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## Occupational Health Nursing – Scope and Role of OHN

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The occupational health nursing field has a long history but started an evolutionary change in the 1970's when the United States Congress passed the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act). The law requires employers to provide their employees with working conditions that are free of known hazards. The Act created the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), which sets and enforces protective workplace safety and health standards. After passage of the OSH Act, the scope of the field significantly changed as new and improved local, state and federal regulations passed which protect both the employee and the employer. OSHA classifies Occupational Health Nurses (OHN) "as registered nurses who independently observe and assess the worker's health status with respect to job tasks and hazards. Using their specialized experience and education, these registered

nurses recognize and prevent health effects from hazardous exposures and treat workers injuries and illnesses". The major roles and responsibilities associated with occupational health nursing practice include: Clinician - Clinical and Primary Care, Educator/Coordinator - Training, Advisor - Research and Health Promotion, Consultant - workforce issues and workplace issues - Environmental issues, Case Manager - Regulatory responsibilities and legislative management.

### Speaker Biography

J Chozharajan has completed his M.Sc Nursing (Dept of Community Health Nursing) at the age of 26 years from Pondicherry University. He is the Nursing Instructor in WOISO, Navi Mumbai, India. He has published 1 paper in reputed journal and presented more than 10 concept paper in International and National conferences.

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