Digital application as an occupational safety tool

Background During the past few years, the incidents of extreme violence and unintentional injuries have raised the need for more developed measures to audit and analyze the threat of injuries the threat, injuries and accidents at schools that are teachers´ work environments. New innovative safety procedures are needed. At the same time the society and also the school environment are getting strongly and rapidly digitalized.

There are various multi-sectoral target programs and action plans for safety and injury prevention in Finland. There is a strong leadership to support the existing infrastructure on occupational safety, yet more emphasis should be put on implementation of the plans and programs. Practical measures should be used to enhance the safety culture in occupational issues. Enhancing the safety culture means, not just theoretical background and attitude, but also ability to act.

Objectives The aim of this study is to present what kind of reporting tools have been developed in Finland to enhance teachers´ occupational safety. Firstly, a set of forms was developed to find out the form of violence that teachers face during their work day. Secondly, to enhance injury prevention we need to know exactly where and how these injuries happen. These incidents are systematically recorded with a digital web-based application. The application enables users to analyze the accidents and find solutions to enhance occupational safety.

A browser-based near miss, injury and accident audition tool, was designed in co-operation with the specialists in early and basic education and other school authorities. The purpose of this pilot usability study is to describe, how the audition tool works (1), what kind of injuries are audited with the tool (2) and what kind of practical actions were carried out (3).

Results: The very first results indicate that occupational injuries and accidents at school context can be audited and analyzed with the help of a digital tool. A browser-based application suits well for data gathering as well as data analysis.

Key words: occupational safety, violence, working environment, safety pedagogics, every-day accidents,