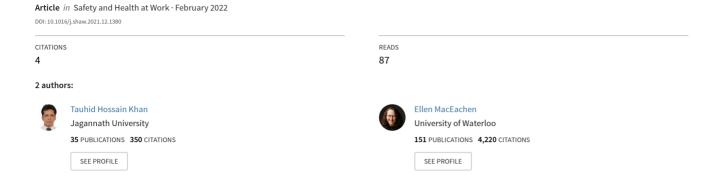
A furnished house without walls: Examining the work and health support systems of self-employed workers in Ontario, Canada



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Knowledge, attitudes, and awareness of asbestos among the residents of St. Kitts and Nevis

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Introduction: Many small and developing countries still allow asbestos use due to their vulnerability to the economic pressure from powerful asbestos exporting countries. The lack of awareness of asbestos hazards is a potential reason for the continued use of asbestos in such vulnerable countries. St. Kitts and Nevis is one such country where asbestos has not been banned. This study aimed to investigate the knowledge, attitude, and awareness of asbestos among the residents of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Materials and Methods: We used an online questionnaire to collect participants' knowledge about asbestos-containing products, awareness of asbestos exposure and health risks, and attitudes about preventive measures to asbestos exposure among 1,009 residents age >18 years in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Results: Over 50% of participants ever heard the term "asbestos" (71%) and knew what asbestos is (56%). Only <30% of participants knew asbestos-related diseases (26%) and their latency periods (20%). As for attitudes, >70% of participants thought the general public should be concerned about asbestos exposure in their daily life, and it is the government's duty to prevent such exposure. 54% of participants thought that a total ban is the best option to prevent asbestos exposure in the country.

Conclusions: Residents of St. Kitts and Nevis were aware of asbestos but had low awareness of health effects related to asbestos exposure. The government of St. Kitts and Nevis should consider implementing educational programs to increase the knowledge and awareness of asbestos-related diseases and taking actions towards a total asbestos ban country.

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Investigating Associations Between Physical Activity and Presenteeism – A Scoping Review

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Introduction: Considering that physical activity plays a key role in the health of workers, numerous scientists recognize the relevance of further studying its relationship with presenteeism. However, studies about this association show some discrepancy in the measurement and in the results obtained. Clarification through a scoping review of the literature on the subject is warranted.

Methods: A search strategy was conduct in six scientific databases. Two independent reviewers led a screening process for study selection. Studies written in English about the relation between physical activity and presenteeism were considered for inclusion. Data on definitions and measurement of presenteeism and physical activity were extracted.

Results: After screening 9773 titles and abstracts and 269 full-text articles, 57 unique articles fulfilled our eligibility criteria. Most articles were published since 2010 and originated predominantly in USA. In terms of design, 33 studies were observational, 12 were

longitudinal, 10 were randomized control trial and 3 were interventions. Nearly half of studies (44%) referred to presenteeism as the "lost productivity due to health problems or illness". The WLQ was the tool the most used among those studies to assess presenteeism. Most of the studies 86% showed that physical activity had either a neutral (39%) or a positive (47%) effect on presenteeism.

Conclusions: Despite existing disparities in the mesaurement and definition of presenteeism and physical activity, this review shows that physically inactive employees have a higher risk of presenteeism than physically active employees.

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A furnished house without walls: Examining the work and health support systems of self-employed workers in Ontario, Canada

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Introduction: Today's labor market has changed over time, shifting from full-time, secured, and standard employment relationships to entrepreneurial and precarious working arrangements. This precarity has a profound impact on workers' health and well-being, undermining the comprehensiveness of social safety net structures, employment standards, and occupational health and safety laws and policies. Globally, self-employment has emerged as a key precarious work relationship with workers being vulnerable and unprotected in terms of social security.

Methods: Drawing in-depth interviews with 24 solo self-employed people in Ontario, this paper reflects on how self-employed workers are protected with available support systems, broadly including policy, financial and emotional supports. Thematic analysis was conducted based on the narratives participants provided. The project was approved by the REB, University of Waterloo, Canada.

Findings: The findings indicate that self-employed workers drew on both formal and informal support systems. However, they more relied on an informal support system (e.g., social and cultural capital) than formal (government-provided supports). Both structural (premium affordability, lack of information, lack of self-employed-focused support programs) and non-structural factors (e.g., lack of trust in government systems, discretion) resonate with poor access to formal supports for self-employed workers.

Conclusion: Meagre government-provided formal supports may adversely impact the health and wellbeing of self-employed workers.

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Risk factors and evaluation of occupational fatigue among logistic truck drivers in Malaysia

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Majority of transport and logistic drivers greatly affected by fatigue. Fatigue and its associated risk factors are the causative factor for accidents, injuries and death in a wide range of workplace accidents. In fact, the effect of fatigue further resulted