

Occupational health hazards of textile workers of Pali district

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■ **ABSTRACT** : The present study was undertaken to study the occupational health hazards faced by the workers in textile processing units of Pali district. A sample of 120 workers employed in 40 textile processing units in different sections were selected and interviewed. The result highlighted the fact that detrimental work practices in the textile units without the use of protective clothing resulted in various types of physical, chemical, ergonomically, mechanical, biological and psychological hazards among textile workers.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Health hazards, Textile processing

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Pali is the largest erstwhile hand processing clusters, now gradually moving to power processing machines. The area constituting Pali district has been known for a number of industries, best known for dyeing and printing of cotton and synthetic fabric. According to joint survey of District Industries Centre (DIC), Pali and Pollution Revenue Association in the year 2008-2009, there were 867 registered units, engaged in various cotton and synthetic textile processing operations. The dyeing and printing is the major source of livelihood in this region. These industries provide substantial contribution to the economy in terms of income and employment generation.

Textile processing units consists of number of subunits engaged in different processes like pre-treatment dyeing, printing, finishing and number of other processes that are required to convert grey fabric into finished fabric. The workers in the industry are facing various health hazards due to harmful chemicals and abysmal working conditions.

The present paper is an outcome of attempt made to study the health problems of the workers and underlying the causative factors with the following objectives:

- To identify the health problems of workers in textile processing units.
- To suggest remedial measures to overcome such health problems.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

An analytical survey design was carried out to study the occupational health hazards of workers in the textile processing units. The study was carried out in Pali, Rajasthan. Among a sample of 120 workers employed in 40 textile processing units in different sections like Scouring, Mercerizing, Bleaching, Dyeing, Printing and Finishing were selected and interviewed at the time of working to have a clear picture of the health hazards faced by workers in different sections.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The workers in the textile processing units reported several health problems ranged from minor discomforts to major ones. The health complaints of the workers are classified into physical, chemical, ergonomical, mechanical, biological and psychological hazards.

Physical hazards :

Physical health hazards include workplace hazards of exposure of dust, heat, cold, light, noise and radiations. In textile industry, mainly lung diseases, eye diseases, skin diseases and noise induced ear diseases were faced by respondents (Table 1).