational vaccination, etc. (as per WHO recommendations)
- Using of proper PPE and handling methods by using Tripod and other tools
- Understanding confined space
- Judging of work environment and gas levels (based on OSHA standards) and procedures
- Accessing the dangers
- Work permits and incident reporting
- PPE checks lists
- Human anatomy (basics)
- Emergency response and first aid
- Also covers Unsafe acts in Industrial, electrical – house hold and on road.