

Respiratory Health Effects of Dust in Female Stone Quarry Workers of Rajasthan: An Epidemiological Study

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ABSTRACT The prevalence of respiratory diseases and symptoms with regard to stone dust were recorded on 125 exposed and 125 control females from Malis, an endogamous caste group of Rajasthan. Cough, phlegm, dyspnea, frequent wheezing, chest tightness occurred in greater number of female stone quarry workers than the controls matched for age, ethnic origin, socio-economic status etc. It was concluded that the stone dust exposure caused airways dysfunction, as evident from lower values of lung functions, as well as interstitial lung diseases, as manifested in higher frequency of respiratory symptoms in the exposed group than in the control.