

EFFECT OF WORKING ENVIRONMENT ON WORKERS HEALTH IN TEXTILE

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Significance of Study :

It is estimated that two million men and women die every year as a result of occupational ill health and work related illness. Further, WHO estimated that 160 million new cases of work related illness occurs very year. It is a great challenge to policy makers to keep workers health healthy by keeping healthy environment and save human resource

The textile industry consists of a number of units engaged in spinning, weaving, dyeing, printing, finishing and a number of other processes that are required to convert fiber into a finished fabric or garment. It is the second largest employment generating sector in India. It offers about 35 millions of people in the country and is also the second largest exporter of textile and clothing.

Human capital is a real capital .Capital resource & natural resources are converted into productive, resources by human being. Workers are the main factors in productive force so it is need to keep the human source healthy by healthy environment at work place. Hence in the era unhealthy working environment is creating many health issues. to workers. that leads absenteeism & naturally economic loss at personal as well as national so it requires to highlight the issue. Work environment have both positive and negative effect While considering the negative working environment, is affecting on workers health

Key words;- Health, work environment effect, worker economic loss

Objectives :

1. To study the working environment of the textile workers
2. To highlight the Economic loss of the workers
3. To find out some suggestion to improve the working environment

Methodology :

Random Sample Survey of 1400 workers has been done through different textile units For the study observation & interview method is used & analyzed it with the help of average Percentage and Graph.

There is a co relation between work environment and worker's health. Healthy work environment increases the productivity or economic benefits. Unhealthy working environment

reduces workers income Here the researcher tries to highlight effect of unhealthy environment on worker's health.

2. Nature of Worker's Working Environment in Textile Industry

2. 1. Working Environment

Table No 1.1

Sir No	Working Conditions	Percentage
1	Ventilation	59
2	Adequate light	44
3	Comfortable Temperature	20
4	Drinking Water Facilities	90
5	Latrines and Urinals	68
6	Cleanliness	75

Working conditions of the work place survey data reveals that drinking water is provided at 90 percent work places. 59 percent work places have not proper ventilation facilities at their work place. It is observed that around 80 percent workers are not experiencing healthy temperature at their work place that is they have to work unhygienic condition. It is observed that 44 percent workers have experience inadequate light at their work place. It is observed that 68 percent workers have no latrine and urine facilities at their work place.

It is seen that maximum work places are not cleaned that is they are working in dusty environment.

“The condition of the work place of the majority of the laborers is extremely bad and deplorable. Most of the factories are ill ventilated and illumination is improper. At many places even facilities for drinking water toilet etc do not exist. Due to lack of amenities and hazardous working condition the efficiency of workers drops and they are exposed to accidents and infections”²

Summarizing the all factors it has been seen that workers are working unhygienic condition at their work place.

3. Effect of Working Environment on Worker's Health

The present investigations explore the impact of the workplace environment on the physical, mental health of the worker. “The environment is under constant interference and attack by man. Industrial effluent is a major source of environmental pollution (WHO 1977) sometimes accidental discharge of these effluent in large volume can causes acute poisoning of surrounding areas resulting in large death tolls. For example about 2500 people were killed when poisonous gas leaked from a ‘Union Carbide Pesticide Factory’ in the city of Bhopal in December 1984. In low dos exposure the death may not be instantaneous, but still it can cause major damage to human health.”

“Occupational exposure to toxic and hazardous substances is often encountered in

industry, agriculture, mining, and other working environment. The occupational hazardous may be caused by physical, chemical and biological agents in the forms of dust, fumes, mists, vapors, gases, and solvents are more frequently involved in health problems. The entry of these agents into the human body from air can take place through respiratory inhalation, skin absorption or ingestion. Prolonged exposure to these air born contaminants can lead to the development of chronic occupational disease.”⁷

Sample surveys have been done in many other countries to assessing health status, health behaviors, use of conventional and unconventional forms of health care etc. Other kinds of survey examine people’s perceptions about their own health status using various health measurements scales.

3.1 Effects of Working Environment on Work Efficiency:

To study the working efficiency of textile worker the investigator has conducted a randomly selected sample survey of 1400 worker from different units.

