

**IDENTIFICATION OF PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
RISKS AND HAZARDS OF MANUAL HANDLING
LABOURERS ON BOULDER HANDLING OPERATION AT
GABTALI, DHAKA, BANGLADESH**

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ABSTRACT

Manual handling covers a wide range of activities including lifting, pushing, pulling, holding, throwing and carrying. Unsafe manual handling may cause a variety of injuries and conditions referred to as musculoskeletal disorders (Anon, 2000). In Bangladesh, majority of manually handled worksites are unorganised. There is a great lacking in systematic research on non-industrial worksites. Hazardous worksites need to be studied using workplace assessment with primary attention to identification of risks and hazards associated with manual handling operations in Bangladesh.

Methodology: A participatory workplace risk assessment survey was performed in manual handling worksite in Dhaka districts in Bangladesh. This is: (1) Boulder Handling Site, Gabtali, Dhaka, A convenient sample of 40 male workers, forty from worksites, participated in this study. A combination of observation, and interview method was used for data collection on work environment and task performance. A goniometer for joint range of motion, Camera and an ordinary tape was used for surface measurement.

Results: The study shows that majority of the workers are illiterate, and uninformed about any safety measure. Most work environment is generally hazardous. Pain, soft tissue injury, and fracture affecting health of workers identified as common risks associated with hazards of heavy load, slippery surface, long carrying distance, twisting movement and others.

Conclusion: Identification of risks and associated hazards is necessary for recognition, control and further prevention of work related injuries. A regular risk assessment may secure many lives of workers from vulnerable worksites. In-depth empirical studies on these worksites may be helpful in promoting working condition for the workers concerned.