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## Visual profile of the small scale industry workers

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**Purpose:** To determine the profile of presenting visual status and refractive status of the small scale industry workers at the Ambattur Industrial estate, Chennai.

**Methods:** A descriptive study of the presenting visual status among industrial workers working in the small scale and tiny sector industries in Ambattur Industrial estate, Chennai. In addition to the demographic data, visual acuity was measured using the Snellen's chart for distance placed at six meters with adequate illumination. Each eye should be tested separately with and without glasses where applicable and subsequently refracted if their visual acuity was less than normal. Near visual acuity was tested using N notation reading chart. Color vision was tested using the Ishihara pseudo-isochromatic plates and findings noted as normal or abnormal. Torch light examination is done with a pen-torch to rule out any anterior segment abnormalities.

**Results:** Hundred and eleven small scale industry workers were screened that included 24.3 % Entrepreneurs, 14.4% Operators and 14.4% Engineers which include both electrical and chemical engineers, 11.7 % administrators, 7.2% welders, 10.8% turners, 9.9 % house keepers and 7.2% drivers. Among hundred and eleven subjects, 82% were males and 18% were females with a mean age ( $39.7 \pm 13.153$ ). 23.4% showed Visual impairment ranging from mild to severe. The most common visual disorders were presbyopia (37%), uncorrected refractive error (36.93%), Color vision defect in (10.8%) and cataract (6.3%). None of them used protective eye wears.

**Conclusion:** Presbyopia without correction was high among the small scale industry workers. This is not ultimate for both distance and near work as working in small scale and tiny sector industries is a visually challenging career. We in future suggest that an industrial eye health and safety surveillance system should be recognized to monitor the occurrence of eye diseases and injuries. It should also be tasked to undertake eye risk assessment in such industries so as to control inevitable occupational eye injuries and diseases. The use of safety eye devices is low in these workers and suggests that measures to implement ocular safety should be undertaken in these industries.

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