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Occupational Health Challenges Among Auto-Rickshaw Drivers in Agartala: A Letter to the Editor

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It is a pleasure writing a Letter to the Editor for the published article: **Debbarma D, Mitra S. Occupational health problems of the auto-rickshaws service providers in Agartala city: a case study of Nagerjala motor stand. Int J Cur Res Rev. 2017;9(22):16-21.**

The aim of this study was to identify the health problems among the auto-rickshaw service providers in relation to their age and the number of hours put in driving the auto rickshaws. Drivers spend a considerable amount of time in an environment full of pollutant gases, noise, continuous cacophony, and whole-body vibration. Further harmful life-styles are practiced like the irregularity of meals, no proper restrooms, awful quality of sanitary toilets, bad posture while driving, and stressful occupational conditions during their working hours. Long hours on the road contribute to occupational health hazards, and the study was conducted through the interview method and obtained data were analyzed with the help of statistical tools. Authors need to be congratulated as there have been very few studies about the short distance auto-rickshaw drivers.

Table-1 should have been split up into many tables so as to pinpoint the problems faced by the persons surveyed. The age-specific distribution has been shown but the Chi-square, Delta, and CoV have not been explained. Musculoskeletal problems have been identified as the major problem and have been split up into back pain, knee pain, wrist pain, shoulder pain, chest pain, and other health problems have also been stated. In each of the rows, Chi-square, Delta and CoV have been given but not explained. So, the age-specific problem cannot be understood. As the individual is subjected to whole-body vibration over a long period in odd postures, musculoskeletal problems are expected. Ergonomic studies would have enhanced pin-pointing the problem and taking remedial measures.

The authors have made a good initial study on a burning problem. However, this may be a starting point for a prospective longitudinal survey in association with medical professionals. Health Education may be given to auto drivers so that they may avoid many of the health problems that have been identified.