



A Research for Determining the Yalova Shipyard Employees' Level of Comprehension of the Activities Related To Occupational Safety and Health

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Introduction

The first crucial developments in shipping industry came true in 1960 and after that period the strong countries of that time; European countries lost their superiority to Japan and South Korea. As for China, having employed over 100.000 persons in this sector, is gradually increasing its share in the world trade, nearly 6 million tons of freight is transported by the world merchant fleet with a capacity of 800 million DWT (Dead weight ton). The amount of this share comes up to 300 billion dollars. The share our country has is %1 with 8 million DWT and its economical value is 3 billion dollars (Yıldız, 2008:1).

When it looked at the shipping industry in Turkey, important improvements started in parallel with the improvements in the world. For that reason, the employment in the sector was 13,5 thousand persons according to the capacity used and in 2005 and it increased to 24 thousand persons. In 2007 it was 33,5 thousand persons and finally in 2008 it fell back 27 thousand employees. It is expected that it will be 45 thousand persons at the end of 2010 (Bakırcı, Özcan, 2005: 719).

After searching for an alternative place for Tuzla shipyards region, the shipyard project in Yalova started at the beginning of 2000s. Among a lot of alternatives, the Hersek region in Altınova attracted attention and after doing the necessary investigations, the decision was made to invest in that region. In this context, the shipyards in Hersek, the foundation of which were laid in 2004 and it started to produce in 4 years.

At the present day, the number of the total facility is 19 and this is %18 of the facilities in Turkey. Also considering the facilities at the phase of investment, it is the region where there will be the maximum investments by 31 facilities and this makes nearly the %43 of the total investments. So, after the investments are completed, its share of total facilities will be %28 with totally 50 facilities. Also it should be emphasized that the biggest one among these facilities is Yalova Altınova Shipyard Entrepreneurs Corporation. This constitution includes 22 A types, 13 B types and 7 C types developed in accordance with the size and the capacity of the shipyards. This

number includes the future investments. Other than this constitution, there are other big and small further facilities.

Especially on the present day, we come across that occupational safety and health (OSHA) as a concept related to shipbuilding. So, providing OSHA is a social issue for the development of the country due to its social aspects apart from its economical aspects. Together with the humanistic and social dimensions of the issue, its economical dimension increases the importance of the issue. In the economical sense, carrying on with the activity of the labor which is one of the production factors has great importance. Evaluating the workforce which is the most important source of the countries, in a more efficient way depends on the importance to be given to the issue (Uçak, 2002, 67).

Because shipbuilding sector is gaining importance for our country and new facilities are being founded and perhaps most importantly, in order to prevent the negative outcomes that were experienced before, the researches and analysis related to the sector were done. So, after the accidents that happened in Tuzla shipyards, the situation in the other shipyard and researching about the about the level of knowledge and attainment related to OSHA of the employees became more important.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In the related work, Yalova Altınova Shipyards which has the greatest importance for the shipbuilding sector in Turkey is discussed and the present state related to OSHA is aimed to be analyzed. Because of the lacks the work has been realized only at Kocatepe Shipyards. However, because the OSHA works are carried out collaboratively, even though it was carried out in only one shipyard, it can give an idea about the general shipyards.

At the research, the level of attainment and knowledge about OSHA of the employees has been studied and it has been seen that there are big lacks in general. Especially the educational quality related to OSHA is perceived as medium or low by the employees. Nonetheless, it is surprising that the most important educational need is related to the job safety which is one of the main topics of OSHA. Considering all these factors, it is clear that there is a need for education specifically in Kocatepe Shipyards and in general context, in Yalova Shipyards.

They mentioned that they gained all information about OSHA through the meetings organized by the foundations for them. Besides, they have mentioned that they have enough knowledge about work accident and ways of preventing them and about the personal protectors. Also, there is a perception that the necessary measures aren't taken at the work places. It's seen that, in terms of medical examination, checkups are done in general but there is not much satisfaction about it.

Consequently, this research shows that, in the shipyards of Yalova, OSHA activities are not at a sufficient level. In a short time, the necessary level of care should be given for the OSHA activities. Also, Yalova shipyards don't have a strong background related to OSHA; because they don't have a long period and experiences as well. In that sense, it may have a problem of organization about OSHA and efforts should be spent for the solution of issue.