AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

“Handling heavy load manually” – is one of the oldest occupations of the world. Lifting and carrying are among the activities that subject the body to the greatest strain. Thousands of people have chosen this job as their main economic activities in India. And, the number is increasing, as the current phase of globalization and liberalization has hastened the pace of improvement of peasants and landless agricultural labours. Large-scale displacement of people from their habitats, closure of industries, retrenchment of workers and insecurity of employment has made manual load carriage a relatively stable subsistence income though at the cost of the porter’s life.

In India although the organized sectors follow stringently the OSHA and ILO rules regarding manual lifting tasks and the workers earn fixed salaries for their job but in the unorganized sectors, the situation is worse. These sectors do not abide the rules and regulations laid down by the statutory body. Here more load handling means more monetary returns and this indulges the poor workers in performing such strenuous tasks for prolong periods, thereby leading to over exhaustion of the whole body, particularly the back muscles, the shoulders, the neck, the arms and the legs. Nevertheless work-related injuries and accidents are quite frequent among the workers of both the sectors.

Indeed it is a distressing fact that large number of people throughout the country is forced into manual heavy load handling on a daily basis primarily due to their poor socio-economic condition. Consequently in the quest of financial gains, they succumb to a host of different types of work-related injuries and accidents that aggravate their misery to an even greater proportion.

The aims and objectives of the research work are as follows:

1) To assess the prevalence of accidents/ occurrence of accidents among the manual material handling workers of the organized sector.
2) To assess the prevalence of accidents/occurrence of accidents among the manual material handling workers of the unorganized sector.

3) To identify/specify the probable causative factors that contributes greatly to the occurrence of occupational accidents in both Organized and Unorganized sectors.

4) To identify the physiological stresses of the workers associated with manual material handling tasks.

5) To assess the stresses related with the work environment of these workers.

6) To assess the stresses related to work mode and work behavior of the workers of both the sectors.

7) To suggest some remedial measures and modify the existing working environment, work mode to reduce different types of accident and thereby enhance the efficiency of the work system.

8) To improve the health and safety of the workers involved in heavy load handling.