

workers in a semiconductor manufacturing industry reported abnormal health effects of hazard exposure such as abortion, ectopic pregnancy, or stillbirth. In four textile establishments in the Philippines showed high concentration of cotton dust, high level of noise in the weaving areas, and toxic chemicals in bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing processes. Women in the garment industry were found to be exposed to extreme heat, dust from textile fibres, and ergonomic hazards. In a study conducted in major leather tanneries in the Philippines, results showed that tanneries were unhygienic, damp, with pungent odour, had poor housekeeping, and practiced improper disposal of chemicals. Workers were not given personal protective equipment even when handling toxic chemicals such as sulfuric and formic acids, ammonia, and chromium. In the mines, workers reported of being hit by falling objects, suffocation from chemical fumes, and crushing injuries. The study also looked into small scale and informal industries such as tanning, laundry shops, pyrotechnique manufacturing and the like. Special segments of the labour force including the women workers, child labourers and migrant workers were also covered. In all these sectors and industries, the study showed attendant occupational diseases and injuries arising from occupational hazards.

Conclusions The study tried to show more complete data on occupational health and safety in the Philippines considering that there is insufficient collection of OHS data by concerned government agencies.

382 ASSESSMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY SITUATION IN READY-MADE GARMENT SECTOR OF BANGLADESH

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Background The Ready-made Garment (RMG) industry is Bangladesh's greatest contributor to gross domestic product growth and has played a significant role in the country's improved performance against world development indicators. The industry represents 75 percent of Bangladesh exports and employs almost 4 million people. For this large number of population occupational safety is a major concern. This study was conducted to assess the current occupational safety situation of RMG sector.

Methods The study was conducted in 10 RMG of Dhaka district since June to September 2014 by utilising qualitative and quantitative methods. 10 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and 390 face to face interviews using structured questioner were conducted with workers.

Results Qualitatively it was revealed that all 10 factories had workers' welfare committee; they provided counselling on occupational safety and arranged training program on health safety issues. According to the participants there were supervisors in each working unit whose responsibility was to remind them about wearing musk, hand gloves, needle guard and uniform. From quantitative data it was found that 86% of total participants received counselling related to job during joining. Among them 81% received information on occupational safety, 54% on cleanliness and 27% on nutrition. Among all the participants 41% received training on fire safety, 21% general wellbeing and only 6% received on first aid. 88% of the participants said they

saw different safety related posters including fire safety, personal protection equipment, hygiene and first aid.

Conclusions Occupational safety is now a major concern for readymade garments sector of Bangladesh. They emphasises on counselling session during joining and some emergency training program but on much selected topics. Now they need to focus on situation base training and ensure the participation of every worker in this type of programme.

383 INCIDENCE AND INJURY PATTERNS AMONG ELECTRONIC WASTE WORKERS IN INFORMAL SECTOR IN IBADAN, NIGERIA

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Background Electronic waste (e-waste) are an electrical and electronic device that are unwanted by the original owner, and are at the end of their useful life. Large quantities of e-waste are being managed in Nigeria using rudimentary techniques by informal e-waste workers (repairers and dismantlers) who work without personal protective equipment (PPE) or safeguard to their health and environment. Therefore this study assessed the incidence and patterns of work-related injuries among e-waste workers in informal sector in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Methods This cross-sectional study adopted a multi-stage sampling method to select 89 respondents. Questionnaire was used to obtain information from the respondents. This study reports injury among e-waste workers one week preceding the study.

Results Mean age of respondents was 33.9 ± 11.3 years, 98.9% of the participants were males, and 78.7% had post-primary education; repairers were 53.9% and dismantlers 46.1%. Thirty-five (39.3%) workers sustained at least an injury within one week of the study. Common types of injuries sustained were cuts (40.4%), bruises/contusions (22.5%) and electric shock (18%). Injuries were mainly caused by sharps (62.9%), electric current (20.2%) and blunt trauma (17%). Majority of injuries (80.9%) occurred on the hands/fingers. About 41% (37) of workers reported using PPE and of these 58.3% used PPE because of safety concerns. Types of PPE used were dedicated work clothes (67.6%) and gloves (5.4%). A higher proportion of dismantlers (48.5%) than the repairers (33.3%) sustained an injury ($p < 0.05$). There was no significant difference in the incidence of injuries among workers who use PPE (40.5%) compared to those who do not use PPE (38.5%).

Conclusions There was a high incidence of work-related injuries among the workers studied. Inappropriate handling of e-waste predisposes e-waste workers to risk of injuries. Comprehensive interventions need to be instituted to reduce the incidence of work-related injuries among the workers.

384 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY IN BANGLADESH: AN IMPORTANT CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE OF EXTREME POVERTY

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