

## OSHE Workplace Accident Survey Report:

**There were 1088 workers casualties in workplace accident from January to June 2015;  
Transport, Garments, Construction and Agriculture Workers in peak**

600 workers died in workplace accident (Formal Sector - 170 and Informal Sector - 430) and 488 workers were injured (Formal Sector - 225 and Informal Sector - 263) in different workplace accidents from January to June 2015. Among the casualties 971 were male, 106 were female workers and the rest 11 were unidentified.

Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) has revealed this half yearly workplace accident survey report based on regular monitoring of 15 leading national daily newspapers of the country and reports

of its field offices in different parts of the country. The national daily newspapers were the Daily Prothom Alo, Ittafaq, Jajaidin, Naya Diganta, Kaler Kantho, Somokal, Jugantor, Sangbad, Janakantha, Inqualib, The Daily Star, Daily Independent, Daily New Age, Daily Sun and Dhaka Tribune.

As per the findings of newspapers, in formal sector the highest number of workers' casualties 114 took place in RMG (sweater, waving, knitting, spinning, dyeing and composing) sector. Among them died 36 and Injured 78 RMG workers;

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## **Celebrating International May Day 2015: Demands for the Protection of Informal Sector Worker's Rights**

There is no law to ensure the rights of the 54.1 million workers in the country. 88 percent of them are informal workers. Among those are - agriculture, construction, domestic, family business, rice mill, brick kiln, garage, land and sea port, transport, furniture, saw-mill, carpenter, welding, auto-mobile, shop, hotel-restaurant, fisheries and livestock farm, poultry, packaging, chemical factory, plastic factory, pharmaceutical, self-employed small and medium sector. These large numbers of labour force in the country are not under the law. As result they are unprotected from labour law. So OSHE Foundation and Karmajibi Nari gave emphasis for protection of



informal workers rights.

OSHE Foundation and Karmojibi Nari

with associated Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) organized a

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## **OSHE expanded its activities to Aminbazar Waste Resource Workers for development of decent work environment**



OSHE organized two sensitization meetings with informal sector worker of waste resource workers of Aminbazar Sanitary Landfill, the second largest waste dumping station in Bangladesh operated by Dhaka North City Corporation. The meeting was held in Karmojibi Shishu School at Kunda, Aminbazar on May 27 and June 9, 2015. The first meeting was chaired by Assistant Director (AD) of OSHE Md.

Omar Faruk and moderated by Program Officer (PO) of the project Mrs. Arifa As Alam. Besides the second meeting was held on June 09, chaired by PO Arifa and moderated by Assistant Program Officer (APO) of the project Ms. Shermin Shanta.

The objective of the meeting was to orient about Bangladesh Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Foundation (OSHE) and its goal, to discuss on sensitizing waste resource workers about occupational health and safety as well as organizing the unorganized.

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## OSHE Survey Report:

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besides 67 were male and 47 were female workers. The second highest number of workers' casualties took place in construction sector. There were died 12 and injured 29 workers among them mostly were suffered from building/roof collapse (8 died & 27 injured from building/roof collapse). Besides, 23 workers were died and 13 were injured in service sectors (health, security guard, cleaner, hotel worker, sales man, DESA, WASA etc).

Besides 13 transport workers died and 14 were injured by this time. Among them 07 were died in road accident and 14th were injured by miscreants. In formal sector, among others casualties were steel mill or re-rolling mill workers (20), Plastic factory (12), Shoe factory (12), Brick kiln (12), Rice Mill (12), Pharmaceutical factory (10), Automobile (10), lighter factory (10) and cement factory (8) etc.

Moreover, the ship breaking sector brought about 03 death and 15 injuries. In this sector mostly accident happened fall from height, during hit of iron bar, tear of wire/ winch.

In informal sector, the highest number of workers' casualties (Died - 153 and Injured - 125) took place in transport sector. Among them 103 were died and 13 were injured in road accident whereas 104 were injured and 24 were died by attacks of miscreants or violence. The survey showed that 13 workers were died by hijacker or robber. While the second highest number of workers' casualties (Died - 91 and Injured - 30) in construction (Household related/ personally) sector. The survey showed that in construction sector both formal and informal sector accident happened for electrocution, fall from heights, building/roof collapse etc.

Moreover 82 (natural disaster- 56, electrocution- 10 etc) workers death and 27 (natural disaster- 18, electrocution- 6) injuries were seen in agriculture sector.

