CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC INFLUENCES ON NATIONAL WORKPLACE INJURY RATES IN YOUNG PEOPLE

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WHY?

Young workers have highest injury rates.

Young workers have a long future working life.

Lots of research on micro level factors, little on macro level factors.
Cultural factors
Social norms
Attitudes
Beliefs
(Lund and Aaro, 2004)

Economic development
(Çolak and Palaz, 2017)

Injury rates in all workers
RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

Cultural values

Societal attitudes

National economy

? ©

Injury rates in young workers

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METHODODOLOGY:

• Data sources:
  
  • WHO database - non-fatal workplace injuries among workers aged <18 years and 18 - 24 years from 1995 to 2007.
  
  • World Values Survey - prevalence of the cultural attitudes to young people.
  
  • Index Mundi database.
  
  • Stata 14 statistical software package.
**Dependent Variable:**
- Incidence of non-fatal workplace injuries among young workers (per 100,000 workers in the age category)

**Independent Variables:**
- Attitudes to young people’s independence
  - Hard work
  - Feeling of responsibility
- Country of residence (10 countries: Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK)
- Workers’ age category: < 18 years and 18 – 24 years
- Years 1995 – 2007
- Country’s GDP per capita (purchasing power parity)
- Country’s unemployment level
COUNTRY VARIABLE:

- Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, the UK
- Germany and Switzerland
- Italy
- France and Spain
- Sweden
Generalised structural equation model (GSEM) –
characterise direct and indirect effects of multiple variables on each other and on the dependent variable.

Model fit –
linear regression model with multiple independent variables, using standardised residuals.
Injury Rate(18-24y) = 5.47 \times \text{Injury Rate(< 18y)}
For every 10% of people who believe young people should be independent, Injury Rate increases by 16%
Increasing prevalence of the expectation that young people should be hard-working by 1% results in decreasing Injury Rate in the 18-24 years age category by 3.0%
Increasing GDP per capita by $1000 decreases Injury Rate by 1.1%
Increased prevalence of the cultural expectation that young people should be hard working is associated with reduced workplace injury.
Increased prevalence of the cultural expectation that young people should be independent is associated with an increase in rate of workplace injuries.
Increased GDP is associated with decreased injury rate.
STUDY LIMITATIONS

- Possible differences in reporting systems.
- Unmeasured cultural / economic / societal factors.
- Ecological fallacy.
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Reduce effects of cultural perceptions that young people should be independent.**
- **Education and health and safety programs to promote psychological health of young workers.**
- **Early involvement of young people in work experience, adequate training, and promotion of the societal expectation that young people should be hard-working.**
CONCLUSION

Cultural values
Societal attitudes
National economy

Injury rates in young workers

Prevention of injuries in young workers is important.
Consider macro level factors.
Wide scope for future related research.
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\[
\ln[\text{Injury Number (18-24y)}] = \ln[\text{Injury Number (< 18y)}] + 1.70
\]

Injury Number will increase \(\exp\{1.7\} = 5.47\) times:

\[
\text{Injury Number (18-24y)} = 5.47 \times \text{Injury Number (< 18y)}.
\]
\ln[\text{Injury Number}] + 0.016

\text{Injury Number will increase } \exp\{0.016\} = 1.016 \text{ times}

\text{Injury Number increases by 1.6%}
Regression coefficient for direct effect is -0.000027

Regression coefficient for indirect effect is \(0.0010 \times 0.016 = 0.000016\)

Total effect of GDP on logarithm of Injury Number is the sum of the direct and indirect effects
\[0.000016 - 0.000027 = -0.000011\]

Increasing GDP by $1 results in decreased \(\ln(\text{Injury Number})\) by 0.000011

Injury Number variable decreases by \(1.1 \times 10^{-3}\%\)

Increasing GDP by $1000 results in decrease of number of non-fatal workplace injuries by 1.1%
Increased Injury Number
CONCLUSIONS:

• 18-24 YEARS AGE CATEGORY FOUND TO HAVE AN INCREASED INCIDENCE OF WORKPLACE INJURIES.

• EXPECTATIONS THAT CHILDREN SHOULD FEEL RESPONSIBILITY AND BE INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED NUMBERS OF WORKPLACE INJURIES.

• EXPECTATION THAT CHILDREN SHOULD BE HARD WORKING ASSOCIATED WITH REDUCED NUMBERS OF WORKPLACE INJURIES IN THE 18-24 YEARS AGE CATEGORY.

• INCREASED GDP ASSOCIATED WITH REDUCED NUMBERS OF WORKPLACE INJURIES

• INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED NUMBERS OF WORKPLACE INJURIES.
**Study Limitations**

- **Distribution of the transformed variable was not entirely normal.**
- **Model fit was based only on direct effects of numerical variables.**
- **Lack of significant differences between countries did not fully eliminate possibility of different reporting systems.**
- **Other possible influencing cultural attitudes and societal differences.**
- **Ecological fallacy.**
- **Analysis based on WHO injury database from 1995 to 2007.**