

## 24 - THE SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CONDITIONS AND THE WORK OF GARBAGE COLLECTOR AND GARBAGE SWEEPER

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### Introduction

Garbage collectors and garbage sweeper, they are professional that conserve the cleaning and of the public areas, through the collection, sweeping and washes, caring for the safety and the people's patrimony. That work tends becoming growing as it increases the population (6).

Those professionals belong it a group of situation of social exclusion, exposed to risks and damages the health. Not only produced them by the effects of the garbage (solid residues), as well occupational ones, being them: breathing compromisings (9;10;11), muscle-skeletal disease (10; 12), pathologies of the column (13; 14), cardiovascular disease (15), tabagism and alcoholism (14; 12; 16); hepatitis B (17), grip, dermatosis and neuroses (18) and urinary disease (16).

Given the form of insert of the country, in the global process, we can say that the studies done previously don't correspond more to the demand of those professionals' work, becoming necessary a new investigation, more detailed on the conditions of health and occupational diseases in a general way, about the conditions of health of the "garbage colector", mainly of those that live out of the municipal district of São Paulo.

Like this being, the present study has as general objective to analyze the influence of the socioeconomic-cultural conditions and of work in the process health-disease. For so much, the specific objectives were drawn: to verify the socioeconomic conditions of the collectors and sweeping of solid residues; to study the conditions of health of the collectors and sweeping; to establish the offences to the health due to their activities works; to study the occurrence of work accidents, number of removals and day of the week in that happen; to verify the use of equipments of individual protection, and to find subsidies so that those professionals' epidemic profile is drawn.

### Methods

For the accomplishment of the study, it was counted on 79 workers (n=79), of both sex, with activities in garbage collection and garbage sweeper, being convenience samples. To the they be invited her participate in the research, the same ones were informed as for the content and importance of the study and, of the need of his/her consent. For so much a Term of Consent was filled out, based on the Resolution 196/96 of Conselho Nacional de Saúde (M.S.), in the intention of preserving the subject's rights in the research.

So that if it could draw those professionals' profile, opted for a structured interview using the direct collection method, through the making of a form, containing questions lenses, that were used as variables for the study.

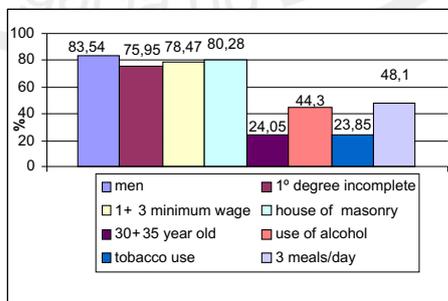
The accomplishment of the collection of data happened "in loco", during the schedule and execution of the work, in other words, in the streets, tends in view that, the companies, responsible for the removal of solid residues negotiated, they were not interested" in participating in the research.

Basing on the epidemic methodology, its took place a study of the type traverse, epidemic descriptive, remak and inductive, in way to facilitate the analysis of the data that served as subsidies so that those professionals' epidemic profile was drawn.

The data, after having compiled, they were presented in tables and/or graphs of simple frequency, what turned possible the visualization and the understanding of the situation in numbers and percentages. The average was calculated, that it was done necessary, to have an analytical vision of the results.

### Results and Discussion

In the Graph 1 it is the distribution in percentage of the socioeconomic and cultural conditions of the garbage collectors and garbage sweeper. In the delineament of the profile of the garbage collectors and garbage sweeper, it can be observed that the activities are executed mainly by male workers (83,54%), maybe in function of the physiologic load of work (7) to be high, determining that it should be executed by men (14; 19; 5).



**Graph 1.** Distribution in percentage of the socioeconomic and cultural conditions of the garbage collectors and garbage sweeper, in Grande São Paulo - SP, 2005.

As for the age distribution, the average of observed ages was of 32 years, very close value of the found by Ilário (1989), where it measured was her of 36 years. In what it concerns to the instruction degree, 40,41% of the interviewees possessed to the third series of the fundamental teaching and 8,86% were illiterate, while in the studies accomplished by Gir et al (1991), they found 65,86% and 6,8%, respectively. However, the Brazilian Classification of Occupations (2002), he/she suggests that these professionals have, in the minimum, the fourth series of the fundamental teaching. That percentile one so high it seems to confirm the old sayings of the parents to the they refer "that not to study, its will be a garbage collector when it grows", marking like this a stigma that can also be taken to the companies. However, some professionals told that in the search for Iso 9001, her

company was motivating the conclusion of the studies, offering as incentive position promotions.

