

ABSTRACT

Identification of occupational hazards in the textile industry in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Introduction: The aim of this study is to highlight the occupational risk factors related to working conditions in DRC.

Methods: The qualitative study was carried out by a multidisciplinary team in the textile industry of the north-eastern DRC, including an occupational physician, a public health physician, a toxicologist, two nursing from the center hospital plant, a representative of health committee and a prevention technician. The methodological approach consisted of interviews, observations and guided visit of workplace of the company.

Results: In cotton, the effects of high exposure to pesticides can cause acute poisoning, chronic and even death. Other risks include accidents, occupational diseases, and psychological disorders. In industry, workers are exposed to risks associated with dusting of cotton fibers, traumatic risk factors, physical (noise, vibration) and chemical (strong acids, bases, solvents and inorganic dyes) as well as factors related to the environment of the workplace including psychosocial. The environmental pollution and ecotoxicity are a result of the use of great quantities of agricultural inputs, fertilizers and pesticides.

Conclusion: This study has highlighted the various risk factors that are subject textile workers and the environmental risks associated with this activity. This will allow the establishment of an effective strategy of prevention and protection.