



OSHE Newsletter

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OSHE launches new project to promote decent work in leather supply chain

OSHE foundation is implementing a project to contribute towards decent working conditions in the leather supply chain process in Bangladesh.

The 2.8 year project was launched 3 October at a stakeholder consultation meeting at U Multipurpose Hall in Dhaka. OSHE chairperson Saki Rezwana presided over the meeting.

The 'Promotion of Decent Work in Leather Supply Chain' project is funded by Switzerland based organization Solidar Suisse.

At the project launching event, OSHE program manager Md. Taherul Islam delivered a brief introduction of the project. He also shared content outline of upcoming awareness program and project work plan till December 2018.

A project implementation committee was formed comprising national trade union leaders, labour rights activists, Ministry of Labour and Employment officials (MoLE),

and representatives of Department for the Inspection of Factories and Establishments (DIFE).

OSHE foundation will conduct a baseline study in leather supply chain as part of the project. Training of trainers on OSH for the union leaders and activists, awareness building trainings for the workers at factory level on OSH, workshop on labour standards and their effective implementation in the leather and footwear supply chain, formation of a multi-stakeholder platform to develop national advocacy plan are the key functions of the project.

Ex joint director of labour Kabir Ahmed Chowdhury, Tannery Workers Union president Abul Kalam Azad and secretary Abdul Malek, Department for the Inspection of Factories and Establishments (DIFE) assistant inspector general Dr. Najmun Nahar and officials from Dhaka district DIFE office, among others, were present and spoke at the event.



Orientation on trade union and participation committee for RMG workers

OSHE foundation's Jukto Hoe Mukto project funded by Manusher Jonno Foundation organized several orientation programs on trade union and participation committee for ready-made garment workers on 6, 13, 20 and 27 July and 3, 31 August at project areas in Dhaka and Gazipur. Female workers from different garment factories took part in these orientation programs. Participants were imparted knowledge on importance of organizing, formation and function of trade union and participation committee as per the labour laws. Project coordinator Md. Nur Alam and field organizer Md. Monir Uddin and Iffatara Shely conducted the orientations.

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Study circle on organising and social dialogue

OSHE foundation organised a series of study circles on organising and social dialogue with Rana Plaza Accident Victims Rights Network and Tazreen Accident Victim Rights Network at Savar and Ashulia on 29 June, 03 and 27 July, and 30 August under the OSH capacity building program.

The program was conducted by OSHE project coordinator Arifa As Alam with the support of Md. Ohedul Islam, convener, Rana Plaza Accident Victims Rights Network.

Victims of both network participated these study circles.

Ms. Jarina Begum, member secretary of Tazreen Accident Victim Rights Network, Sabita Rani and Md. Kamal Hossain, member of the network were present among others.



Tazreen fire victims form cooperative association

Tazreen Accident Victim Rights Network members formed a cooperative association for building cooperation among the members.

The network organized a meeting on 30 July 2018 at U Multipurpose Hall in Mirpur, Dhaka with the support of OSHE foundation.

OSHE executive director A R Chowdhury Repon and OSHE project coordinator Arifa As Alam were present at the inception event.



Training of trainers on social protection

OSHE foundation organized a training of trainers on social protection schemes relating to workers' welfare on 22 September 2018 at Union Multipurpose Hall in Dhaka.

A total of 25 trade union leaders, labour rights activists, government and non-government professionals, human rights activists took part in the training.

The training was inaugurated by Department of Labour (DoL) joint labor director S M Anamul Haque. OSHE chairperson Saki Rezwana presided over the inauguration program.

In the opening session, S M Anamul Haque said that OSHE emphasis on capacity building of trade union leaders and activist in different ways; from that point of view, this expected that, this training will contribute towards better understanding on social protection from worker's rights perspective. Mr. Seikh Moinul Islam, Senior Assistant Chief from General Economic Division of the Ministry of Planning facilitated the session on National Social Security Strategy. Other sessions were conducted by Dr. S M Morshed, vice Chair of OSHE and Ms. Arifa As Alam, Project Coordinator, OSHE.



Skill development training for Rana Plaza and Tazreen accident victims

OSHE foundation organized a week long skill development training on tailoring and dress making for Rana Plaza and Tazreen accident victims at BFTUC Hall Room at Mirpur in Dhaka.

The training was started on 8 August 2018 where 10 victims from Tazreen Fashions Fire Accidents Rights Network participated. Targeted participants came from extremely poor background due to accident of Tazreen Fashions fire.