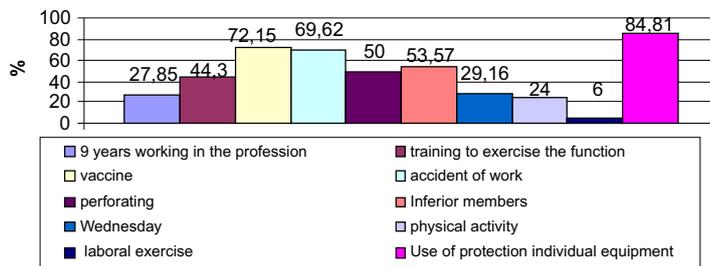
In relation to the family income, it was observed that the great majority (78,47%) they accepting from one to three minimum wages, as well as Robazzi et al (1994) and Porto et al (2004), their a lot of times wages are the only source of income of her home, what can force them to look for another paid activity, as to "seek" cans and to do bricklayer's in the weekends.

Already, in relation to the home, it was observed that 77,22% seem to be own houses, most of the time in ownership lands or invasion, being served by treated water, sewerage system, service of garbage collection and electric power, being this through "cats" happening the same with the ones that possessed treated water, already the case of the garbage collection, that he feels through community garbage cans. Those data coincide with found them by Porto et al (2004).

A date controversial die refers to the amount of workers that they don't ingest drunk alcoholic, in function of the responsible companies for the public cleaning individuals of religions that don't make use of alcohol and tobacco be negotiating. Studies accomplished by Ilário (1989); Robazzi et al (1994); Velloso et al (1997) and Santos (2001), they also told the use of alcohol among those professionals. However, Ilário (1989), can notice that he/she enters the workers 24,40% were tabagists and in the present study, it is noticed that 27,85% do use of the tobacco, noticing that the difference among the studies is minimum.

It can be noticed that about 29% of the individuals make only two meals a day, what is not enough to supply their nutritional needs, when we took into account the physiologic load of work weighed (ANJOS; FERRREIRA, 2000), what can justify the occurrence of work accidents, as they tell Escoda (2000); Martins (2002) that associate the bad nutrition to the work accidents, besides causing also, gastrintestinal problems (16).

In the Graph 2, is the distribution in percentage of the conditions of the collectors and sweeping of solid residues, being able this to demonstrate that the time of branch in this activity varied a lot, however 27,85% work there is more than nine years in this profession, suggesting that the workers didn't look for other professions, given this discussed also by Ilário (1989), where 32% work in the same profession there is more than seven years.



**Graph 2.** Distribution in percentage of the conditions of work of the garbage collectors and garbage sweeper , in Grande São Paulo - SP, 2005.

In the studies on the occupational risks and of the work the one that is submitted, Velloso et al (1997), they discuss that the main risk is the lack of appropriate training, what turns them impotent to demand preventive measures and better work conditions, given this that can also be evidenced in the found studies, where only 44,30% accomplished training before they enter in the profession.

In relation to promotion and prevention of diseases, we can observe that among the workers interviewees, only 27,85% of the companies didn't request any vaccine, in other words, they didn't promote health to their employees.

The work accidents in our country should be communicated immediately after her occurrence through CAT (Communication of Accidents of Work), that they should be directed Social welfare, to the accident victim, to the union of the corresponding category, to the hospital, to SUS (Unique System of Health) and to Department of Labor (24). However, in if treating of collectors and sweeping of solid residues, Velloso et al (1997), they show that many workers thought "a cut" would be without importance, then they don't notify the companies the suffered accident.

As well as Robazzi et al (1992), it is noticed that the workers suffer work accidents at least once.

Already in relation to the place of attack of the work accidents, studies accomplished by Robazzi and Becheli (1985); Tolossa and Mendes (1991) and Robazzi et al (1993) they seem to confirm the attacked places found in our study where 53,57% of the individuals disease the inferior members, and in a general way they happen due to materials perforate, and Martins (2002), it supposes that that happens due to the terrible packaging of materials in the garbage sack.

A die found quite controversial it refers to the occurrence of accidents on Wednesdays, and the workers explain that they are more attentive to Mondays and Tuesdays, because they are the days in that they remove the refuses of the weekends, and when they arrive on Wednesday, they are very inattentive due to the decrease of the amount of garbage sacks, making them be more susceptibility to you alter of work.

It was observed that nor all the workers made use of equipment of individual protection (EPI), and some workers alleged that the use of the gloves caused her "allergies" and they disturbed enough during the service, and several authors tell the problem in relation to the use of EPI for these professionals (13; 12; 5; 16; 8; 16).

