

CHAPTER X

## CONCLUSION

## 10.1 CONCLUSION

Industries adopt various types of processes and materials depending on the nature of industry. These processes and agents create varying environmental conditions in which the population is compelled to live and work. The effects of such environment on the health of the population working within or without the industrial units are reflected in the physical and mental disorders afflicting this population at risk. Although the exact occupational diseases could not be identified during this study, the ailments described by the respondents clearly indicate the nature of health problems that are encountered. Some of the problems may intensify over time, resulting in serious outcomes in the future. Since the distribution of industries is uneven over space, the areal distribution of health hazards associated with industries is also bound to vary. In the light of these facts, the findings of this research, which is confined to a single industrial centre, assume considerable significance.

## 10.2 FINDINGS

1. Physical infirmities are more associated with chemical,

heavy engineering and glass industries where heavy physical labour is involved. Problems of the respiratory system, nose and asthma are more common in the textile and glass industries; while skin problems are highest among chemical and paint industries. It is noted that the problem of stress pervades all industries indicating the strains and stress imposed by the industrial environment.

2. Most of the health problems are related to long years of exposure to the industrial environment. All infirmities are maximum amongst those working for more than 10 years. It is evident that most of the physical and mental problems ~~which~~ prevents them taking adequate safety measures at such a late stage.
3. Temperament and adjustment problems are related to the availability of welfare facilities in the industry and the extent of hazards posed by an industry. Thus adjustment is less in the chemical industry due to the potential threat to health caused by handling of toxic chemicals. On the other hand, in the fertilizer industry these components reveal a favourable situation since this industry is well organised and provides adequate steps for the welfare of the workers.
4. Impact of pollution is felt on the health of the people residing in the vicinity of the industrial area which is

observed from high respiratory, skin and nasal disorders.

5. Health care facilities for industrial workers are inadequate. Most of the workers prefer private clinics. Most workers consider the E.S.I.S. hospital at Gotri to be located too far for them to have access to this facility.
6. Knowledge, awareness and perception is low, among majority of the respondents.
- 7) The employer's attitude towards the health hazards is indifferent. Adequate steps are not taken for safety of workers and adequate health care measure are not provided. The general solution for tackling health problems currently adopted by employers is to dispense with the services of the affected worker.
8. Since in an industrial area the percentage of people engaged in industries is very high the ill health of workers has an adverse effect on the health of society as a whole.

The study has helped to show that there are a number of health problems associated with various industrial environments that need to be tackled in order to counteract the adverse effects of industrial development and to sustain

human progress and well-being.

### 10.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Industrial workers as well as the public at large should be made aware of work related health problems. This could be done through well documented programmes presented through the mass media or through door to door campaigns launched by non-government agencies to promote awareness. Spread of education is a primary necessity in preventing the adverse effects of industrialisation on health.
2. Legislations making it mandatory for industrial organisations to inform the workers about the health hazards in their work environment, could go a long way in promoting awareness which could mark the first step to control and prevent health risks.
3. The employers must be made aware of the health risks and be compelled to adopt measures to prevent ill-health among the workers. Use of safety devices, safeguards against pollution, proper disposal of effluents, judicious interchange of duties of the workers to prevent over-exposure to any one process, are some of the measures that need to be adopted.
4. Strict enforcement of by-laws regarding effluent disposal is a prime necessity in controlling health risks among

industrial workers and those living in the vicinity of industries.

5. Importance of using safety devices must be emphasized by the employers, and the employees should be motivated to use them.
6. Health care facilities for the industrial workers need to be augmented. More ESIS clinics need to be located in all the industrial areas. The factories, particularly those prone to greater health risks such as chemical, paints, glass and textile units, should provide regular health check up facilities in order to monitor the adverse effects of the production processes.
7. Stress management should be introduced in the organisation.
8. A system of counselling and interaction could be introduced in the organisation for better occupational adjustment.
9. A relatively modest expenditure on safety measures may reduce expenditure on compensation, absenteeism, accidents and occupational diseases.
10. The doctors should be trained to identify the

occupational diseases. In fact, all ailments of industrial workers should be treated potentially as occupational diseases.

11. The data on occupational diseases must be systematically maintained. The occupation of the industrial worker should be noted along with his other personal information whenever an industrial worker visits the hospital.
12. Apart from adopting safety and pollution control measures, the industrial plants should be sited at locations away from thickly settled areas so that the population exposed to harmful agents and practices are reduced to a minimum.
13. Voluntary organisations should work in collaboration with environmentalists, medical practitioners, management and workers. This will help in establishing awareness about health problems and safety.
14. The geography of health must incorporate the study of health in industrial areas as an integral part of its content and collaborate with public and industrial health practitioners in identifying areal distribution of occupational diseases. This would help in assessing the impact of industrialisation that may be anticipated and taken into consideration in process of planning.

#### 10.4 FUTURE RESEARCH PROSPECT

Industrial health has always been the prime concern of various disciplines, viz., Industrial sociology, management personnel, environmental studies, medicine, demography, planning, water management, etc. The problem is complex in nature. Therefore there is a good scope for interdisciplinary research. The medical sciences can investigate and identify the occupational diseases and relate them to the various components of the environment in order to establish the aetiology of such diseases. The social scientists could also carry out research to pin point the pollutants that are associated with health problems in different regions and assess the social and economic impact of the health hazards associated with industries.