Occupational Health & Safety Injuries and Illnesses in Pakistan

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International Labour Organisation defines

Occupational <u>injury</u> as "any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an occupational accident".

An occupational <u>disease</u> was defined as "a disease contracted as a result of an exposure over a period of time to risk factors arising from work activity".

International Labour Organisation 1998. (ABS, 2008)

TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH FROM THE ENVIRONMENT

12.6 million deaths caused by the environment are due to noncommunicable diseases

10th



#EnvironmentalHealth



Sectors at Risk in Pakistan

- Major industrial sectors and work places
 - Textile units
 - Dyeing units
 - Tanneries
 - Paint industry
 - Chemical plants
 - Pesticide formulation
 - Printing press

- Maintenance workshops
- Waste recycling units
- Pharmaceutical sector
- Automobile manufacturing



Risk to Workers in Pakistan

- High risk Population: Powerless, illiterate, Children, Bonded labor, Women, Workers in small businesses
- Medical Care/Rehab: Inadequate
- Motor vehicles/Machines/Chemical: Unsafe, Banned
- Workplaces: Hazardous, No Safety Measures

National Health Survey of Pakistan (NHSP), 1990-94

Variables	Overall	
	% (SE)	
Place of injuries		
Home	41.8 (2.6)	
Road traffic/Street	37.6(2.7)	
Workplace/farm/fields	13.0(1.6)	
School	3.2(0.8)	
Others	4.4(0.9)	
Type of injuries		
Fall	48.6(2.8)	
Poisoning	7.1(3.0)	
Burn	3.2(0.6)	
Other*	41.1(2.96)	

Exposures among textile workers









Research on health of textile workers

- Nafees AA, Fatmi Z. Available interventions for prevention of cotton dust-associated lung diseases among textile workers. [Systematic review]. J Coll Physicians Surg Pak. 2016.
- Nafees AA, Fatmi Z, Kadir MM, Sathiakumar N. Chronic bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) among textile workers in Karachi, Pakistan. J Coll Physicians Surg Pak. 2016.
- Tanzil S, Nafees AA. Low prevalence of asthma among textile workers in Karachi, Pakistan. J Pak Med Assoc. 2015.
- Nafees A.A., Fatmi, Z., Kadir, M. M., & Sathiakumar, N. (2013). Pattern and predictors for respiratory illnesses and symptoms and lung function among textile workers in Karachi, Pakistan. Occup Environ Med, 70(2), 99-107.



Respiratory symptoms and illnesses among textile workers (n=372), Karachi, Pakistan, 2010

Conditions	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sputum	48	13
Wheeze	83	<u>22</u>
Shortness of breath	78	<u>21</u>
Byssinosis	39	<u>10.5</u>

RESEARCH ARTICLE



Open Access

Respiratory symptoms and illnesses among brick kiln workers: a cross sectional study from rural districts of Pakistan

Shiraz Shaikh¹, Asaad Ahmed Nafees^{1*}, Vikash Khetpal², Abid Ali Jamali², Abdul Manan Arain² and Akram Yousuf²

Risk factors for chronic respiratory conditions among brick-kiln workers; Sindh, 2012			
Type of work	Chronic bronchitis	Asthma	
Baking	4 times greater risk	4 times greater risk	
Molding	3 times greater risk		



Figure 1. Outdoor and indoor $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations by type of venue (n=20), Karachi, Pakistan, 2009.



Workplace injuries





Repetitive Stress Injuries



Pakistan Labor Force Survey (2014-15)

Percentage of employed persons >10 years by status of occupational injuries/diseases

- 4% overall (3.6% males, 0.4 females)
- 41% self-employed, 40% employee and 18% Family work
- Agriculture (48%), construction (16%), manufacturing (16%), transport/storage (7%)
- Skilled agricultural (43%), crafts and related (20%), elementary occupation (20%)
- Consulted a doctor (59%), took the time off-work (21%), hospitalized (8%)

Occupational Injury Prevention Model



Occupational Health Surveillance

- PESSI and SESSI
 - Pattern and trend of occupational diseases and condition of industrial exposures.
 - Better management of occupational health records for better management of occupational health related issues.
 - Capacity development within the government social security institutes for industries



Thank You!

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