

A CASE STUDY ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OF FOOTWEAR

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

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ABSTRACT

Bangladesh engaged with leather processing business since British period, and the first tannery of Bangladesh was established in 1940 by the famous entrepreneur Late Mr. RP Saha in Narayanganj (Billah, et al. 2000; Biswas and Rahman, 2013). Tanneries are one of the emerging sectors for trade and finance but it has adverse effect to the society, environment and worker (Azom et al, 2012; Human Right Watch, 2012). According to ILO (2014) occupational hazard lies as the hazardous genesis of almost all fatalities in industrialized generation, over the 2.3 million fatalities that take place annually, over 2 million fatalities are caused by work related diseases. The main objective is to assess the status of occupational health and safety of a footwear manufacturing industry with respect to the Social Compliance. Apex Footwear Limited pioneered the export of value added finished products export in the leather sector of Bangladesh and is also involved in the local footwear retail business with the second largest shoe retail network in the country. Overall occupational health and safety management practice in Apex Footwear Limited was found good. Though some deficiency found during this short visit, but commitment of top management towards occupational health and safety was impressive. It can be noted that, compliance is a continuous improvement process. The beneficial impacts on the nation as well as human beings would only be meaningful and sustainable development would only be possible if the adverse effects are minimized through strict maintenance and control measures.

KEYWORDS: Sustainability, Safety and EHS