LESS THAN 6% OF ALL RESEARCH DOLLARS ARE SPECIFICALLY DEDICATED TO WOMEN’S HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

THAT NEEDS TO CHANGE.

Global Women 4 Wellbeing (GW4W) is partnering with SHINE, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Health. We are working together to provide research-based information to organizations to address the gender gap for some of the most at risk female workers. The research will also help organizations understand some of the gender biases and differences, through a cultural lens, that need to be addressed and provide action steps for leadership.

The Mental Health and Social-Emotional Well-Being of Factory Workers in Global Apparel Supply Chains
Dr. Eileen McNeely, Director of SHINE, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

The apparel supply chain employs many unskilled workers facing challenging social and economic conditions in vulnerable and developing regions. Seventy to eighty percent of these workers are female. Our research team, SHINE at the Harvard T.H. Chan School, studies the health well-being of these populations precisely because of their risk for discrimination, financial insecurity, social and emotional stress, and lack of access to basic material resources, such as food, clean drinking water, sanitation, and medical care.

SHINE, the Sustainability and Health Initiative for NetPositive Enterprise, engages industry to support academic research intent on incubating new ideas for positive social impact. The specific goals of the research are to improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable populations by clarifying root causes and developing recommendations for change. We began our study of over 10,000 garment workers in China, Mexico, Sri
Lanka, Cambodia, U.S.A., and Poland, nearly four years ago. Since that time, we have published numerous papers about occupational health risks and presented at prominent scientific conferences, such as; OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and policy (Korea, 2018), U.S. National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety Conference [NIOSH] (Washington D.C., 2018; Philadelphia, 2019), International Labor Organization [ILO] (Geneva, 2019) and many others.

An area of significant importance, yet unexplored in the apparel workers, is the study of mental health and social and emotional well-being and the social determinants affecting these states, (i.e. culture, gender, marital status, children, education, and age). Given the heterogeneity of the work, this research is uniquely positioned to tease out the relationship between social factors and well-being. **We propose to use several waves of data to evaluate upstream risks for mental health and well-being, including information about conditions at work, at home, and in the community.**

The aim of this study is to obtain a better understanding of the status of women in these regions, the risks to their health, and the opportunities for positive impact.

---

**You and your organization can create positive change through quality research that provides meaningful action steps. Join us. You can help close the gender health gap.**

Call or email us today:
U.S.: 1-917-887-9760
info@gw4w.org U.S. or
Chris.Andrews@gw4w.org in Europe