Among other, day labour (27), Fisheries (26), domestic workers (23), hawkers (12), stone workers (10), gold smith (6), others workers (19), various mechanic (19) were victimized accident either died or injured.

OSHE workplace accident survey report revealed that major causes of

causalities happened for road accident, attacked by miscreants, factory fire, falling from height, electrocution, boiler or water pipe explosion and building/roof/wall Collapse etc.

## May Day 2015:

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national seminar on "Worker's rights to protect the legal rights and activities of the informal sector" on celebration of May Day 2015 at VIP Lounge, National press club, Dhaka on 4th May, 2015. Honorable State Minister of MoLE Mr. Md. Mujibul Haque MP presented as Chief Guest. Saki Rezwana Chairperson of OSHE delivered opening speech in the program.

In his Speech, Mr. Mujibul Haque said, present government is much aware of the rights of agriculture workers of the country. All essential initiatives have been taken for the development of these people. The condition of agriculture workers is miserable for not getting fair price of crops and expensive production cost.

Mr. Fazla Hassain Badsha MP, Shirin Akther MP, Syed Ahmed Inspector General (Additional Secretary) of department of Inspection for factories and establishment, Abdul Mukit Khan President of National Co-ordination Committee for Workers Education (NCCWE) were attended the seminar.

Ms. Protima Paul Majumder, President of Karmojibi Nari was presided the seminar while Assistant Director of Md. Omar Faruq presented the key note.

Md. Omar said in his key note that Bangladesh Bureau Statistics (BBS) 2010 and Asian Development Bank (ADB) showed that there are 54.1 million workers in the country. 88 percent of them are informal workers among them 43% are agriculture workers. At national growth of economy it provides 43%. Nonetheless these huge workforces are away from legal rights.

Mr. Fazla Hassain Badsha MP said in his speech that agriculture workers are always deprived from their rights. So he demanded for agriculture labour court.

Ms. Shirin Akter said in her opinion that existing labour law for formal sector should be implemented at field level besides she claimed for different law for informal sector. She also said if want to achieve the Prime Minister announced

middle-income country earlier must be given the recognized informal workers.

Joynal Abedin and Shandhya Begum, agriculture workers of Manikganj and Samad Miah and Solema Begum, agriculture workers of Narshingdi demanded ensuring having low price ration as well as providing accidental medical treatment facilities for agriculture workers.

Executive Director of Karmajibi Nari Rokeya Rafique Baby, Assistant Executive Director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies Mr. Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, President of Bangladesh Khet Mojur Samity Mr. Samsuzzaman Salim and Subal Sarker, General Secretary of Bangladesh Bhumihin Samity etc were presented the event.

## Aminbazar Waste Resource

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In the discussion of meeting, Mr. Omar Faruq introduced about OSHE Foundation, its goal, objectives, ongoing activities and projects etc. He said, "OSHE is an NGO but there is no monetary transaction or micro finance related activity." It develops awareness on occupational health and safety issues so that workers from both formal & informal sector do work in a decent working environment with safety. Under this project, local leaders will be elected amidst from waste pickers. OSHE will organize basic leadership and organizing training to develop future skilled leaders so that they would endeavor to ensure decent work for themselves. The speakers also gave emphasis on organizing because organized people are successful people. Besides more initiatives like weekly study circle and health camp after each two months would be organizing within project period etc.

All the participants from Boilapur, Daspara and Kunda took part in the program actively through sharing their knowledge and views. A total of 26 waste pickers; 17 female, 08 male and one child waste pickers were participated in these sensitization meetings.

In this program also presented Mr. Alam Hossain, Manager- Finance and Admin, teachers of Karmojibi Shishu School, Sazzad Kabir Bhuyan, APO and others personnel of OSHE.

## Work Improvement and Occupational Safety & Health in Small Construction Enterprises Training of Trainers (ToT)

Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) organized a three days Training of Trainers (ToT) on Work Improvement and Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) in Small Construction Enterprises at Radda MCH-FP Center, Mirpur-10, Dhaka on 19 – 21 May 2015. A total of 30 local and national level leaders were participated in the ToT from Imarat Nirman Sromik Union Bangladesh (INSUB), Bangladesh Building and Wood Workers Federation (BBWWF), Bangladesh Nirman Sromik League (BNSL) and Bangladesh Nirman Sromik Dal (BNSD).

