

A Prevalence Study of Pneumoconiosis in Four Industrial Establishments

Research Paper No. 1989-01



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Abstract

A survey of a sample of the workforce with potential exposure to silica dust was conducted to determine the prevalence of pneumoconiosis and silicotuberculosis. The total study population consisted of 768 workers from a mining (264), ceramics (97), cement (223) and glass manufacturing (184) establishments. A diagnosis of pneumoconiosis was made only in the presence of dust exposure and roentgenographic changes. Using the International Labor Organization (ILO) Classification, 92 (12%) of workers surveyed were found to have small opacities of profusion $\geq 1/0$. The prevalence of pneumoconiosis among mining, ceramics, cement and glass manufacturing workers were 17.5, 13.4, 8.55 and 7.6 percent respectively. Coexistence of tuberculosis with silicosis was clearly seen in the glass manufacturing (14.3%), cement plant (21%), and mining establishment (17.4%). A trend of increasing prevalence of pneumoconiosis with increasing duration of exposure was noted only in the mining establishment. Because of the recognized hazards posed by exposure to silica, implementation of control measures should be mandatory. In the light of the serious limitations encountered during the survey, further studies are recommended so that the appropriate countermeasures can be adopted in every workplace.