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**Title:**

**Prevalence of Work-Related Diseases and Injuries among Informal Workers in Tejgaon: A Situation Assessment Background: In Dhaka**

**Abstract:**

**Background**

Prevalence of Work-Related Diseases and Injuries among Informal Workers in Tejgaon: A Situation Assessment Background: In Dhaka, informal workers face unsafe working conditions while living in poor conditions. They have limited access to healthcare provisions and labor protections. Current programs, legal measures and policies leave large gaps in occupational safety and health among this working population that urgently need to be addressed.

This study focuses on identifying the prevalence of work-related diseases and injuries among Tejgaon Industrial Area’s working population to explore gaps in the current policy so that recommendations can be made to improve workplace health, safety and the rights of these vulnerable workers.

**Method:** To get occupationally diverse worker samples, this study adapted a stratified sampling technique. Key areas in Tejgaon where informal workers reside and work were identified, and then data were collected through interviews from different occupation groups, who live in these slums-Kunipara, Sattola, and Korail and some on footpaths (floating) near the Tejgaon Industrial Area. In-person interviews were held at both their homes and workplaces as convenient to obtain information on their demographics, employment types, and daily health and safety challenges. The questionnaire included both closed-ended and open-ended questions. The survey included questions about demographics, living conditions, Use of PPE, Prevalence of injury and disease, prevalence of mental health problem, how their work can be improved and so on.

**Results:** Among the 200 participants, 17.9% were rickshaw pullers, and 16.8% were garment workers. Another 12.2% worked in hotels or tea shops, 9% in automobile shops and 6.1% were sanitation workers, respectively. Others included drivers, day laborers, domestic workers, and street vendors.

Among informal workers, 83% faced prolonged hours of sitting or standing, 70% suffered from heat stress, 66.5% experienced cuts, 62.5% faced muscle strain, 49.5% worked in unhealthy environments. In terms of diseases, 79.5% reported fatigue, 47% reported headache, 42.5% reported dysuria, 41.5% reported dizziness, and 41% suffered from allergy.

Among 200 participants, 141 were male and 59 were female. Among male workers 79.43% reported problems from prolonged sitting or standing, 75.18% faced heat exposure, and 63.12% experienced injuries. In female workers 74.58% reported cuts, 52.54% muscle strain, 28.82% reported burns.

**Conclusion:** This study provided a situation analysis of the health conditions, prevailing occupational hazards by occupations in a major urban industrial area's informal working population of Bangladesh.