

NADEEM AKHTAR

Vision Zero-Leading the Way for Safe and Healthy Workplace

**Labour & Human Resource Department
Government of Punjab Lahore, Pakistan**

“Organizations can become more effective if they have
safe and healthy workplace”.

A Pakistani city Faisalabad is known as ‘Manchester of Pakistan’ as it accommodates 14% of textile industry of the country. Hence, it is a challenging task to implement labour laws due to meager resources.

There are 728 registered power looms factories employing thousands of workers in Faisalabad (West). Workplace in this sector was at risk and due to electrocution many of the hapless workers lost their precious lives.

As per information of the renowned workers’ trade union Labour Qaumi Movement, 6-7 fatal accidents occurred annually due to electrocution at work place before 2021.

With the support of a German cooperation organization GIZ in particular, I was introduced to the concept of Vision Zero strategy. Taking a leaf out of this strategy I immediately demonstrated commitment to identify hazards behind this ongoing man made catastrophe.

Soon it was identified that just by a simple business process engineering i.e. installation of earthing system in every power loom factory, can mitigate the danger of electrocution to a considerable degree.

After setting target, it was enforced that no power loom factory remains without proper earthing system. Within a short span of one year, 90% of factories had installed earthing system, resultantly there were only 02 accidental deaths occurred in the year 2021.

While no death was reported in years 2022 and 2023. By identifying and taking over a leadership role through proper regulation and enforcement, many serious hazards at workplace can be avoided within available resources.