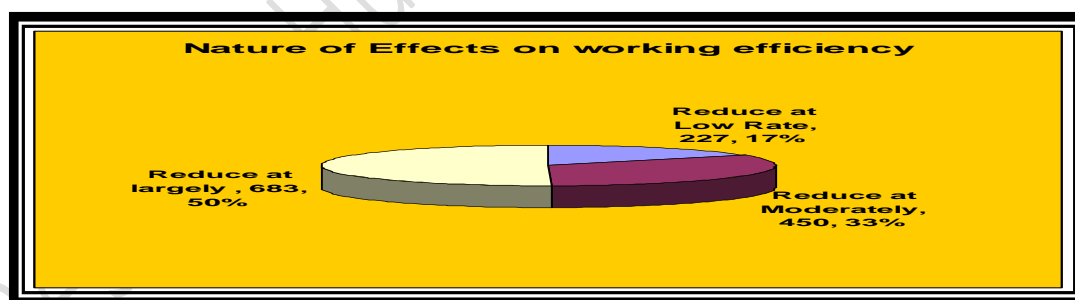
Table No 1.2

Affects on Work Efficiency	1287	91.9 %
Not Affects on Work Efficiency	113	8.1 %
Total	1400	100 %

Near about 92 percent workers have been experiencing reduction their working efficiency due to work environment at the work place.

C.2. Nature of Effects on Working Efficiency:

Graph No 1:1



Effect on work efficiency shows that, 48 percent workers experienced reduction in their working efficiency at large scale due to working environment. Again 35 percent workers feel that their working efficiency has moderately reduced. Near about 18 percent worker’s experienced the reduction in their efficiency at low rate.

3.2 Absenteeism :

The following information shows the nature of absence in textile mill and its importance in workers health. “The simplest most absolute indicator of ill health is its total absence at work place”⁸

Citizens Report 1982 mentioned that, “The absence rate of workers was much higher particularly in textile mills. It also mentioned the number of deaths were much higher due to cancer and other related diseases.”⁹

Table No 1.3

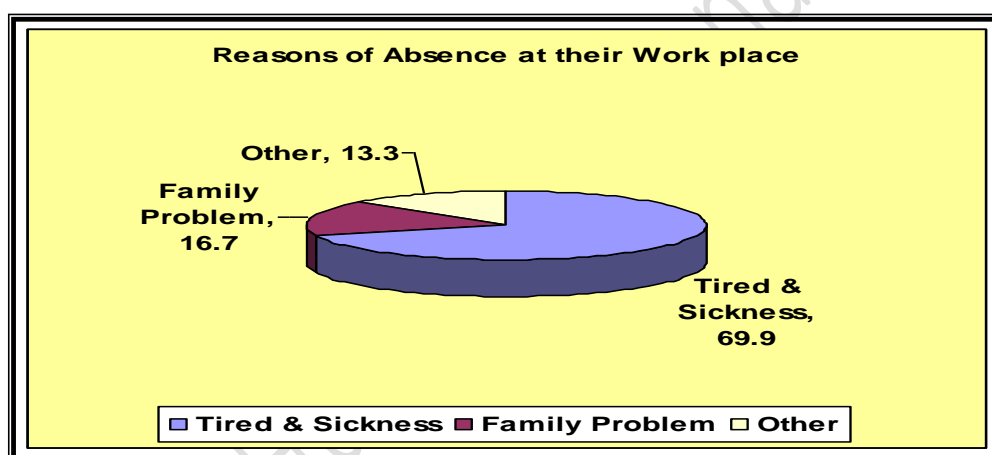
Absence from work	1295	92.5 %
Not absence from work	165	7.5 %
Total	1400	100%

It has been observed that 92.5 percent workers remain absent at their work place.

3.2.1 Reason of Absenteeism:

“The Royal Commission of Labour in India recognized the fact that ill health and sicknesses are the most wide spread causes of absenteeism.”¹⁰

Graph No 1.2



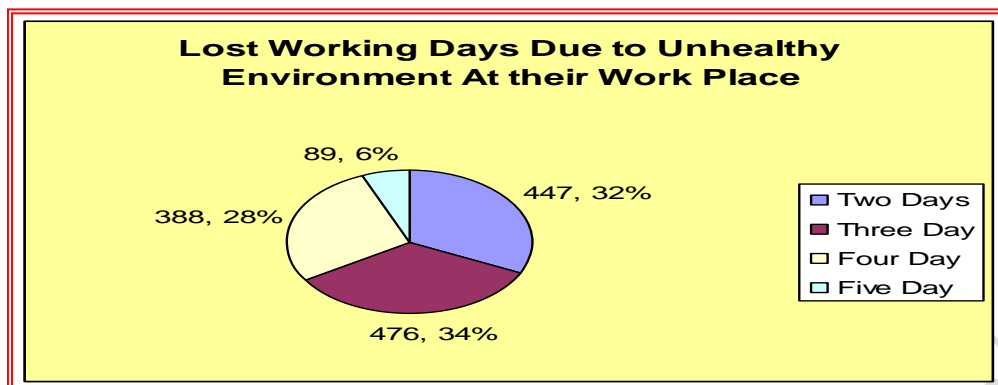
Graph no 1:2 shows reason of absenteeism. Absence is the main characteristic of Indian worker at their work place. It has been found that, 52.7 percent workers remain absent due to illness. Again 17.2 percent workers live absent due to tiredness and 16.7 percent workers take leave for their family problems. 13.3 percent workers take leave for other reasons, such as, visit to their native places etc.

