

Occupational Health Scenario In Auto-Looms Industry

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Abstract:

The basic objective of present investigation is to understand the issues of occupational health problems and their causes in auto looms industries. The study revealed that the health of workers is affected by excessive noise caused by auto-loom. In present investigation it was also observed that workers were suffering from various health hazards such as hearing loss, disturbance in communication, annoyance, fatigue, insomnia, breathing problem and the relative risk. Adoption of adequate protective measures in workers was lacking while working at industry, which may increase the health related problems of workers. Based on the results some recommendations were given for the improvement of occupational health of workers in auto looms industry.

Keywords

Auto-loom, fabric, health hazards, noise, relative risk, workers etc.

1. Introduction

India is one of the largest fabric producers in the world. Auto looms is playing an important role in workers life and their economy. Weaving machine equipped with iron devices and the sound of the auto loom is the music of rural home but it has hazardous effects on the health of people. About 35 million people are engaged in this sector, hence Indian Textile Industry has very important place in the economy of India. Due to globalization the textile units are facing financial rivalry, marketing and technological problems (Shaikh Mainuddin Shoukat Ali, Borhade S. N., Dhere Vaibhav, Mrs. Shaikh Sabiha M., 2011), Occupational health is important for the working person. Industry is one of the occupation which affects health of workers. The objective of an occupational health service is not only to keep the workers physically healthy, but also mentally and psychologically stable. A single worker, working 12 hours or may be more with six to

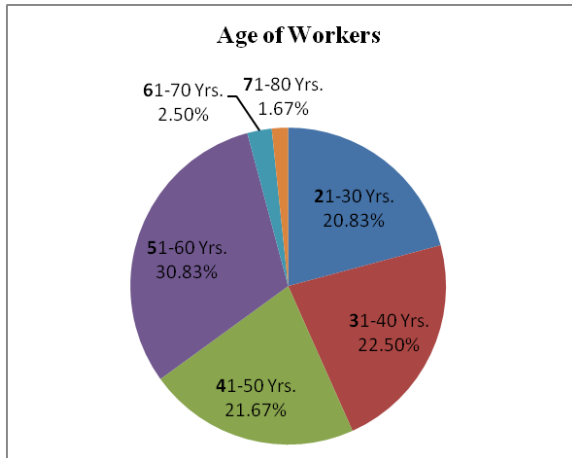
nine looms inside confined spaces, it will exposing them to loud noise as well injuries due to shuttle which moves at a high speed across the loom. Kapil Goel, Sartaj Ahmad, Pawan Parashar, Bansal Rahul, Pant Bhavna, Goel Parul, (2013), concluded that power loom workers" suffer from various health issues i.e. respiratory, muscular – disorder of skeletal system, physical injuries, mental stress and skin disorders etc. According to them it is necessary to conduct intervention seminar to prohibit workers from the tobacco chewing habit. Excessive noise is an occupational health hazard with considerable social and physiological impacts, including noise-induced hearing loss and heart related problems. The workers engaged in the processing and spinning of cotton are exposed to significant amount of cotton dust. They are also exposed to particles of soil and chemical which is used in auto-loom. Exposure to cotton dust and other particles leads to respiratory disorders among the textile workers. There is a need to have a look on the occupational health of workers so that they can remain healthy and perform the task carefully.

2. Methodology

The investigation of present study is based on primary data which was collected through self-prepared questionnaires. Total 120 respondents (96 male and 24 female) were selected by using simple random sampling method from various auto looms industries from Ichalkaranji city in Maharashtra. The present study tries to focus on various health issues faced by hand looms workers due to their occupation.

