

Safety Training Programme – learning's, applications, challenges and path forward

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The paper presents highlights of the STP undertaken at Novozymes A/S, Denmark, with emphasis on the unique learning's including risk assessment studies, use of MSDS, the systems of Crisis management and early recovery etc. The paper further details the steps taken in applying the learning from the STP to make improvements in the workplaces, communities, and governments, the challenges and a path forward.

At National Chemical Laboratory, Pune (workplace) - safety audits, improved accident investigation strategy, risk assessment etc have been initiated. A better and efficient solvent storage and disposal system is being launched. Many other safety practices are being strengthened.

Experiences and critical observations of the workshops and lecture programmes organized in colleges & universities and national laboratories will be shared and discussed. A new relationship has been initiated with National Safety Council, an autonomous body set by the Government of India, and safety awareness programmes have been organized at national level with this forum.

The feedbacks from some of these workshops and lecture programmes have indicated a quality improvement in the general awareness for safety and procedures for handling and use of chemicals. This has also led to requests for more such programmes in colleges and other institutes.

The paper will highlight several major challenges having systemic, social and financial deficiencies, and need to be looked into seriously. These include: proper application of chemical safety regulations, least concern about hazardous, toxic or flammable nature of chemicals, inadequate reference to MSDS and SOP's, willful disregard in use of PPE, facilities for disposal of waste chemicals and flammable solvents, overcrowding of labs etc.

In order to look into the above challenges and to substantially improve the status of compliance with safety norms, a path forward has been chalked out that will be presented.

Finally, the paper will be wrapped up with a few suggestions to make the Safety training programme and its follow-up more fragrant and healthier.