OSHE foundation organized the training with a view to create an alternative income source to bring income security.

The skill development training was based on tailoring, cutting and sewing.

On second and third day participants learned about cutting techniques. On last day, they also learned about sewing machine operation.

In the closing session, the participants shared their primary business plan where OSHE reiterated its mandate to give support to execute the plans that would be beneficial to workers.



Asbestosis check-up camp for shipbreaking workers

A check-up camp to diagnose Asbestosis lung disease among shipbreaking workers was held on 3 August 2018.

A total of 32 patients attended the camp for diagnosis. Prior to that, doctors diagnosed 69 patients in 4 camps. Total covered patients were 101. OSHE foundation completed X-Ray work for 133 workers.

From them 101 were taken under health survey. The series of health camps were conducted by six members led by Dr. Md. Shariful Alam.

The team consists of 3 members from doctor's side including Dr. Md. Shariful Alam, Md. Syfur Rahman and Md. Masudur Rahman and 3 members from OSHE side including Dr. Tapan Kumar Das, Md. Shazzad Kabir Bhuiyan and Saiful Mahmud.



Training on organizing for union leaders at shipbreaking sector

OSHE foundation organized a training on organizing for union leaders and organizers working at the shipbreaking industry. The program was held on 27 and 28 July 2018 at OSHE Bhatiary office at Sitakunda in Chattogram. A total of 20 participants attended at the training from different unions.

The participants were imparted knowledge on objectives and functions of trade union, effective communication, organizational and legal process for union formation, organizers' role and organizing skills and challenges to overcome.

OSHE program officer Md. Shazzad Kabir Bhuiyan inaugurated the program and OSHE assistant program officer Saiful Mahmud moderated the sessions. Bangladesh Ship Breaking Workers Federation leader Abdur Rahim was present in the opening session.





Training of trainers on OHS for second batch

OHS Initiative for workers and community project organised 20 days long training of trainers for the second batch on 30 June 2018 at Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Savar in Dhaka.

OHS Initiative governing board member secretary and OSHE executive director A R Chowdhury Repon, board member and Gonoshasthaya Kendra chief executive officer Dr. Manzur Kadir Ahmed joined the inauguration session while OSHE chairperson Saki Rezwana chaired the session.

Mr. Bruno Deceukeller, Asia coordinator of Belgium based international charity organisation World Solidarity Movement (WSM) present at the opening session of the event as special guest.

The basic ToT was participated by 29 OHS trainers from six founding organisations -- Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE), Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies,

IndustriALL Bangladesh Council (IBC), Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS) and Naripokkho.

BILS member and master trainer Shakil Akter Chowdhury facilitated the session. The ToT consists 15 different modules on OHS which will be covered during 20 day long intensive training. The first module of the course is basic ToT which covered 5 days residential program as Gonoshasthaya Kendra from 30 June to 4 July 2018.

OHS Initiative project coordinator Md. Masud Parvez coordinated the program. At the closing session of basic ToT Gonoshasthaya Kendra chief executive officer Dr. Manzur Kadir Ahmed and OHS Initiative curriculum development committee member Dr. Mahjebin Chowdhury were present while OSHE chairperson Saki Rezwana presided over the program.

738 killed in workplace accident in nine months

738 workers (108 in formal industry and 630 in informal industry) lost lives and 219 workers (82 in formal industry and 137 in informal industry) were injured in different workplace accidents between January and September across the country.

OSHE foundation has revealed this workplace accident monitoring report after analysing fifteen prominent national dailies and gathering field level information from its staff during the said period.

Highest number of casualties happened in transport sector, where 215 workers lost lives and 26 severely injured; second highest number of life loses recorded in construction sector where 130 workers lost their lives. 106 agriculture workers and farmers died in this period. Another 42 day labourers were killed at workplace during this time.

Due to workplace accident and mishaps on the way to work 19 garment workers were killed. A total of 14 shipbreaking workers died during the period.

The major causes found for these deaths and injuries are road accident, thunderbolt, electrocution, fall from height, wall or roof collapse and land slide.

Workplace accidents kill 137 construction workers during 9 months

Some 137 construction workers were killed and 32 were injured in workplace accidents in the first nine months (January to September) this year. Most of the dead workers were working at informal sector.

14 killed at shipyards during 9 months

At least 14 shipbreaking workers were killed and 8 were injured in workplace accidents in first nine months (January to September) this year.

OSHE foundation has revealed workplace accident report after analysing fifteen prominent national dailies and gathering field level information from its staff during the period.



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