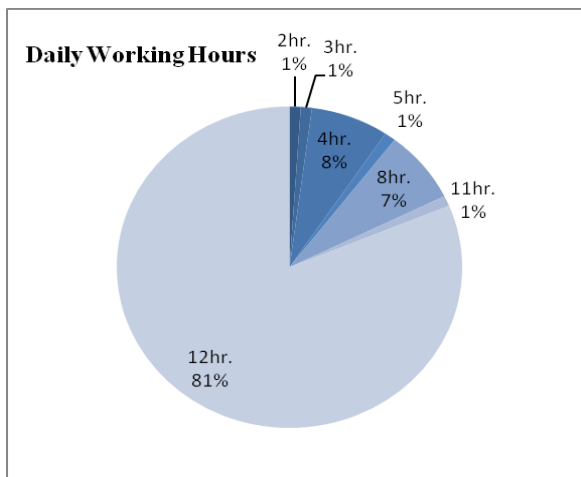
3. Results

Among the total respondents, it was observed that 20.83% workers were from the age group of 21-30, 22.50% workers from 31-40, 21.67% peoples from 41-50, 30.83% workers from the age group of 51-60, while 2.50% workers from the age group of 61-70 and only 1.67% workers from the age group 71-80.



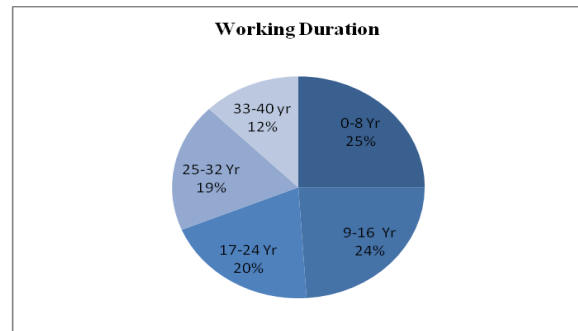
3.1. Age of Workers

By considering daily working hours of workers, maximum respondents (81%) were daily working for 12 hours, only 1% respondents were working for 1 hour which was found minimum working hour.



3.2. Daily Working Hours

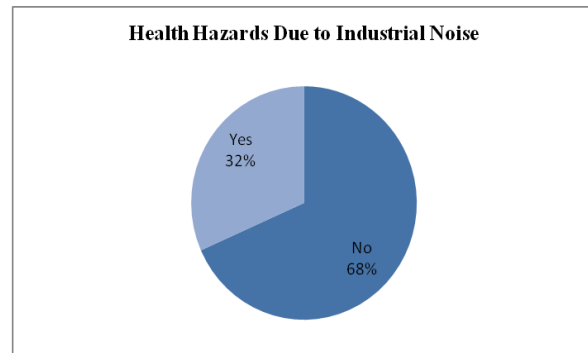
Present study is also focuses on working duration of auto looms workers. 25% workers were working from last 0 to 8 years, some 24% were engaged with this occupation from last 9 to16 years, while 20% were having working duration of 17-24 years, as well as about 19% were working from 25 to 32 years, and about 12% workers are in this profession from 33-40 years.



3.3. Daily Working Hours

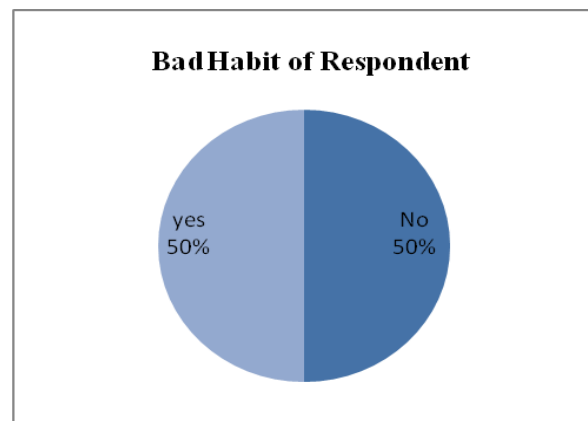
Total 68% workers feels that, noise does not make any impact on their health while reaming 32% bothered about industrial noise.