Analyzing the data it is observed that reason of absenteeism are different, it has been noticed that 70 percent workers remain absent due to illness.

4. Accounting of Lost man Working Day's Due to Unhealthy Environment (Illness):

Taking into consideration reason of absenteeism lost man days has been calculated and shows through graph.

Graph No1:3



Graph no1.3. reveals lost working days at their work place due to illness. It has been observed that 32 percent workers have lost their two man days work in a month due to illness. Near about 35 percent workers lost their three man day's work due to illness in a month. Near about 28 percent workers have lost their four man day's work due to illness. Again near about 6 percent workers have lost their five man day's work in a month due to illness.

It is observed that those who are working more than fifteen years in power loom industry, those workers had lost their maximum day's of work at their work place. In case of lost working days due to illness "B.P. Adaradr study shows that a worker loss 24.6 days in a year to ill health."¹¹

"Environment Pollution Control Department (1985) Dhaka (Bangladesh) reveals that about 500 industries including tannery, paper and pulp, sugar, steel, fertilizer, jute, textile and chemical industries are located in different parts of nation, are causing environmental pollution and contamination through discharges of pollutant wastes such as toxic chemicals, poisonous gases, harmful solid and liquid wastes."

5. Environmental Accounting of Lost Worker's Income Due to Illness

5.1. Daily wages of the workers

Table No 1.4

Up to 200 Rs	567	40.5
250 Rs	557	39.4
350 Rs	193	13.7
More than 400 Rs	83	5.92

Table No 1:4. shows daily wages of the workers. It has been seen that near about 40 percent worker earn daily up to Rs 200. Nearly 39 percent workers earn 250 Rs. About 13.7 percent worker earn around 350 Rs and only 6 percent worker earn more than Rs 400 daily.

Table No 1:5

Lost Man Days Due to illness

Note-1.Lost Man day's are calculated in an average three month of September,

Lost Day's →	Two Days	Three Days	Four Days	Five Days	Total days
Average Wages					
200 Rs (1)	226	188	124	21	559
250 Rs (2) ↓	125	177	159	32	493
350 Rs (3)	44	35	44	15	138
400 Rs (4)	7	28	22	13	70
Total	402 (32)	428 (34)	349 (27.6)	81 (6.4)	1260

December and March.. 2. Bracket Number Indicates Percentage

The table No 1.5, indicates lost man work days due to illness. It is observed that, 32 % workers have lost two man day's in a month and 34 % workers have lost three man days again 27.6 % workers have been lost four man days due to illness and 6.4 % workers are lost five man days in a month.

Table No 1:6. Lost Income Due to Illness

Average Wages	Total Lost Man Days	Total Economic Loss
(1)	(2)	(1) (2)
200 Rs	1617	3.23400
250 Rs	1577	3.94250
350 Rs	444	1.55400
400 Rs	251	1.00400
Total	3889	9.73450

Table No1:6. indicates that lost worker's income due to illness. It is observed that 3889 total man days are lost due to illness. The loss income value due to illness in a month is Rs 9.73 lakh. In a year the economic lost value goes up to 116.81 Lakh.

In short considering the effect of work place environment on worker's health It has seen that in a month the workers lost their 9.73 Lakh due to Unhealthy environment at their work place or illness. One year this amount goes to 116.81 Lakh due to illness of the workers.

It is clear that working condition at their work place affects on their efficiency. According to investigator efficiency means to work all full working days in a week. It has been clear that absenteeism produces adverse economic effects on industrial production and the earning of labour. The following statement proves the respective research results.

“WHO (1977) reported that continuous exposure to toxic environment has been found to cause cumulative adverse affect on the workers health as well as economic loss of the workers”¹³

6. Conclusion :

- Textile Workers are Working in Unhealthy Environment
- Working environment at their work place affect on Worker's health
- About 92 percent workers experienced that they reduce their working efficiency
- 70 percent workers remain absence because of illness
- It has been observed that 3889 Work days has been lost due to unhealthy environment at their workplace.
- By considering daily wages of the workers, the total economic loss is 9.73 lakh Rs in a month
- The loss amount annually goes to 116.81 lakh Rs.

7. Suggestion :

- Working places should be keep clean
- It is necessary to ventilate the work place properly
- Appropriate light facility should be made available at work place.
- Basic infrastructure should be essential to made available to the workers at their work place such as water, sanitation etc
- Cotton dust prevention mask should make compulsory to workers.
- Ear plugs should be make compulsory to control noise
- Proper dust control equipments should be set up to reduce the exposure to cotton dust.
- Medical Check up should be conduct from time to time
- Workers should be aware about their working environment at their work place.

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