



# **CURRENT STATUS & FUTURE PROSPECTS OF OEHS IN PAKISTAN**

**BY:  
Dr.Huma  
OEHS Consultant  
LEF Pakistan**

# **Regulations/Laws Relevant to only Occupational Health and Safety at workplace.**

- **Mines Act 1923 .**
- **Factories Act 1934 .**
- **Dock Laborers' Act 1934.**
- **Factories Rules (Sindh & Punjab) .**
- **Hazardous Occupations Rules 1963 .**
- **Provincial Employees Social Security Ordinance, 1965 .**
- **West Pakistan Shops and Establishments Ordinance, 1969.**
- **Workmen's Compensation Act**

# Drawbacks in Present legislation

- **Laws are fragmented—No single comprehensive piece of legislation .**
- **Most of the sectors are not even mentioned in existing laws.**
- **Factories Act is out dated, only 33 clauses and which relate to very minor level safety precautions provision at workplace.(Processes , chemicals and hazards at workplaces have changed a lot since then .**
- **No set methods for establishing OHSAS 14001-2007 & EMS 14001-2004 standards .(Industry comply to theses standards for OESH)**

# Drawbacks in Present legislation

- **No regulatory requirement for :**
  1. **Close and effective coordination and regular effective monitoring between industrial sectors ,home based workers, universities ,schools and offices employees and labour department.**
  2. **No regulatory requirement for workplace hygiene monitoring i.e. indoor air quality monitoring ,noise level survey, illumination level and personal exposure monitoring.**
  3. **No legislation regarding maintaining registers for Occupational diseases & injury/ illness, sickness absence data as per sector at both provincial or national level**

# Drawbacks in Present Legislation

- No law for environmental health and safety at workplace of:
  - semiconductor , automotive industry
  - Health care , agricultural , export processing zone & home based workers,
  - Those working with conveyor belts, hazardous chemicals, stone crushers ,threshers and waste handlers/sewer men (The risk of Occupational diseases is higher among them)

# Drawbacks in Present Legislation regarding OEHS professionals.

- No legal requirement / guidelines for:
  1. Provisions of employment of OEHS personnel at work places.
  2. Setting standard for EHS education & qualification of safety assistants ,inspectors, OH Physicians' , OH Nurse and HSE engineers on the basis of requirement of different sectors.
  3. If OEHS personnel are employed are not paid adequately and they presence is just to satisfy the supply chain auditors.

# Compensation Benefits

- Most sectors not covered
- Filed cases are mostly for accidental injuries /Fatalities.
- Most of the cases not reported- as out of court settlements are common
- **No compensation cases for occupational diseases** if filed or awarded or reported

# Present Limitations

- Outdated laws and poor enforcement .
- Lack of expertise at policy making level.
- No national focal institution for providing training and advisory services to safety assistants ,OH Physicians, inspectors, managers and HSE Engineers.
- Lack of data collection and reporting on occupational diseases and accidents recording and analysis.
- Lack of Inter-agency coordination .
- No formal education available in OESH
- No funding for OESH programs.
- Illiteracy of the workforce & Least participation of workers & trade unions on OESH issues
- Lack of overall “safety culture” as a nation.



# Now What Approach?

## Right Direction.....

- Assist in improvement of laws and effective enforcement.
- Encourage sector wise OEHS program development.
- Promote OEHS profession.
- Create OEHS Awareness among communities.
- **Encourage trade unions and NGO's to get involved in OEHS issues to train industry managers, trade unions leaders and workers.**
- Establish and maintain effective OEHS Professionals Association
- Explore higher educational program of dedicated OSH staff.
- **Create partnership with the media to create public awareness .**
- **Educate workers to demand EHS.**



# Present Affairs:

## Bad

### Lack of :

- comprehensive laws & effective enforcement  
(still Factory act of 1934)
- Technical know-how of Technical support system & “Safety Culture” among workers.

## Good

- Awareness is increasing
- Movement for “EHS culture” by some technical professionals ,Multinational companies to meet International standards (ISO, WTO)
- Customer demand



# IN CONCLUSION

- FUTURE LOOKS GOOD, MISSION WILL CONTINUE.....
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