

Work with Silicosis affected community in Khambhat

Peoples Training & Research Centre
Vadodara

Activities

- Crèche
- Treatment
- Health Education
- Legal Support and Advocacy



Clinic

- Weekly clinic to screen workers exposed to silica dust was started in June 2007 in collaboration with Sri Krishna Hospital and Cardiac Care Hospital.
- Objective was to generate scientific data. Data generated has tremendously helped.
- 687 workers have been screened till 12 Nov.2012. 209 workers have been issued certificates who were positive. Incidence rate is thus 30.42%. Out of 209, 95 have died (25 Female, 70 male)
- Out of 687, 115 did not deposit their X-rays.



Clinic

- We have prepared list of exposed workers. This list is being updated from time to time. More over, we carried out study of the workers in the industry and that study had helped us identify exposed workers.
- Workers in this list are targeted for screening.
- They are visited to impart health education. i.e. Silicosis. They are persuaded to visit clinic.
- In the field small meetings are organized. 126 small meetings have been organized in which 660 workers participated.
- We distribute literature on silicosis available with us.
- Once they visit clinic, they are registered as new patient. A profile of all new patients are filled up. Occupational history is recorded. The Medical officer examine and if required one is referred for X-ray.
- X-ray is free at Cardiac Hospital for referrals. Filed staff follows up for X-ray. At intervals X-rays are sent to Medical college for final diagnosis. They issue certificate for the positive patients.
- At clinic patients are supplied medicines at subsidized rates

Legal Support

- Raju Parmar worked for 19 yrs in a factory and was diagnosed suffering from Silicosis in 2007 in our clinic.
- He left working in 2009 and he sought legal help to claim compensation as well free him of harassment by employer on his dues.
- Upon inquiry we realized that the indebtedness is nothing but bondage and we decided to proceed under Bonded labor Act. Raju made an application under the Act to relieve him of his debt bondage. Later we landed making application before NHRC.
- In process we could acquire documents under RTI proving employer-employee relationship existing and that prompted us to claim compensation for Silicosis under E.C. Act. Accordingly notice was served to the employer and later claim was filed in Labor Court Anand in 2011.

Legal Support

- This is first ever compensation claim in long history of the Agate industry.
- When claim was under progress, Raju expired on December 5,2011.
- We sought permission from Court to let his mother join the claim as claimant. It was allowed and she has been cross examined recently. The Medical officer who signed the certificate has been examined in the Court. Now, opponent is to present his witnesses on 10th May.
- Complaint under Bonded labour act has been closed since death of Raju.
- We filed complaint before NHRC for death of 5 workers in Nov.2011 and another on 13-04-13 fro 11 deaths. In all we have filed 7 complaints for 81 deaths. These deaths took place between 2007 and 2013.

Policy level outcomes

- As a result of our meeting with Principal Secretary, H&FW, Ministry issued a circular on 07-10-11 assuring complete free health services to the persons suffering from Silicosis.
- Accordingly several affected workers issued Health card.
- GoG constituted State level committee to confirm diagnosis of silicosis.
- On May 24 GoG published notification declaring relief of Rs.1 lakh to the family of the workers in unorganized sector dyeing of silicosis and other occupational diseases. Enforcement of this resolution is delayed and new resolution need to be published.

Study results

- 4570 workers participated.
- 51.6% male and 48.4% female.
- Average age of male participants- 34.5
- Average age of female participants- 31.5
- Age range- 6 to 85.
- 66 children under 14
- 489 children under 18

Number of respondents in diff. processes

Process	Male	Female	Total	%
Fodiya	906	511	1417	31.04%
Vindhara	349	845	1194	26.11%
Ghasiya	423	279	702	15.34%
Polish	338	99	437	9.56%
Drum	94	113	207	4.52%
Cutting	138	1	154	3.36%
More than one	11	14	25	0.54%
No information	99	346	445	9.73%
Total	2358	2212	4570	100%

Polishers

- 702 polishers participated in the study. 60% male, 40% female. 73% in age group 15-40. 65% earn less than Rs.1500 or less. Among those who earn more than that, female are only 21%
- Among 702, 57% work on wet process including 214 M & 187 F.
- 30.34% work on dry process in which are 146 M & 67 F.
- 8.54% work on vertical wheel (51 M, 9 F)
- 62.67% are from Khambhat city, 23.9% from Shakarpur. Rest from Nandeli, Timba, Degam, Gulal etc.
- 85.18% are fulltime workers while rest work for part time.
- 50% said they work from their own home.
- 39% work since last 1-5 yrs. Rest work since longer period. Only 7% work since last 20 yrs or more.
- 34 joined recently out of whom 67% work on wet process.
- 41 are in the age group 15-18 in which 31 are male.
- 21 respondents started working at the age 5-10.
- 56% have worked on dry process. 14% are sick. 78% said they have some family member sick

Where do they work?

- Majority of Male workers work from other's house and majority of Female work from their own home. Proportion of part time female workers working from their own home is 86%
- There is possibility of covering 40% workers under some labor laws but not done.

