Assessment of occupational stress among textile industrial workers in Kanpur Nagar (U.P.)

JAHIDA KHATOON AND REKHA DAYAL

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

JAHIDA KHATOON
Department of Family Resource Management, M.A. Bai College of Home Science, C.S.A. University of Agriculture and Technology, KANPUR (U.P.) INDIA

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Lal Imali textile mill of Kanpur Nagar to assess the occupational stress in industrial workers. A sample of 90 workers with >35 years age group were randomly selected from various units. Data were collected through interview cum experimental method. It was observed that the highest noise level (117.8db) was recorded in Weaving unit and minimum (60.00db) in Administration unit. Maximum (66.66%) respondents "Always" faced problem of excess noisy environment and agreed with the physical stress because of low wages and no appreciation of work (Rank I) being the main reason of stress among industrial workers

Key words : Noise levels, Occupational stress, Psychological stress, Social stress

The textile industry occupies a unique place in India accounts to nearly 14% of the total industrial production, contributing to nearly 30% of the total exports and is the second largest employment generator after agriculture.

Development of modern automated machines in the textile industries has considerably decreased the physical burden of work on workers in addition to increasing the productivity of the industrial enterprises but one of the most undesirable and unavoidable by- products of these operations and machines is noise pollution. Industrial workers thus are exposed to these high noise levels because of their occupation. High level noise, not only hinders communication between workers but depending upon the level, quality and exposure duration of noise, it may also result in different types of physical, physiological and psychological stress on the workers.Occupational stress has become a common and costly problem, leaving few workers untouched. It is the interaction of workers and the conditions of work. Thus, this study was designed to determine the physio-psychological stress among industrial textile factory workers.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Lal Imali Textile Mill in Kanpur Nagar. It had a working population of about 3000 workers. The majority were permanently employed. There is an Administrative department and eight production departments namely, Dyeing, Carding and Combing, Spinning, Weaving, Mending, Finishing, Packing and Engineering. These departments have varied sound levels and workers populations. Survey cum experimental method was adapted to carryout the present investigation. The sample size was 90 workers who were selected by simple random sampling. For experimental data various parameters were used. For measuring noise exposure levels of various departments was recorded by Sound Level Meter and to measure the stress level a five- point scale suggested by Likert (1932) was used. Statistical analysis of the data was employed through frequency, percentage, mean, score and rank.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data presented in Table 1 revealed that maximum (50%) respondents have been working for 15-20 years in the industry whereas minimum (5%) respondents have 5 years working experience. The duty timing of 77.77% respondents was 6: 00 am to 3.00pm and 22.22 respondents have 6am to 5pm. Majority (50%) of the respondents were working in a 20to 40 workers strength in a shift and less than 28 per cent workers were under more than 60 workers strength. Less than 40 per cent respondents interrupt themselves for 20-30 minutes and minimum (11.11%) interrupted for more than 30 minutes in working hours. Maximum (38.88%) respondents were working 5-10 overtime in a month and 33.33 per cent were not doing overtimes while as 11.11 per cent respondents were doing more than 10 overtimes in a month.

Table 2 shows that maximum average noise level 117.88 db was found in weaving unit and 106.22db in spinning unit which was followed by 97.12db, 89.86db,