3.4. Health Hazards due to Industrial



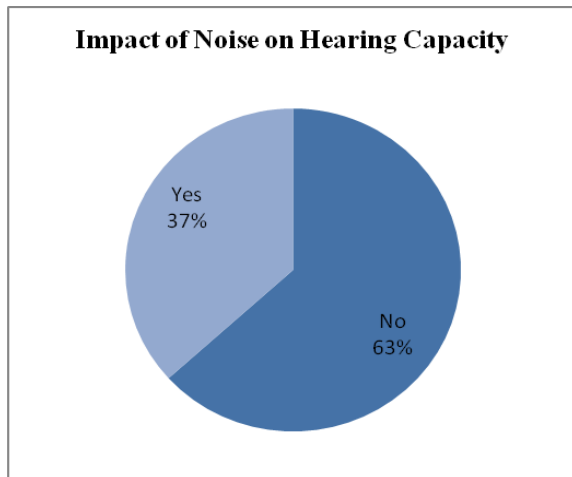
Noise

With respect to bad habit, it was found that 50% respondents were addicted to bad habits



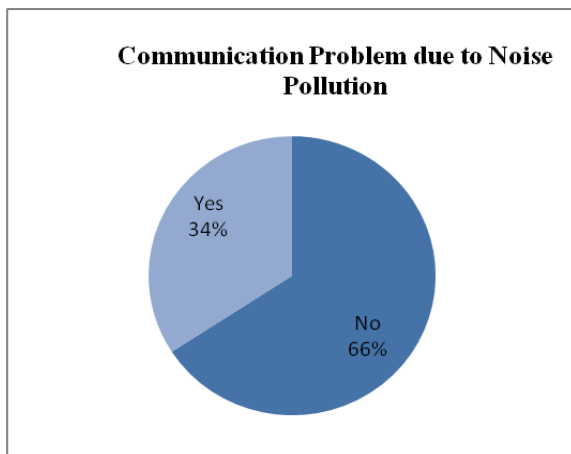
3.5. Bad Habit of Respondent

In present study the impact of industrial noise on their health was also tried to considered, the results shows that according to maximum (63%) respondents they does not facing any problem whereas only 37% workers had hearing problem due to industrial noise.



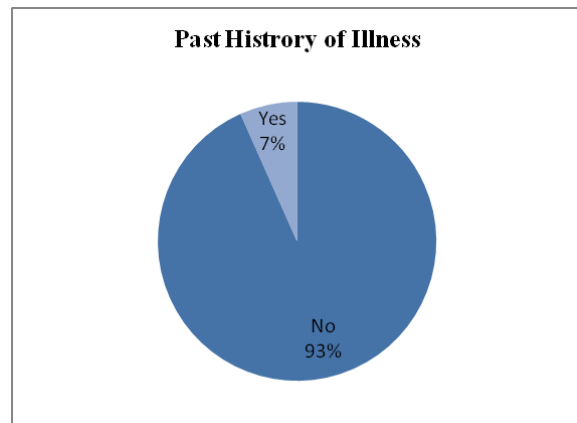
3.6. Impact of Noise on Hearing Capacity

This study also includes the problem related to their communication during work. Due to heavy noise in industry, about 34% workers were facing problem during communication while 66% workers were able to communicate in such conditions also.



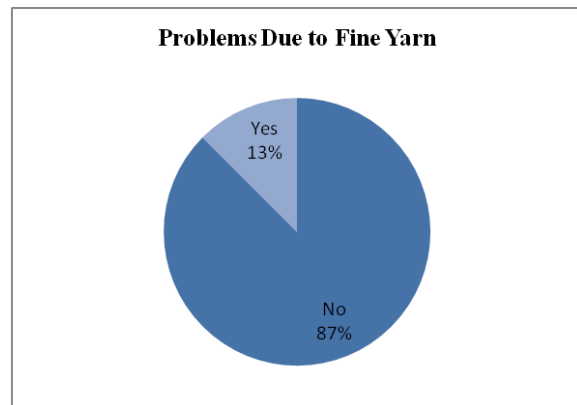
3.7. Communication Problem due to Noise Pollution

The findings from this study shows that only 7% workers suffered by diseases before joining to this occupation on the other hand maximum (93%) were not having any kind of past history of illness.



