Environmental Engineering and Management Journal xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
http://omicron.ch.tuiasi.ro/EEMJ/

"Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University of Iasi, Romania

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CONDITIONS IN SMALL MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES OF IRON FURNITURE MANUFACTURING UNITS

Saima Aslam Bharwana[1], Shafaqat Ali[1G], Mujahid Farid[2], Muhammad Zubair[3], Muhammad Rizwan[1], Rehan Ahmad[1]

[1]*Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Government College University Allama Iqbal Road, 38000, Faisalabad, Pakistan*
[2]*Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Gujrat, Hafiz Hayat Campus, Jala pur Jattan Road, Gujrat, Pakistan*
[3]*Analytical Laboratory Gujranwala, Environment Protection Department, Govt. of the Punjab, Pakistan*

Abstract

This study was planned to identify factors which affect workers health and their safe working in unregistered and partially registered small iron units preparing 90 - 95 % iron furniture under sheds. Focused group discussions (FGD) were conducted among workers of iron furniture manufacturing units (IFMU) employing a cross sectional, descriptive, analytic and time limited study. Personal interviews methodology was adopted to assess workers for their exposure to occupational risks, protective equipments and health issues. A set of fifty (50) workers of each of the iron unit were taken as study samples by completely randomized sampling method and every sample was studied with the help of self-designed questionnaire. All the values of physical parameters were noted using direct reading instruments. A large proportion of workers were studied with high exposures to dust, fumes, noise, and heat. A high level of self-reported occupational health problems, particularly from welders and metal workers were also observed. Similarly, workers reported their need of permanent workplaces, information on work related hazards, water and sanitation and legislation for small scale industries (SSI). Results revealed that workers have exposure of high levels to multiple health hazards due to limited or no availability of protective equipments. It may also be concluded that workers of these iron units having lack of trainings related to their health and safety. Outcome of this study is highly concerned for the regulations, legislation and policy matters of country especially in country like Pakistan where workers of small and medium enterprises are facing problems.

Key words: enterprises, environmental risk, hazard, health and safety, iron furniture

Received: January, 2014; Revised final: April, 2015; Accepted: April, 2015

[*]Author to whom all correspondence should be addressed: e-mail: shafaqataligill@yahoo.com; Phone: +92 345 6281213, Fax: +92 41 9200671