

AWARENESS OF ERGONOMICS AMONG PLANTATION WORKERS

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ABSTRACT

AWARENESS OF ERGONOMICS AMONG PLANTATION WORKERS

Ergonomics is the study of work that involves workers. By undergoing a task ergonomically, one can reduce the risk of getting body disorder thus, preventing them from injured. Ergonomics seen as one of the major problems that suffered by almost all workers in OPP whether direct or indirectly. This study intends to determine the level of ergonomic awareness among plantation workers in ESPEK Plantation, Keratong based on knowledge of respondent, occupation exposure and education level of respondents. A total of 80 respondent were studied using survey based questionnaire which involves 45 FFB harvesters and 35 FFB loaders. This study will determine the factors which contribute the highest in awareness of ergonomics among workers. Based on the demographic analysis, most of them only possess mediocre level of education. As the result being analyzed, knowledge becomes the most dominant factor towards their awareness to ergonomics. This study will give an insight of which factor affects the level of awareness among OPP worker in ESPEK Plantation, Keratong.

Keyword: Awareness, ergonomics, education, knowledge, most affecting factor.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

The oil palm industry in Malaysia has gotten larger and larger every day and its contributions towards country's gross national product is substantial. What drives the oil palm production is the labor power. The labor itself plays a great role as without labor, no production can be made. Labor in this perspective is narrower towards the harvester and loader. What gives so much important towards them is that without them, oil palm fruit could not be harvested.

As labor power involves, it mostly involve the human energy. As in nature, man energy depletes over time, and this is called fatigue. This must be overcome to ensure that the production of oil palm fruit can be harvested efficiently. In this context, we study about the importance of ergonomics. Ergonomics means a state of body or posture that is most comfortable to human. This relates the worker as workers tend to spend too much energy on wrong posture thus, creating back pain, muscle ache and so on that could decrease the efficiency of worker's routine. The height, the appearance, and the way the oil palm tree grow; all of them contributes as the factor of MSDs (Ng Yg et al., 2013)