

Although it is regarded as the least effective in safeguarding workers' health, PPE remains invaluable in informal settings such as the study site which lack more effective organizational means to reduce workplace risks. We, therefore, investigated the predictors of PPE usage among the artisans and found that familiarization with labels and safety data sheets was a strong predictor of PPE compliance. This agrees with a study conducted among garment workers in India that showed that safe practice did not depend on knowledge but was positively associated with being supplied with chemical information.²² Artisans with increased contact with hazards (both in terms of work hours and those who reported poor air quality in the workplace due to inhalation of hazardous substances) were also more likely to use PPE than others. In addition, the perceived barriers in this study were negatively associated with the use of protective equipment and were consistent with findings with other categories of workers. These include discomfort wearing PPE, being expensive as well as a reduced risk perception among workers.^{23,24}

Limitations

The limitations of this study are those peculiar to a cross-sectional design such as the inability to establish true causality. Safety practices and health problems were self-reported and may be biased. No cause-effect relationship can also be applied to the association identified in this study. Nonetheless, the results have important implications for occupational safety among this and similar groups of workers who work in informal and unsupervised settings.

Conclusions

This study revealed that artisans with more contact time with the dyeing process and those who read label instructions have more knowledge of occupational hazards. Gaseous products arising from the mixing of chemicals and suspended textile fiber/dye particles were also found to be high-risk factors for health problems (respiratory, allergy, circulatory) among the artisans. The study also revealed a low usage of PPE among textile dye workers in Abeokuta, Nigeria, and perceived barriers including a reduced perception of risk were identified as a determinant of PPE compliance.

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Online supplementary material:

Workplace exposure questionnaire. Part A: sociodemographic information. Part A: sociodemographic information. Part C: safety practices and barriers to PPE compliance. Part D: estimates of exposure. Part E: self-reported health problems.