

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies

Occupational Accident, Violence and Industrial Unrest (January-December) 2011: A situational Analysis

In January-December 2011, at least 879 workers died and 1235 workers injured in workplace related accidents and violence.

Situation at a glance

- Killed - 879
- Injured - 1235
- Tortured - 65
- Raped - 20
- Kidnapped - 191
- Suicide - 12

In case of death cases, at least 683 workers died at workplace accidents. Among them 44 workers were female. 196 workers were died in violent attacks and criminal offences while 52 workers were female among them.

- Total Killed: 879
- accident : 683
 - male - 639
 - female - 44
 - Violence: 196
 - male- 144
 - female- 52

During this time 1235 workers injured in accident, while 749 were male and 65 were female. 421 workers were injured in violence while 380 were male and 41 were female.

- Total Injured 1235
- Accident: 814
 - male - 749
 - Female - 65
 - Violence: 421
 - male- 380
 - female-41

In this time the highest number of workplace related accidental deaths happened in Transport Sector. At least 256 workers died in this sector. Second highest 121 deaths happened in Construction while 3rd highest sector was RMG sector where 87 workers were died. Besides, 32 Day Labourers, 30 Expatriate workers, 27 Fishermen, and 13 Ship breaking workers died at workplace in different types of accidents.

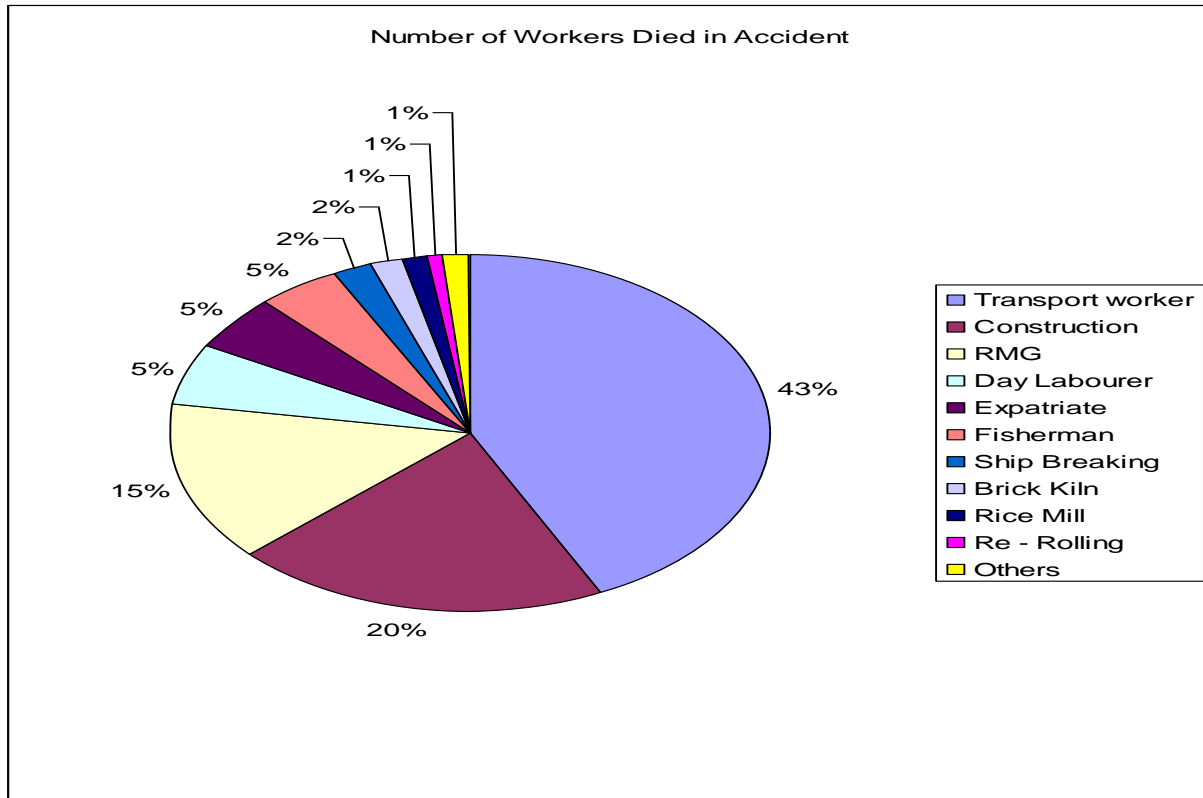


Fig-1: Number of workers died according to sector

Workplace deaths due to accidents:

- Transport worker : 256
- Construction : 121
- RMG : 87
- Day Labourer : 32
- Expatriate : 30
- Fisherman : 27
- Ship Breaking : 13
- Brick Kiln : 11
- Rice Mill : 8
- Re - Rolling : 5
- Others : 8

In this time different types of accidents happened where highest number of 375 workers died in Road Accident, 57 workers died due to electrocution, 48 workers died in fall from height, 28 workers died in mudslide or wall collapses, 14 workers died in explosions and 13 workers died in suffocation by poisonous gas.

