

PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AT THE TEXTILE PROCESSING UNITS

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ABSTRACT

The wet processing causes various pollution and health problems to the workers. Workers face a variety of problems with regard to respiratory, skin, eye, ear along with the problem of general weakness, pain in back, loss of appetite etc. It is important for the industries to provide health care facilities to workers for their safety and protection.

KEYWORDS: - Health care, Wet Processing

1. INTRODUCTION

The Textile wet processing industries are those units, which take gray fabrics as raw materials and process it to obtain finished fabrics (Fig. 1) [4]. The wet processing involves various steps like desizing, scouring, bleaching, mercerizing, dyeing, printing and finishing (Table 1) [3]. These processes cause various pollution and health problems to the workers. Workers face a variety of problems with regard to respiratory, skin, eye, ear along with the problem of general weakness, pain in back, loss of appetite etc. Therefore, it is important that there should be a provision of health care facilities for the employees of processing units. Thus, in the present study, an attempt was made to study the health care facilities provided in the processing units.

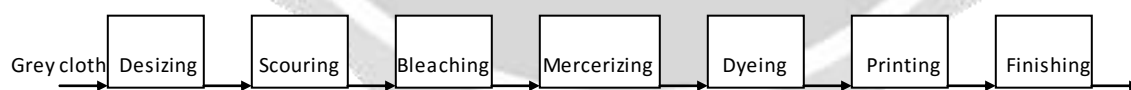


Fig 1– Flow diagram of a textile processing industry

Table 1 – Processes involved in the wet processing of textiles

Process step	Description
1. Desizing	Chemical treatment to remove the size.
2. Scouring	Remove fabric impurities
3. Bleaching	Enhance whiteness of the textiles
4. Mercerizing	Chemical treatment for enhancing textile appearance.
5. Dyeing and finishing	Colouring effect Physical and chemical finishing to furnish the textile's quality.

2. METHDOLOGY

Research was conducted in and around Delhi (Delhi/NCR). In total 51 units were studied for the present research which included 27 cotton processing units (processing only cotton) and 24 cotton & manmade (processing both). Further, in total 345 workers (131 workers from cotton units and 214 workers from cotton & manmade processing units) were interviewed to study the provision of health care facilities' in their respective units.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this part of the study, the information was gathered on the different health care facilities such as first aid, ESI, regular medical check ups and provision of work wear available to the workers in the wet processing units for their safety and healthy environment. Results are tabulated in (Table.2).

-First aid refers to medical attention that is usually administered immediately after the injury occurs and at the location where it occurred. It often consists of a one-time, short-term treatment and requires little technology or training to administer. First aid can include cleaning minor cuts, scrapes, or scratches; treating a minor burn; applying bandages and dressings; the use of non-prescription medicine; draining blisters; removing debris from the eyes; massage; and drinking fluids to relieve heat stress. or until the next level of care, such as an ambulance or doctor, arrives [2]. Analysis indicated that majority of the workers (86%) were getting the first aid facility.

-The promulgation of **Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948** envisaged an integrated need based social insurance scheme that would protect the interest of workers in contingencies such as sickness, maternity, temporary or permanent physical disablement, death due to employment injury resulting in loss of wages or earning capacity. The Act also guarantees reasonably good medical care to workers and their immediate dependants [3]. Analysis of the results had indicated that (55%) workers were getting ESI facility. Further, in comparison, more than half of the workers (56%) of cotton & man made processing units were getting the ESI facility. On the other hand, (53%) workers of cotton processing units were availing this facility.

-**Facility of doctor** was not provided by any of the cotton processing units whereas (27%) units of cotton & man made processing units provided such facility. Before any recruitment of the workers, none of the unit was conducting any pre-employment medical examination. None of the worker of the cotton processing units was getting any facility of periodical medical check up while 64 workers out of 214 of the cotton & manmade processing were availing that facility. Out of those sixty-four (64) workers, fifty-eight workers were getting their frequent checkup within 0-3 months and rest seven workers were getting their checkup done by the unit within 6-12 months period.

-Work Wear - An attempt was also made to know whether workers of the textile units were providing work wear for their safety and protection such as goggles, coveralls, gloves, earplugs, and respirators. It was observed that (63%) workers of the cotton & man made processing units were using the work wear while on the other hand, only (5%) workers of the cotton processing units using it.

TABLE 2. PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AT THE TEXTILE PROCESSING UNITS

S.N O	Health Care Facilities	COTTON UNITS N = 131	COTTON & MANMADE UNITS N = 214	TOTAL UNITS N = 345
1.	<u>First Aid Facility</u>			
	Yes	115 (87.79)	182 (85.05)	297 (86.09)
	No	16 (12.21)	32 (14.95)	48 (13.91)
2.	<u>ESI Facility</u>			
	Yes	70 (53.44)	120 (56.07)	190 (55.07)
	No	61 (46.56)	94 (43.93)	155 (44.93)
3.	<u>Pre-employment medical examination</u>			
	Yes	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
	No	131 (100.0)	214 (100.00)	345 (100.0)
4.	<u>Facility of Doctor</u>			
	Yes	0 (0.00)	58 (27.10)	58 (16.81)
	No	131 (100.0)	156 (72.90)	387 (83.19)
5.	<u>Periodical Medical Examination</u>			
	Yes	0 (0.00)	64 (29.91)	64 (18.55)
	No	131 (100.0)	150 (70.09)	281 (81.45)
6.	<u>Frequency of Medical Checkup (N-64)</u>			
	0-3 months	0 (0.00)	57 (26.64)	57 (16.52)
	3-6 months	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)
	6-12 months	0 (0.00)	7 (3.27)	7 (2.03)
	No Checkup	131 (100.0)	150 (70.09)	281 (81.45)
7.	<u>Provision of Work Wear</u>			
	Yes	7 (5.34)	134 (62.62)	141 (40.87)
	No	124 (94.66)	80 (37.38)	204 (59.13)

4. CONCLUSIONS

The above results highlighted that majority of the workers were getting the first aid facility. It was also found that more than half of the workers were getting ESI facility. Very few units were providing the facility of doctor to their workers. Further, more than half of the units are providing work wear to the workers for their safety and protection.

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