

Working and Health Condition of Workers in the Informal Sectors

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Abstract

As part of DOLE's short-term and long-term plans for the workers in the informal sector, the OSHC in partnership with the Institute of Labor Studies, conducted 4 case studies regarding the working and health and safety conditions of workers in the following trades - battery recycling, woodwork, metal fabrication, and sugarcane plantation.

Results showed that these workers were subjected to substandard working conditions with complete absence of protection. Work environment measurement for lead in battery recycling showed levels beyond and above the allowable limit. Unsafe working conditions and lack of personal protective equipment were common findings among the trade studied. There was also a lack of focus on the social protection of these workers e.g. no health insurance benefits, employers do not contribute to any social security program such as the SSS. The informal sector is recognized as an essential component of the workforce, yet, there is no clear-cut policies and comprehensive programs, to protect these workers.