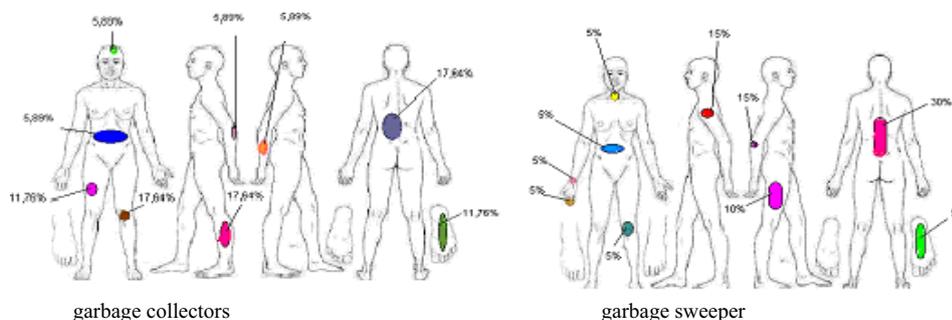
In what concerns the physical activity, Bergamaschi et al (2002), they tell to be this an intervention form for the problems of health related to the work, because it is through her that the workers can recover their forces and to relax. However, in this occupational class, he could meet an obstacle for his practice: the time, due to the long work days.

Bergamaschi et al (2002) they tell although with the fatigue, he settles the physical and mental exhaustion leaving the predisposed people to alter, to develop or to worsen diseases as the stress and RSI (repetitive stress injury).

To soften this problem, Cañete (1996), suggests that laboral gymnastics is accomplished, that consists in exercises accomplished by the worker in the own work place, during the day, acting in a preventive and therapeutic way in the cases of RSI, without taking the worker to the fatigue, for to be of short duration and to work more the prolongation and the compensation of the muscular structures more involved in the daily occupational tasks.

The Graphs 3 show the areas of the body in that the collectors and sweepers refer to have or to be feeling pain and this is understood as a sensorial and emotional experience unpleasant related as damage real or potential of some fabric or that it is described in terms of such a damage (25).

**Graph 3.** Distribution, in percentage, of the part of the body that the garbage collectors and garbage sweeper of solid residues they tell to have or to be feeling some pain.



### Conclusions

- It could be suggested that the socioeconomic conditions and of work they are getting better progressively, even if still notice an income of one to three minimum wages, the purchase power seems to have increased, therefore many workers tell to have own house (same that being in ownership lands or invaded);

- In what refers to the cultural conditions, this still comes lowers could be this an offence factor to the health, that can be observed by the frequency of departures to the doctor (they only frequent when they are very sick);

- In relation to the conditions of health, it can be noticed that these present great deficits, could be due to the low promotion of health the one that these professionals are submitted;

- Due to their activities you work, the offences to the health seem to be present, because their indicators as in the case of RSI, they seem to be in many professionals;

- As for the use of equipments of individual protection, it seems there to be larger conscience of his use, so much on the part of the workers, as on the part of the companies;

- The amount of work accidents, seems to be decreasing, however they still happen usually on Wednesdays, and most of the individuals had a removal of at least one week;

- After the making of this work, they could meet subsidies to draw those professionals' profile, being the collectors all of the masculine gender, and among the sweepers, she is a minority of the feminine gender; they are 32 years old on average; natural of the southeast area; they are or they were already married; they possess from one to three children; they made the first incomplete degree; they present a salary income of one to three minimum wages, they possess masonry house and with basic sanitation, they work in this profession three years ago and they don't make use of alcohol and tobacco.

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#### **THE SOCIALECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CONDICTIONS AND THE WORK OF GARBAGE COLLECTOR AND GARBAGE SWEEPER ABSTRACT**

The garbage collector and garbage sweeper, is a professional that conserves the public park clean by means of collect, sweeping and washing. The absence of works, that boarding the socioeconomic and cultural aspects that carries to the appearing of pathologies in this professional population, carry to the making of this work. Compounded by 79 workers of collect and sweepingof garbage, was used a form, so that could inquire the real condition of life of this workers. The obtained results show that the majority (83,54%) are men; and with rent of one or three minimum salary (78,47%); (55,70%) don't realized trainement; 30,38% at once get injured in the service; being that; 79,16% had retirement of one week cut and perfusion (50%); in lower limbis, principally at Wednesday (29,17%); although argue the use of EPI (85,76%); 34% related intensive and continue pain in vertebral column during the performance of work. The obtained results suggested that the socioeconomic and cultural lower level, can interfere in físcal mental and social, condition, propitiating favourable conditions to the appearing of several damages to health.

