# Work-related and Occupational Diseases in the Export Oriented Readymade Garment (RMG) Industries: Perspective of bridging with PHC facilities of Bangladesh.

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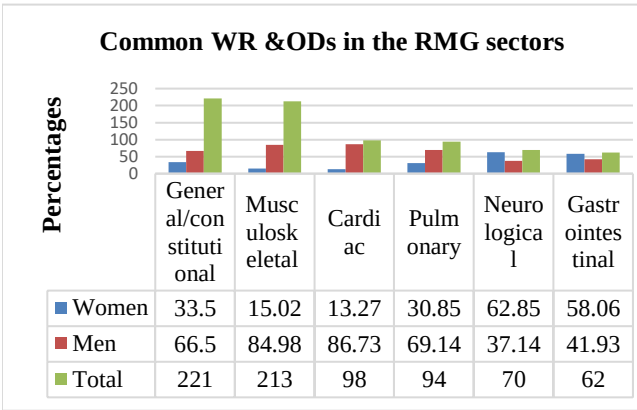
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## Abstract (300-word limit)

**Background:** Bangladesh's Ready-made Garment (RMG) industry, which began four decades ago, is currently the country's economic engine and accounting for more than 80% of the country's total export revenues. It contributes significantly to the national economy by offering many job opportunities and alleviating poverty through socioeconomic development. Many aspects of occupational health and safety have been improved in recent years in RMG sectors while, several aspects of the nature of work and working environment still need to be improved. Basic healthcare facilities and personnel (nurses, doctors, and others) are required by law in factories employing more than 300 workers. However, no data is available on the number of healthcare professionals employed in the RMG sectors and their skills never been evaluated. Therefore, the aim of this study is to identify the common work-related and occupational diseases in the RMG industries for further planning on prevention of those diseases by bridging them with the primary healthcare service delivery systems of Bangladesh. **Methods:** A systematic literature review following Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) searching method was applied to identify country perspective RMG industries oriented different types of diseases, along with the exposures causing of these work-related and occupational diseases and conducted FGDs among planners' and beneficiaries' groups. **Results and Discussion:** A total of 24 journal articles were finalized on RMG workers' occupational or work-related diseases in the context of Bangladesh and other neighboring countries. According to the literature, many work-related diseases were discovered among workers, including hearing impairment, dry skin dermatoses, hepatitis viruses, fungal infections, asthma, COPD, skin diseases, musculoskeletal disorders (i.e., low back pain, upper back pain, neck pain, shoulder pain, pain in hip joint and others). RMG workers argued that neither the industries have any medical doctor's or free medicine facilities. Either, due to enormous workload it is really challenging to visit doctor's premises in or outside of the industry. Relatively, superior working employees were not cooperative to take care of their workers' health, they are always stimulating about higher productivity. On the other hand, industry owner, leaders, and policy makers believed that it was really challenging for them to ensure medical facilities in the industry due to scarcity of health professionals and low interest of doctors for working in the industrial context. The employers' groups needed to establish the in-house general medical facilities where governmental and individual legislative are required to review the existing Bangladesh occupational diseases list along with available medical treatment friendly infrastructure. Also, needed to be commenced for bridging with the primary healthcare facilities of MoHFW in Bangladesh for getting free medicine and other healthcare facilities. Further, a need assessment study for developing a training curriculum for the medical staff of RMG industries and PHC for early prevention and management of common work-related and occupational diseases are also required.

**Key words:** Readymade garments (RMG), Occupational Diseases, Work-related Diseases, Occupational Exposures, PHC, and PRISMA.

## Image




| | General/constitutional | Musculoskeletal | Cardiac | Pulmonary | Neurological | Gastrointestinal |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Women | 33.5 | 15.02 | 13.27 | 30.85 | 62.85 | 58.06 |
| Men | 66.5 | 84.98 | 86.73 | 69.14 | 37.14 | 41.93 |
| Total | 221 | 213 | 98 | 94 | 70 | 62 |

Figure: Prevalence of self-reported medical conditions from medical records of 1906 garments workers (Solinap et al., 2019).

## Recent Publications (minimum 5)

1. "Assessment of outpatients' post-stroke rehabilitation service quality gap in Bangladesh'', Postgraduate thesis, Peer Reviewed journal publication, Published by Iranian Rehabilitation Journal. 2020; 18 (4) :485-496I.
2. "Schools for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in urban areas of Bangladesh: perspective of available facilities", Undergraduate thesis, BHPI-CRP, BD. http://hdl.handle.net/123456789/779
3. "Cross-Cultural Adaptation and Validation of Communication Outcome After Stroke (COAST) Scale into Bengali'", Under review.
4. "Factors relating to the expectations and perceptions of post-stroke outpatients in the rehabilitation services of Bangladesh", International Journal of Statistics in Medical Research. 2022; (11): 27-40. https://doi.org/10.6000/1929-6029.2022.11.04
5. "Stroke and Healthcare Facilities in Bangladesh and Other Developing Countries", Post-stroke Rehabilitation, Intech Open, Web of Science. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.101915

## Photograph



## Biography (150-word limit)

Experienced in management of healthcare service systems and Research with a demonstrated history of working in the diverse field of research project, rehabilitation hospital & health care industry. Skilled in providing services for patient with communication and swallowing difficulties, conducting research with national and international donor organizations, field research, strategic Planning, Program/event organization, advocacy campaign in the community with government and non-government partner organizations, Public Speaking, Public Policy, Monitoring, Evaluation, peer reviewed research publications, and Leadership. Experienced in working with multi-dimensional professionals in abroad and Bangladesh with a foreign Master`s degree focused on rehabilitation and health.

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