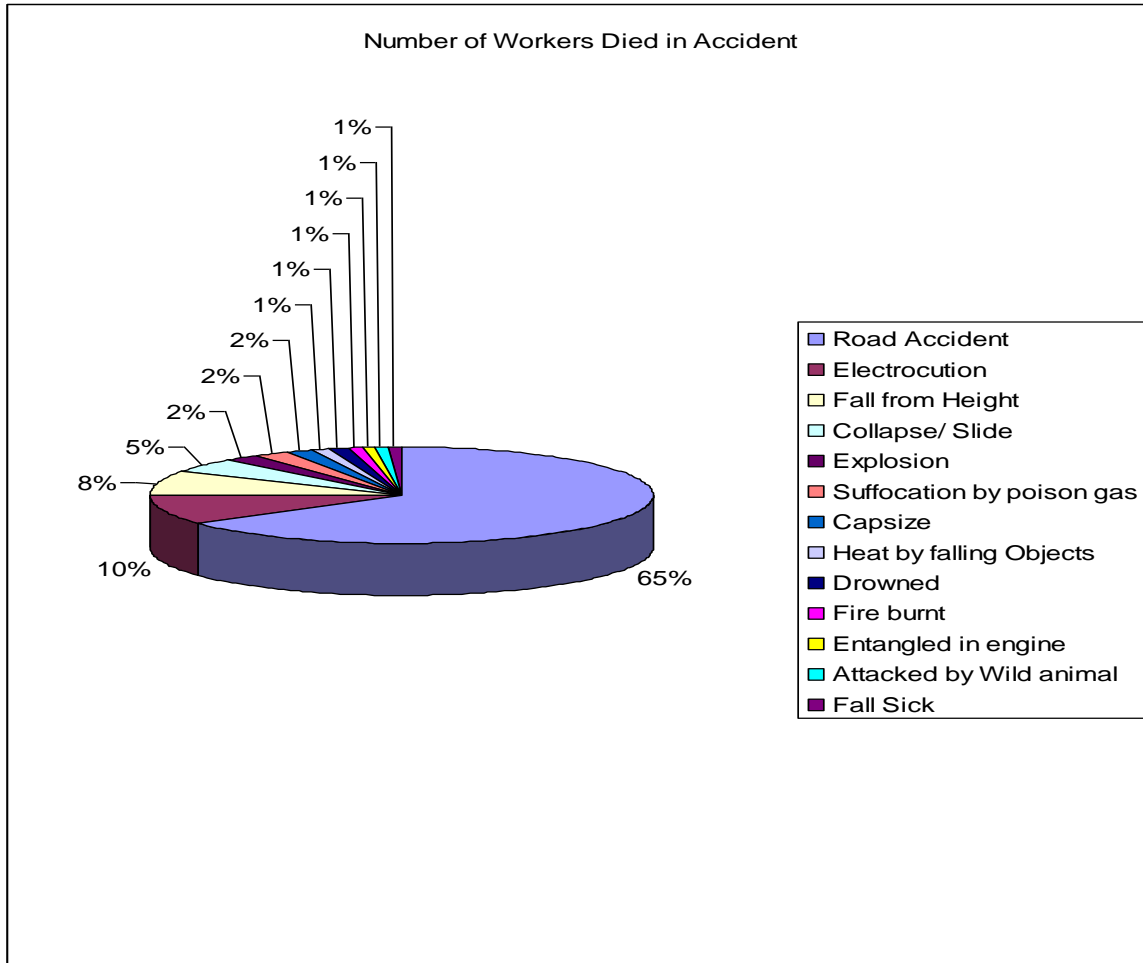


Fig-2: Number of workers died according to workplace accidents.

Types of Workplace Accident

- Road Accident : 375
- Electrocutation : 57
- Fall from Height : 48
- Collapse/ Slide : 28
- Explosion : 14
- Suffocation by poison gas : 13
- Capsize : 9
- Heat by falling Objects : 7
- Drowned : 7
- Fire burnt : 5
- Entangled in engine : 5
- attacked by Wild animal : 5
- Fall Sick : 5

In this time the highest number of violence related deaths happened in case of Domestic Workers. At least 51 workers died in different types of violence in this sector. Second highest 42 deaths happened in Transport Sector, while 27 workers died at Service sector. In RMG sector, 19 workers were died in violence and brutal attack.

Workplace deaths due to violence	: 196
● Domestic worker	: 51
● Transport worker	: 42
● Service	: 27
● RMG	: 19
● Fishermen	: 17
● Day Labourer	: 8
● Construction	: 4
● Others	: 1

This year, a number of industrial unrests were happened in different sectors. The number of total workers upraise was 239

● Placing the demand for Wage and Dues	: 78
● Protesting Closure or Lay Off	: 30
● Protesting the torture or death on workers	: 14
● Demanding reopening of factory	: 13
● Demanding resignation of Officials	: 10
● For permanent job	: 09
● Demand For Established Wage Board	: 07
● For Amendment of Labour Laws	: 08
● Protesting Dismissal of Worker	: 02

