A STUDY OF RESPIRATORY FUNCTIONS AMONG CEMENT FACTORY WORKERS EXPOSED TO CEMENT DUST

INTRODUCTION
The Construction forms the backbone for urbanization of any country. In these rapidly growing economic conditions health remains neglected. Also in rapid industrialization and urbanization, occupation morbidities are on high risk in India. Occupational exposure includes Portland cement whose constituents are calcium oxide, silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, ferric oxide, magnesium oxide and other impurities. Portland cement is one of the most important building materials which is been exposed to all construction workers in handling, blending & grinding. The aerodynamic diameter of cement particle ranges from 0.05 to 5 μm. These particles are respirable in size; hence Portland cement is important as potential cause of occupational lung disease. All construction sites generates high level of dusts typically from the concrete, silica, asbestos, wood, stones, sands and the workers are exposed to this airborne dust. Dust and Cement Particles which are inhaled are lodged in lungs and causes lung irritation, mucus hyper secretion initially followed by lung function impairment, lung inflammation, chronic obstructive lung disease, restrictive lung obstructions in human beings. The present study was carried out to investigate the effect of long-term dust exposure on lung functions of cement workers in Arang Block Raipur, CG Further studies among the workers may reduce morbidity & mortality patterns, also ample avenues of prevention could well be explored.

METHODS:
This cross sectional study was done among 150 construction workers and around the area of Block Arang, District Raipur Near Raipur compared with 75 controls to assess the respiratory illness, lung morbidities are on high risk in India. Occupational exposure includes Portland cement whose constituents are calcium oxide, silicon oxide, aluminum oxide, ferric oxide, magnesium oxide and other impurities. Portland cement is one of the most important building materials which is been exposed to all construction workers in handling, blending & grinding. The aerodynamic diameter of cement particle ranges from 0.05 to 5 μm. These particles are respirable in size; hence Portland cement is important as potential cause of occupational lung disease. All construction sites generates high level of dusts typically from the concrete, silica, asbestos, wood, stones, sands and the workers are exposed to this airborne dust. Dust and Cement Particles which are inhaled are lodged in lungs and causes lung irritation, mucus hyper secretion initially followed by lung function impairment, lung inflammation, chronic obstructive lung disease, restrictive lung obstructions in human beings. The present study was carried out to investigate the effect of long-term dust exposure on lung functions of cement workers in Arang Block Raipur, CG Further studies among the workers may reduce morbidity & mortality patterns, also ample avenues of prevention could well be explored.

Methods:
A cross sectional study using Multi stage Sampling Method & study was conducted in Arang block of Raipur District during 2nd April to 28th April 2019. Sample size was 150. A control group of 75 was chosen. Personal Interview, Anthropometric measurements & Clinical Examination was done and a Pre-designed Questionnaire form was filled from every study subject. Analyzed on SPSS (Version 20, IBM, USA).

RESULTS:
Overall prevalence of respiratory symptoms & abnormal spirometry parameters among study group was statistically significant when compared with control group. Spirometry tests of 150 construction workers compared with control group of 75 subjects revealed that this impairment in respiratory functions was correlating with duration of exposure to cement dust.

Conclusions: present study adds evidence that cement dust adversely affects the respiratory functions and this impairment is association with duration of exposure to cement dust. The Findings are of Importance in that it highlights the need to overcome the effect of long term exposure.

KEYWORDS : Cement Workers , Respiratory Functions , Occupational Hazards , Cement Dust
60.53 +5.3 and their mean height was 152.8 + 4.3. The mean weight participants of control group was 62.81 +3.5 and their mean height was 155.2 + 6.12.

Respiratory symptoms were more common among the study group as compare to control group. Overall prevalence of respiratory symptoms among study group 26.2% which is statistically significant when compared with control group. All the parameters of Pulmonary Function Test were significantly decreased (p < 0.0001) in study group as compare to control group.

DISCUSSION
Although, smoking is considered the most important predisposing factor in development of emphysema; environmental exposures also play an important role. There have been several studies on work related respiratory symptoms and ventilator disorders among employees of cement industry. The present study is done among the construction workers. In the present Study the Pulmonary Function tests FEV1, FVC, PEFR and MVV has shown significant decrement. Occupational and environmental exposure to hazardous particulate matter (PM) had lead to respiratory health care problems. Other Studies has shown that cement dust may enter into Systemic circulation and thereby reaching all the organs of body and different tissues including heart, liver, spleen, Bone, hair, skin and ultimately affecting their microstructures and physiological performance as it creates the breeding ground for vector. Also while conducting such kind of studies little consideration has to be given to promising factors which affect the lung function such as age, height, weight, and smoking. Therefore the study was designed to investigate the effects of airborne dusts on the lung function of construction workers matched for age, height and weight. In the present study, FEV1, FVC, PEFR, MVV values showed highly significant reduction as compare to control groups. The significant decrease in these values is indicative of obstructive type of changes in lung functions. Continuous exposure to dusty environment leads to inflammatory changes in small airways as well as in lung parenchyma leading to development of obstructive type of lung dysfunction. These obstructive types of changes among study group can be correlated with the duration of exposure to dusty environment at the construction site, as majority of the subjects in study group were occupationally exposed to PMs for 5 to 10 years on an average. Also the prevalence of respiratory symptoms was more among the study group than the control group which can be explained on the same basis. Ulvestad et al conducted a study to find out association between dust exposure and airway inflammation and found lower airway inflammation even though they worked for only 1 year. The results of the present study also showed a decreased FEV1 which is in agreement with the observations made by these authors. The hexavalent chromium content of cement has been implicated as the etiology of allergic occupational pulmonary impairment. Sultan Ayoub Meo et al carried out a study which showed that cement dust adversely affects the respiratory function and this impairment is associated with duration of exposure to cement dust. Similarly to our findings, Zeleke ZK investigated the effect of cement dust exposure on 127 cement factory workers with a mean of 10 years exposure to cement dust on lung function. They found that pulmonary function test parameters were significantly lower in cement factory workers than in control subjects. Their results suggest that chronic cement dust exposure impairs lung function. Concurrently, Zeleke et al found that FVC, FEV1 were significantly reduced among the cement production workers but not among the controls. The reduction in lung function was probably associated with high cement dust exposure. Also, Mwaialselage et al investigated ventilatory function in cement factory workers and reported that exposed workers had significantly lower FVC, FEV1, and PEFR than controls.

CONCLUSION
The present study adds evidence that cement dust adversely affects the respiratory functions and this impairment is association with duration of exposure to cement dust. The Findings are of Importance in that it highlights the need to overcome the effect of long term exposure. It also suggests that the workers must undergo pre-employment and periodic medical examination including lung function test. Thus, this study showed existing changes in pulmonary function related to dust exposure, and generated evidence to integrate primary prevention methods towards dust related morbidity and mortality

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