

5th International Conference and Exhibition on

Occupational Health & Safety

June 06-07, 2016 Dallas, USA

Small business and universal health care coverage (UHC) in Thailand

Dusadee Charoensuk
Eastern Asia University, Thailand

This qualitative research is aimed to study the impact of work and work place on quality of life of people running small businesses, with the help of UHC in Thailand. The research method used is in-depth interviews and participatory observation with more than 50 street food sellers in Bangkok. The results revealed that most of them (more than 70%) are females of middle age (30-60 years old) with children in the family and with less than high school education. They were in crucial debt that they had to pay daily/monthly average of 20% of interest with principle. They invested small amount of money and borrowed some from illegal loan lenders because they had no credit or any bank accounts. Their work places were along the streets in downtown or crowded communities. The impact of work places were air pollution from near by motorcycle queues, dusty streets, sometime road accidents, noisy places, and heat. Sometimes, they move to other places carrying heavy food containers with the thought that, it may be able to make more money. They get up very early in the morning to buy raw materials from the markets, prepare food and spend the whole day to sell their food products with little time to rest. The impact of all this on their quality of life includes problems of physical health, emotional health and social health. Physical health problems include back and knee pain, skin irritation from cooking food and heat etc.; emotional health problems include stress, worried about financial support and daily payment in the family and future strain; and problems of social health include no social security, family disparities because of no time to take care of children, some of their partners were heavy drinkers and their children have to leave the schools and some of them were drug abused too. Universal health coverage in Thailand had been set up since 2001 with the concept of "Health for All". As of now, 99% of the Thai population is covered through a comprehensive healthcare package that ranges from health prevention and primary care to hospitalization due to traffic accidents, to renal replacement therapy and access to ART treatment for HIV. This UHC has helped people who have no security insurance. The research suggests to sustain the UHC policy along with good strategies for health prevention and health promotion to these groups of people and to create the finance support systems to stop the "shark loan" and vicious cycle of their life.

dusadee_cha@yahoo.com

Developing safety culture: How to stay one step ahead

Scott Harris
UL Workplace Health & Safety, USA

The only good accident is one that doesn't happen. If an accident is prevented before it occurs, the employee is saved from injury and the employer is spared from the financial cost and potential liability from a preventable incident. The most effective accident prevention approach is to develop a culture of safety that prioritizes reporting, training, good safety practices, and to encourage participation at all levels of the organization. Regulations for on-the-job accident reporting have recently changed and will probably do so again, so employers need to be proactive about improvements to the company's safety program. To do this, an employer must search for the root cause of the incident, accident or near miss, and implement lessons learned into their safety program. Dr. Scott Harris, Director of EHS advisory services for UL Workplace Health & Safety, will discuss eight steps for forming and maintaining a solid culture of safety for employees. This will include best practices for incident reporting, employee training, hazard identification, and program analysis.

esikorski@arketi.com