

Occupational Injuries in Pakistan: Incidences and Economic Impact

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Abstract

At the beginning of the new century, injuries/accidents were increasingly recognized as the major public health problem. Occupational injury is one of the most unnerving challenge in health system in general. Unfortunately employees/employers are less prepared to respond this growing problem. The objectives of this study are to analyze the injury rate among different socio-economic and regional variables as well as to analyze the reasons which cause accident/injury to workers in Pakistan. This study has estimated the possible determinants which cause injury and calculated the indirect cost of occupational injuries among the Pakistani employed workers of age 10 year and above. Data is taken from Pakistan Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2012-13 which is considered as most reliable source. The result shows that about 4.0 percent injury prevails in Pakistani employed labour force of age 10 years and above. The total injury cost of employed workers is about 43 billion PKR, which are the economic burden bear by the workers as well as society. This indirect cost of work place injuries has 0.18 percent of Gross Domestic Product (2012-13). Agriculture, elementary occupations and mining/quarrying are the leading occupations which are suffering from injury. According to this study, there are 38 percent of total employed workers belong to agriculture sector; their share in the total indirect cost of injury is about 72 percent. Legislators and senior officials received the least occupational injury that is about 0.1 percent. It is concluded that laws are there up to some extent but only few people are aware of them and there is also problem of implementation. Proper monitoring and evaluation in every occupation and industry can minimize the injury rate. Health insurance should be compulsory in every occupation especially in risky and physical work occupation.