In this time RMG workers went on upraise or demonstration at least 138 times. Transport was second in line with 29 incidents while pharmaceutical workers demonstrated 7 times. Workers in mine sector were 6, Workers in Fertilizer sector were 5 times and, tea sector were 5 times, health sector 3 times, , and 37 other demonstrations, sit-ins or blockades happened in other sectors.

Upraise Sectors

● RMG	: 138
● Transport	: 29
● Pharmaceutical:	07
● Mine	: 06
● Fertilizer	: 05

- Tea : 04
- Healthcare : 03
- Plastic : 03
- Doc Labour : 02
- Rice Mill : 02
- Jute : 02
- Sugar : 01
- Others : 37

Beside this, total 9 cases were filed against agitated workers, total 45 workers were arrested and also there were 69 lose of wordays in regard to labour unrest.

Giving a look into the patterns of such demonstrations the present study has found out that at least 119 of the programmes were mass demonstration, 29 programmes were highway blockade, 24 of them were Abstain from work, Strike/Hunger strike claims 21 programmes, Clash consist of 16 incidents, Human chain is 11 of them Discussion Meeting/ Press Conference 7 and Ransack Factory/Confine officer/office is 4

Actions:

- Mass Demonstrate : 119
- Blockade Highway : 29
- Abstain from Work : 24
- Strike/Hunger strike : 21
- Clash two groups/owners men : 16
- Human Chain : 11
- Discussion Meeting/ Press Conference : 07
- Ransack Factory/ Confine officer/office : 04