

## SYNOPSIS.

Noise is the most common pollutant in man's general and working environment. However, many are not aware of the hazards of this universal pollutant. Noise can cause irreparable damage to the ear when it is exposed to noise. The intensity of noise i.e. the noise pressure level and the time of exposure only determine whether the particular noise to which the ear is exposed could make a person deaf. Deafness due to noise exposure cannot be remedied.

A large number of research workers have reported on the impact of noise on factory workers. (Singleton, 1938; Sataloff, 1957; CIS Information Sheet 17, 1966; Burns and Robinson, 1970; P. Sutton, 1971; ILO Report, 1977).

These workers have revealed that the factory worker who is exposed to eight hours of noise in a factory and working five days a week became deaf ultimately. However, no works have been reported on hearing levels of school children who have been exposed to noise for  $5\frac{1}{2}$  days per week.

Working with school children especially those who are exposed to rather high community noise in the towns in my career, I felt the need to study the effect of noise on their hearing levels. The survey was carried out in the environment of three secondary schools in order to investigate how the noise in the respective environment has affected the hearing level of students in the age groups 16 - 18. A comparative study of the hearing level of students of these schools which had noisy environments with those of quieter environments was made. Besides the hearing level of those children who have been in the same school for 10 years or more was compared with those who were in the same school for less than 5 years.