The objective of the ToT was to educate a pool of trainers to provide training on OSH and WISCON to the construction workers at the enterprises level approximately 2500 labour from selected 250 enterprises from Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong. In addition, develop OSH system through rendering ideas among the participants on usage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and good working environment.

The Executive Director of OSHE Foundation Mr. Repon Chowdhury inaugurated the event. He said in his speech, expressed thanks and gratitude to ILO for giving responsibility to be a partner of the 'Way out of Informality' Project to organize ToT program for the construction sector's stakeholders. He said that this training program is for the representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, REHAB, BEF, NCCWE and construction workers' union. He informed that the OSHE Foundation would provide technical support to the local Program Coordinator at small construction enterprises.

At that time Mr. Harunur Rashid, National Project Coordinator, "Way out of Informality" Project, ILO Dhaka office also presented there. In his opening speech, he said that ILO took an initiative to facilitate the formalization of informal economy. He said that most of construction workers did not know about the existing labour laws. He also hoped the number of accidents would be reduced in the construction sector after this project.

Assistant Director of OSHE Md. Omar Faruq gave a brief introduction of the project objectives, implementing partners of



the project, targeted priority sectors of the project, primary aims of the project and primary initiatives to be taken by the project. In his presentation he narrated about safety roles, work improvement in small construction sites, work environment improvement and WISCON checklists. Apart this, 'Technical areas of occupational safety & health and responsibility of enterprise owners/employers' was also discussed.

Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman Bhuiyan, Deputy Chief Inspector General, Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments discussed on Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006.

During the sessions, numbers of group exercise and presentation were done on 'Identification of priority areas for improvement of work environment in the construction sector' and 'Types of accident occurred during construction work, causes of the accident and way out of its protection/prevention'.

At the closing session Repon Chowdhury, ED of OSHE Foundation hoped that all participants would disseminate their acquired knowledge among their fellow colleagues. Mr. Harunur Rashid, NPC of Way Out of Informality Project of ILO, Mr. Nurul Haque, General Secretary of JNSL, Mr. Noor Hossain, Vice-President of INSUB also presented there.

## A Progress Review Meeting organized with agriculture Organizers

"We are deprived from loan and other opportunities for lacking of education, information, unity and solidarity" said President's Award for Agriculture Development (1990) winner Sheikh Fazlul Haque Kaja. He hoped that, "if we will be organized and work with OSHE, we may raise our problems and barriers in national level, even international level."

A Progress Review Meeting with organizers of 'Promotion of Decent Work for Agriculture Workers in Bangladesh' was held at OSHE Welfare and Training

Center on 16 May, 2015 at 11.00am. The program was chaired by Repon Chowdhury, Executive Director of OSHE.

In his speech, Chief Guest Mr. Chowdhury delivered valuable suggestion to the organizers. He said we might help you such way, that you will help and develop yourselves because OSHE Foundation or any others organization would not work with you forever.

He expressed his hope that at least one

group leader should be remains in each ward of Chunarughat upazilla. He also begged help and advice from participants to participate 'Agro Fair' organize by upazilla administration. Besides these, he also discussed to set up a fair price shop of agriculture commodities, mass literacy program, getting loan from bank or other financial authorities to go abroad for work and many other issues.

Few organizers also shared their own opinion and views.

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## A Study Circle organized for the improvements of work environment for Agriculture Workers

Agriculture sector is one of the driving forces of the economy of Bangladesh. However, agriculture workers are the most marginalized group in the society. They are not aware about their rights, social security, occupational health and safety issues etc. In this perspective, OSHE foundation has been undertaking a pilot project named "Promotion of Decent Work for Agriculture Workers" implemented at Chunarughat, Habigonj.

As part of its ongoing activities, a study circle was held at OSHE Training and Welfare Centre, Chunarughat, Habigonj on 16 June, 2015 with the participation of agriculture workers of Panchhory Asrayon Project of 5 no. Shankhola Union. The purpose of study circle was organizing agriculture workers, sensitizing about occupational safety & health, safe use of pest control etc. There were 17 agriculture workers participated the program among them 5 were female workers.

Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer of Chunarughat Agriculture Office was presented as trainer. He delivered a valuable presentation on organizing, workers health and personal hygiene. He shared how to use environment friendly pesticides, importance of using natural fertilizers, bad impact of consuming formalin mixed foods. He also gave emphasis on the proper utilization of their own and government unutilized

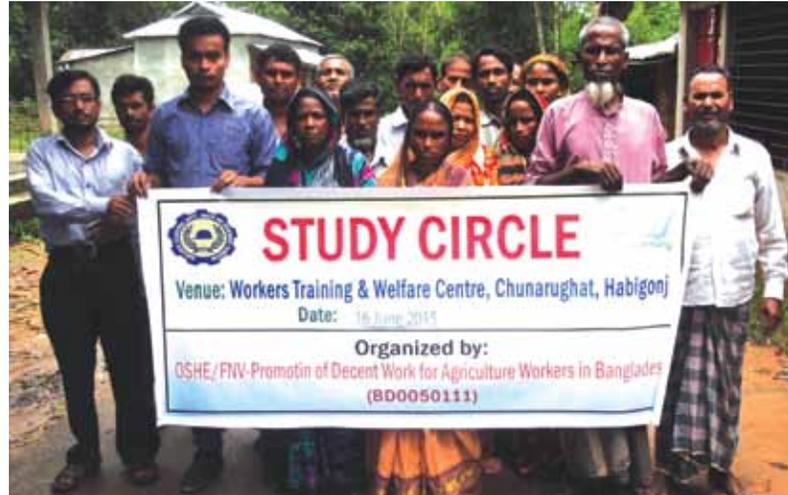
## Health Camps for Ship Breaking Workers

Ship breaking is one of the most hazardous sectors in the world. The working conditions in this sector are generally found very ruthlessly with long working hours, overtime, night shifts, extremely heavy physical work due to lack of proper equipment (e.g. lifting), inadequate personal protection equipment (PPE), exposure of hazardous waste and fumes etc are cause of high accident rate and occupational diseases.

Besides, different types of deadly substances like cadmium also exist in this sector. From the very beginning, workers are manually handling these substances, as results workers of ship breaking sectors always suffer from various occupational diseases and fatal & non-fatal accidents.

In this circumstance, Bangladesh Occupational Safety Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) organized 09 in-door health camps on May 01, 08, 15, 22 & 29 and June 05, 12, 19 and 26 at OSHE Training and Welfare Centre Vatiary, Sitakunda, Chittagong. On the other hand there were 08 out-door health camps on May 04 & 11 at Kadam Rasul Primary School, 06 & 13 at Barowlia Primary School, 18 & 25 at Madambirhat and May 20 & 27 at Kumira Government Primary School.

The objectives of the health camp were to provide basic health care, aware workers about health & hygiene and ensure health services at the door steps of the workers.



land (khas land) through its cultivation for growing more crops. Mr. Subhan also gave them information about government services given from Upazilla agriculture office and how to get the services easily.

The agriculture workers participation in the program was so spontaneous and active. They shared their experiences, current and good practices of pesticides, OSH related issues according to local situation.

After ending the program, a committee of 17 members of agriculture workers of Panchhory was formed.

Dr. Tapan Kumar Nath, General Health Practitioner provided the ship breaking workers with treatment. The total of 65 workers received the treatment among them 41 were attended at indoor health camps & other 24 were attended at out-door health camps. As per prescription, Assistant Program Officer of OSHE Mr. Saiful Islam distributed free medicines among the beneficiaries.

## Meeting organized with agriculture

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They said that, agriculture workers of Chunarughat cultivated 3 times crop in a year. At the time, they demanded some agricultural commodities and services for cultivation. They expressed optimism that they would be more organizing, if it is possible to fulfill their common demands. Some of organizers claimed that, Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officers did not intend to go field inspection usually. Even they don't eager to suggest something for the agriculture workers, if they visited to fields. In this regards they requested to OSHE Foundation for support they sought. They thought that, if the officials of agriculture office visit their own block regularly, the agriculture workers would be more benefited.

They also gave valuable suggestion to conduct the project successfully.

Section # 06, Block # A, Lane # 1, House # 19 (1st floor)  
Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216, Bangladesh, Tel: +88-02-9032947, 9032948  
Fax: +88-02-9032949, E-mail: oshe@agni.com  
(Location: Behind the Bangladesh Fire Service and  
Civil Defense Training Centre - Mirpur 10 circle)



Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health & Environment Foundation (OSHE)

Promote human rights of Workers, decent work & sustainable development