Introduction Data availability for occupational disease and injury statistics is crucial for policy perspective, and for the evaluation of implementation of occupational health and safety (OSH) standards in industrial settings of a country. The Factories Act 1948 require notifiable diseases to be informed in prescribed format to the concerned authority for the reporting purpose, however, the mechanism for the dissemination of this information is not clearly defined which leads to delay in public access to this information. A registry of occupational diseases and injuries has a great potential in fulfilling this data gap. Under Digital India scheme, multiple electronic health identities being generated for Indian citizens, which presents a beneficial opportunity to integrate notification system with a registry database.

Material and Methods Using a structured validated questionnaire, representative institutions catering to Occupational diseases/disorders across the country are being contacted. The focus of enquiry includes the nature of records maintained, the different variables being included, the follow-up and continuity of care variables, mechanism of reporting and collating data, compensation related issues and concerns, etc. In addition, the extent of digitisation of records and scope and status of computerisation will be documented. Wherever feasible visits will be made to ascertain. The country will be divided into 6 regions and at least 6 to 10 institutions of varying nature will be contacted for purposes of this activity.

Results & Conclusion Currently, there is no registry in India for Occupational Diseases and Injuries, this study explores a potential model for online registry in India which has large pool of networked hospitals serving the industrial workers through government welfare schemes. Data insights from registry can be utilized in policy making in area of OSH, and to plan and intervene in form of medical strategies for protection and welfare of workers.

COVID 19

P-316 AWARENESS AND PRACTICES REGARDING ‘LONG COVID’ AMONG EMPLOYEES OF SELECTED ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES IN SOUTH INDIA

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Introduction ‘Long COVID’ is a term coined for long term post COVID-19 disease complications. Touted as the ‘pandemic after the pandemic’ it has significant implications for employment especially on productivity and quality of worker output. Objectives 1. To assess the baseline knowledge among employees working in selected electronics goods manufacturing companies regarding COVID-19 disease, COVID vaccination and long COVID complications. 2. To assess the prevalence of long COVID complications among the study subjects.

Methodology We followed a quantitative cross-sectional study design between May-Jun 2022 in 6 factories across South India. A semi-structured, face-validated interview schedule was administered to the employees via Google Forms®. Data was analysed using SPSS v.21.

Results A total of 118 employees were included in the study. Most employees were male (89.2%), between 25–30 years of age (46.3%) and had completed their bachelor’s degree (71.29%). Most had at least 1–5 years of current work experience (80.5%). Almost 55.1% of the employees had suffered from COVID-19 in the past of whom 33.8% had been hospitalised. Only 42.8% of employees knew about long COVID complications and 33.1% knew of only one symptom. None of the employees had taken the booster dose of the vaccine despite 67.8% knowing that the vaccine protected against severe disease. Almost 75% of employees reported to suffer from one or more post COVID complications. Long standing fatigue (16.9%), cough and breathing difficulty (6.1%) were the most common complaints.

Conclusion Low awareness regarding long COVID will impact health seeking behaviour and increase presenteeism at the workplace. Increasing awareness regarding COVID-19 disease, vaccinations and the post COVID complications through training programmes and health education sessions will bridge the key knowledge gaps identified. Promotion of booster dose vaccination against COVID-19 for all employees will help in reducing the burden of long COVID at the workplace.