From where they work	Male	Female	Total	%
From their own home	1109	1582	2691	58.84
Other's house	1240	0617	1857	40.43
Both	06	09	15	00.32
NO information	03	04	07	-

New Recruits

- Those who work since last one yr have been considered NEW.
- They keep the industry go on.
- Out of 4570, 309 are new (6.76%) That includes 37.5% male and 62.4% female.

Process	Male	Female	Total	%
Polishers	16	18	34	11
Fodiya	32	20	52	16.8
Vindhara	25	116	141	45.6
Others	38	18	56	17.2
No information	21	5	26	8.4

Working since how long

Time period	Male	Female	Total	%
1-5	851	1157	2008	43.9
6-10	610	587	1197	26.1
11-15	333	209	542	11.8
16-20	243	154	397	8.6
21-30	204	80	284	6.2
31-40	93	15	108	2.3
<40	20	8	28	0.6
No information	4	2	6	0.1

- Large numbers of respondents work since last 1-5 yrs. Female proportion among them is high.
- 81.89% respondents work in the period 1-15 yrs.
- Proportion of male against female is larger among workers working for a long time. ONLY 28 male work for more than 40 yrs.
- Why female do not work for long in this industry?
- Majority workers work for 15 yrs. What do they do then?

Age

Age group	Male	Female	Total	%
6-14	23	43	66	1.4
15-18	180	243	423	9.2
19-30	880	885	1765	38.6
31-40	616	633	1249	27.3
41-50	414	276	690	15.0
51-65	215	119	334	7.3
>66	30	13	43	0.9
Total	2358	2212	4570	100

- Most workers are active till age 40 in this industry.
- 8 respondents in age group 6-10.
- Average age 32.9. for male it is 34.25 and for female it is 31.54

Employers

- Out of 4570, 57.61% (2633) do not reveal information on their employer. They may be self-employed or they themselves are employers or are scared of revealing information or do not know who employer is.
- 1937 respondents informed that they work with 311 different employers. Accordingly on an average each employer employs 6.2 workers.
- The data is indicative that NOT all workers are self employed. Labor department can do a lot.

Monthly income

Amount	Male	Female	Total	%
1000 or less	375	1140	1515	33.1
1001-2000	1417	973	2390	52.3
2001-3000	494	90	584	12.8
3001-5000	71	06	77	1.68

- 61.47% informed that they possess BPL card.
- 85% earn less than Rs.2,000 or less. Among them 75% are female workers. Out of total female respondents (2212) only 36.2% work for part time.

Ownership of machine

Ownership	Male	Female	Total	%
Yes	529	611	1140	24.4
No	1800	1575	3375	73.4
No information	29	26	55	1.2

Out of 1140, 294 (25.78%) are Ghasiya. In this study 702 ghasiya participated out of whom 392 do not own machine. Out of 702, 48.86%(343) work from other's house. These figures indicate existence of employer-employee relationship.

1140 respondents own the machines. Among them 612 (53.68%) are vindhara. For Fodiya machines are not important so this question is not relevant for them. 163 polishers (giving luster) own the machines. 6 own their Drum.

Other

- 99.67% respondents replied that they neither buy raw material nor sell finished product- they are simply laborers producing for others.
- 178 respondents informed that they have taken advance form employers. Out of them 45.5% are Ghasiya. 178 workers have taken advance to the tune of Rs.1.17 million
- 88% respondents replied that they do not have any other skill than what they are engaged in now.
- 29% are unmarried, 2.1% are widows and 0.48% widower.
- In 6-18 age group 282 girls and 198 boys are unmarried.
- 32% are ready to work in common shed, 51% refuses and 16% promise to think over.

Sickness and addictions

- Out of 4570, 456 have worked on dry process.
- 95.24% replied that they themselves are not sick. This was expected.
- 194 inform that they are sick- 101 (52%) of them are Ghasiya.
- No family member is sick in case of 3628 (79.3%) respondents.
- 937 respondents declared that one or more in their home are sick. Total sick in family are 1705 persons.

Addiction	Male	Female	Total	%
Smoking	147	10	157	3.4
Smoking tobacco	1021	309	1330	29
Alcohol	12	00	12	0.2
More than one	90	4	94	2

30.65% respondents are addict of tobacco. Out of 446 in age group 14-18, 82 and in 19-25 age group 26.4% are addict.

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¾ÓÓçí	31	10	41	8.3
ÍíÁÓçí	58	68	126	25.7
ÓàíÈÓçí	43	141	184	37.2
À»Ñ	5	14	19	3.8
ÍíÓàx	44	9	53	10.8
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NàÚáÈà	9	41	50	10.2
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Children

- 70% children work for full time, 30% work for part time.
- 65% work from their own home which include 95 boys and 223 girls.
- 35% go to other's house to work (107 boys and 62 girls)
- 45% children have started working since last two years only
- 24% work since last one year indicate that new force of child labor continue to join the industry. Out of them 42% work full time. 40% are children among all those who have joined since last one year.
- 67% work since last 1-4 yrs. There are few who started working at the tender age of 5 though most seem to have started their carrier at 11 or later.

