

A Situation of Occupational Injuries in Small Scale Industries in Ethiopia

Hailemichael Mulugeta*

Department of Public Health, College of Health Science, Debre Berhan University, Ethiopia

***Corresponding Author:** Hailemichael Mulugeta, Department of Public Health, College of Health Science, Debre Berhan University, Ethiopia.

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Occupational injuries present a major public health problem resulting in serious social and economic consequences. The impact is 10 to 20 times higher in developing countries, where the greatest concentration of the world's workforce is located [1]. Accidents and occupational injuries from Small scale industries are not properly recorded or reported nationally in Ethiopia [2]. The studies in Small scale industries reported a one year occupational injuries rates is ranging from 147 to 808 in Ethiopia among 1000 workers [3-8].

Scientific studies from Ethiopia have tried to identify factors associated with occupational injuries in different industries. Job categories [6], un guarded machines [6], inadequate work space [6,8], workers age [9], health and safety training [9,10], work experience [5,11], working hours per week [7,10,12], use of personal protective equipment [5,7,10-12], Khat chewing behavior [6,11,13], job stress [6,9,10] and low job satisfaction [6,12] are factors associated with occupational injury.

Small scale industries have been identified as an effective private sector for development through their creation of employment opportunities for a large proportion of population in the country [14]. However, evidence shows that small-sized industries have often faced difficulties in implementation and updates occupational safety and health legislation compared with bigger industries [15].

Ethiopia has committed herself to exercising international labor organization conventions including Occupational safety and health (convention 155/1981) [16]. The country labor Proclamation number 42/1993 section 92 has pressured employers to take the necessary measures to safeguard the health and safety of the workers [17]. Ministry of labor and social affairs are responsible for labor inspection in Ethiopia [18]. The currently labor inspector informs or advises the employers and workers concerning on health, safety or welfare [19]. However, Occupational safety and health services were found to be inadequately organized and injury is a hidden public health problem in the country [18,20]. Therefore, locally implementable measures, governmental enforcement and organizational commitment on occupational safety and health services are urgently required to protect workers' health in small sized manufacturing industries in Ethiopia.

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