

EFFECT OF NOISE ON PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF SHOPKEEPERS IN VARANASI CITY

M. Pandey[†]

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India

[†] E-mail: *mpnd@rediffmail.com*

The systematic and analytical study of noise pollution and its associated problems are of comparatively recent origin. In India it is observed that noise levels in many important cities of India are much above the Standard levels laid down for residential and official areas.

This motivated for another noise survey of Varanasi city (which is an oldest city, seat of learning and of highest tourists' interest) after that of 1980's(cf. Mehata,1987; Singh,1987; and Singh et.al.,1988). It was an eye-opener when the impacts of noise have been measured observing the physiological and psychological effects on city dwellers. Noise levels were measured at 10 selected locations of 3 noise level zones. Sampling of shopkeepers has been done from the same locations. Data on physical and mental effect has been collected on a structured questionnaire and a standard mental scale.

Multivariate analysis has been applied after proper transformation of raw data to obtain interesting results. Identification of the possible stress causing factors are also attempted.