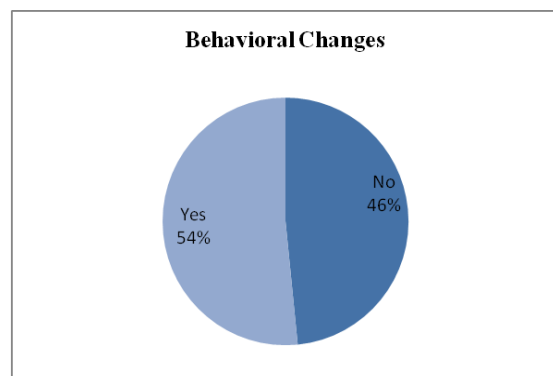
3.8. Past History of Illness

Surprisingly, during investigation it was noted that, problems in breathing due to fine yarn faced by only 13% respondents, whereas 87% workers were not suffering with such problem.



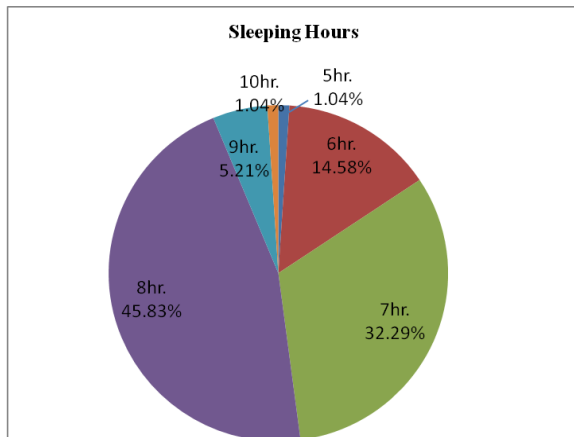
3.9. Problems due to Fine Yarn

Behavioral changes are considered as major psychological impacts of noise pollution, so it was considered while collecting the information from the workers. About 54% workers have experienced some behavioral changes due to industrial noise and remaining 46% workers does not having any impact on their behavior.



3.10. Behavioral Changes

Study regarding average sleeping hours of workers was done. It was noted that 1.04% workers were having 10 hours of maximum sleeping time whereas minimum sleeping time was noted that 5 hours which was taking 1.04% of workers. Maximum (45.83%) of respondents were having 8 hours of sleeping time.

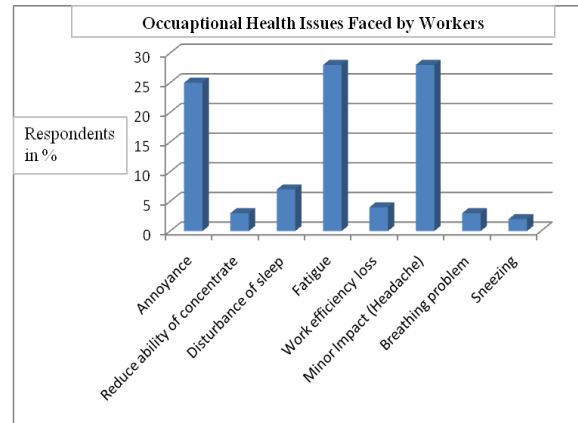


3.11. Sleeping Hours

Table 1. Occupational Health Issues Faced by Workers.

Occupational Health Issue	Respondent (%)
Annoyance	25
Reduce ability of concentrate	3
Disturbance of sleep	7
Fatigue	28
Work efficiency loss	4
Minor Impact (Headache)	28
Breathing problem	3
Sneezing	2

Present study mainly focuses on the occupational health issues faced by auto looms workers. During investigation it was come to know that workers were facing various occupational health hazards during their daily work. Headache, fatigue, annoyance are the major and common occupational issues found in workers working in auto looms industry.



3.12. Occupational Health Issues Faced by Workers

4. Conclusions

The present study was undertaken with the objectives of understanding the life of auto looms workers as well as various occupational health issues faced by them. After interpreting the results, it is concluded that workers in auto looms industry were does not very well aware about their health issues. They were struggling with various occupational health issues in their profession. Occupational health and safety awareness as well as training programmes must be taken for these workers, apart from this motivation among the workers regarding their safety is also needed. It is also found that maximum workers were working for 12 hours, so it may cause adverse affect on their health, therefore working hours should be according to the law.

5. References

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