

# A Review on Occupational Health Safety in Bangladesh with Respect to Asian Continent

Fabiha Tasnim, Imon Rahman\*, Monica Sharfin Rahman and Ridwan Islam

Department of Pharmacy, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

## Abstract

In the recent scenario, occupational health hazard has been the reason of great concern for a long period of time in this industrialized and digital generation. It is obviously because their significant impacts in terms of human, social and economic sufferings both on national and international arena, but mostly on Asian region. However, there were attempts to take measures and strategies to prevent, control, reduce or eliminate these hazards; they were not adequate to eliminate this issue completely. As a result, occupational hazards are still continued to be significantly disastrous in developing countries like Bangladesh. In Bangladesh it is estimated that 11.7 thousand workers suffer from fatal accidents and a further 24.5 thousand die from work related diseases across all sectors each year which lead the victims spend an average of US \$4 on each injury where 17.6% of the population lives below the lower poverty line. Therefore, in order to raise required concern this article will provide a brief overview of occupational hazard exposures, accidents and their hazardous impacts on human health, keeping in concern the most hazardous occupational sectors in a developing country of Asia with a close comparison with other developed and developing countries of the world. And at the end, it will also provide possible recommendations among industrialists, researchers and policy makers.

**Keywords:** Occupational health hazard; Occupational safety; Occupational health; Diseases; Pesticides; Garment industries; Tanneries

**Abbreviations:** BBS: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics; BEF: Bangladesh Employers' Federation; BILS: Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies; BTA: Bangladesh Tanners Association; COPD: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease; DOE: Department of Environment; EPB: Export Promotion Bureau; GDP: Gross Domestic Product; ILO: International Labor Organization; NCCWE: National Coordination Committee for Workers Education; NCLS: National Child Labour Survey; NGO: Non-Governmental Organization; NIPSON: National Institute of Preventive and Social Medicine; OSD: Occupational Skin Diseases; OSH: Occupational Safety and Health; OSHE: Occupational Safety; Health and Environment Foundation; PAN: Pesticide Action Network; USA: United States of America; U. S. EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency; WHO: World Health Organization

## Introduction

At the present scenario occupational hazard lies as the hazardous genesis of almost all fatalities in this digital and industrialized generation. The reason behind this statement came from the statistics estimated by the International Labor Organization (ILO) according to which, from over the 2.3 million fatalities that take place annually, over 2 million fatalities are caused by work related diseases [1]. This burning issue has made a huge impact in different sectors (Human, Social and Economic) because of their contribution to significant losses both on the national and international arena, but especially on the Asian arena.

The fatalities of occupational hazards (occupational accidents, injuries, diseases and major industrial disasters) which had caused human, social and economic costs have raised concern in all levels of people starting from the working individuals, employers, to the national and international skeleton, mostly in Asian region. However, to keep pace with technological and economic changes, measures and strategies are designed, developed and applied to prevent, control, reduce or eliminate these occupational hazards and risks over the years, particularly, when it is compared with the ancestral period. But despite

these consistent slow improvements, considering the human suffering and economic burden, occupational accidents and diseases are still too frequent and still continuing to be significantly disastrous in Asia [2].

Asia is the largest and most populous continent of the Earth. The vast demographic, cultural, political and economic differences among the countries of Asia have often been the basis for a lively engagement of this continent with the world. While diversity is a universal feature, Asia represents an extreme form of it comprising some of the highly performing sub groups of economics. It contains some of the developed countries as well as those that have performed relatively poorly, commonly characterized as developing countries [3]. Therefore, this article will provide a brief overview of health risk due to occupational hazard and will also provide recommendations for Asian region with a close comparison with other developed and developing countries of the world.

## Occupational Safety

Occupational health hazards usually refer to the materials and processes that have the potential to cause harm to the workers. Thus, the evaluation, control and entailing the identification of these hazards must be the inaugural actions to ensure occupational safety. Occupational safety and health is key element in achieving sustained decent working conditions and strong preventive safety cultures. As a result, since the creation of organization in 1919, it has continued

\*Corresponding author: Imon Rahman, Department of Pharmacy, BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Tel: +8801920199955; E-mail: [imon9585@gmail.com](mailto:imon9585@gmail.com)

Received February 17, 2016; Accepted March 21, 2016; Published March 25, 2016

Citation: Tasnim F, Rahman I, Rahman MS, Islam R (2015) A Review on Occupational Health Safety in Bangladesh with Respect to Asian Continent. Int J Pub health safe 1: 102.

Copyright: © 2016 Tasnim F, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.