

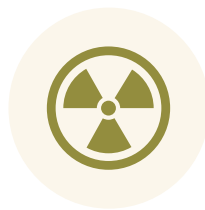
Home-based Worker Health & Safety

In order to understand the main occupational health challenges and hazards home-based workers face in Ahmedabad, India, a survey was undertaken with a total of 200 women workers, split across four groups: kite makers, incense rollers, bidi makers and garment workers. Here's what we learned:

The majority of home-based workers surveyed reported experiencing occupational health & safety hazards at work:



96% reported exposure to ergonomic hazards



74% reported exposure to chemical hazards



98% reported not using any protective equipment at work

More than half of workers surveyed reported experiencing mental health issues:



60% of the workers reported feeling tired all the time



55% reported feeling tense and worried all of the time

Workers' illness or injury affects their ability to work & earn a living:



Illness and accidents had caused **15%** of workers to miss work in the previous 12 months



7% of workers believed that this illness or injury was linked to work

Home-based workers' occupational health & safety challenges vary depending on what product they make:

Kite makers are more likely than other groups to suffer joint pain:



65% reported pain in the wrist



42% reported pain in the ankles



58% reported pain in the elbows



49% reported pain in the shoulders

Garment workers are more likely than other groups to suffer from:



34% reported back ache



45% reported blurred vision



46% reported hypertension

Bidi makers are more likely than other groups to suffer from:



80% reported dizziness



65% reported body cramps



41% reported blurred vision

Home-based workers face many occupational health and safety challenges.

Occupational health and safety for home-based workers should include:

- Adequate infrastructure, including access to electricity, water, sanitation and improved housing;
- access to promotive, preventive and curative health services and support, including services relating to occupational health, mental health and non-communicable diseases;
- access to ergonomically designed work equipment to reduce the chance of injury and the premature end to working lives; and
- access to personal protective equipment when working with hazardous substances.