KEY-WORDS: garbage collector, garbage sweeper; worked health

#### **LE CONDICTION ÉCONOMIQUE ET CULTUREL SOCIAL ET LE TRAVAIL D'ÉBOUEUR ET BALAYEUR DES ORDURES RESUMÉ**

L'éboueur et balayeur des ordures, est professionnel qui conserve le public garez propre au moyen de rassemble, en balayant et lavant. L'absence de travaux, cette pension les socioeconomic et aspects culturels qui portent au paraître de pathologies dans cette population professionnelle, portez à la fabrication de ce travail. Composé par 79 ouvriers de rassemblez et balayer d'ordures, a été utilisé une forme, afin que puisse interroger la vraie condition de vie de ceci ouvriers. Les résultats obtenus montrent que la majorité (83,54%) est des hommes; et avec location d'un ou trois salaire minimum (78,47%); (55,70%) faites trainement ne se rendre compte pas; 30,38% sont blessés à la fois dans le service; être cela; 79,16% avaient retraite d'une semaine coupée (50%); dans limbis du lower, principalement à mercredi (29,17%); bien que débattre l'usage d'EPI (85,76%); 34% apparenté intensif et continue la douleur dans colonne vertébrale pendant la performance de travail. Les résultats obtenus ont suggéré que le socioeconomic et niveau inférieur culturel, peut perturber dans físcal mental et social, conditionnez, le favorable du propitiating conditionne au paraître de plusieurs dégâts à santé.

MOTS-CLEF: éboueur, balayeur des ordures; santé travaillée

#### **LAS CONDICIONES SOCIOECONOMICAS Y ASPECTOS CULTURALES Y DE TRABAJO DE BASURERO Y BARRENDERO DE BASURA RESUMEN**

El basurero y barrendero de basura, es un profesional que conserva las calles limpie por medio de colecciona, mientras barriendo y lavando. La ausencia de trabajos, ese entablado socioeconomico y los aspectos culturales que llevan al aparecer de patología en esta población profesional, lleve a la fabricación de este trabajo. Compuesto por 79 obreros de colecciona y basura de basura, se usó un formulario, para que pudiera inquirir la condición real de vida de esto obreros. La muestra de los resultados obtenida que la mayoría (83,54%) es los hombres; y con la renta de un o tres sueldo mínimo (78,47%); (55,70%) haga el entreinamiento comprendido; se dañan 30,38% en seguida en el servicio; siendo eso; 79,16% tenían jubilación de una semana cortada y horado (50%); en los miembrosinferiores, principalmente a miércoles (29,17%); aunque sostiene el uso de EPI (85,76%); 34% relacionado intensivo y continúa el dolor en la columna vertebral durante la actuación de trabajo. Los resultados obtenidos sugirieron que el socioeconomico y el más bajo nivel cultural, puede interferir en estado físico, mental y social, condicione, propiciando las condiciones favorables al aparecer de varios daño y perjuicios a la salud.

PALABRAS-LLAVES: basurero, barrendero de basura; trabajo y salud.

#### **CONDIÇÕES SOCIOECONÔMICAS - CULTURAIS E DE TRABALHO DOS COLETORES E VARREDORES DE RESÍDUO SÓLIDO RESUMO**

Os coletores e varredores de resíduos sólidos são profissionais que conservam a limpeza e higiene de logradouros públicos por meio da coleta, varrição e lavagens, zelando pela segurança e patrimônio das pessoas. A falta de trabalhos que abordem os aspectos socioeconômicos e culturais que levem ao desencadeamento de patologias nesta população profissional, levou a confecção deste trabalho. Composto por setenta e nove trabalhadores da coleta e varrição de resíduos sólidos foi utilizado um formulário, de modo que se pudesse averiguar as reais condições de vida desses trabalhadores. Os resultados obtidos demonstraram que, a maioria (83,54%) são homens; com uma renda de um a três salários mínimos (78,47%); a maioria (55,70%) não realizou treinamento; 30,38% já se acidentaram durante o serviço; por cortes e perfurações (50%) em membros inferiores, principalmente as quartas-feiras (29,17%); apesar de alegarem o uso de EPI (85,76%); cerca de 34% referem dor intensa e contínua na coluna vertebral durante a execução do serviço. Os resultados obtidos sugerem que o baixo nível socioeconômico e cultural pode intervir no estado físico, mental e social, propiciando condições favoráveis para o aparecimento de diversos agravos a saúde.

PALAVRAS-CHAVES: Coletores de resíduos sólidos; varredores de resíduos sólidos; saúde do trabalhador.