

## **Health Problems and Illness of Female Workers in Textile Industries**

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This paper examines three major health-related issues : first, existing health problems and illness resulting from physical environmental conditions at workplaces; second, female workers' perception on illness and health protection; third, the relationship between illness and risk factors. The study area is textile factories in Bangkok and its peripheries. Data are drawn from the 1987 Survey of Occupational Health and Textile Industrial Development in Thailand : Effect on Health and Socioeconomic of Female Migrant Workers.

This study shows that about 20 percent of female workers have ill-health problems and illness after a period of working mainly due to high level of dust and noise, and inadequate light. These problems are hazardous to respiratory system (resulting in cough and chest tightness etc.), earing system (pains as well as imparied and hearing loss), eye systems (irritation, reduced vidual capacity) and skin allergy. Such illness is intensified in the long-run. The analysis of variances reveals that education, section of work, perception of illness, and perception of use-effectiveness of health protection (particularly mask and ear plug) significantly affect these illness.

This study concludes that health education and occupational health should be provided in factories with emphasis on health prevention and promotion.