

---

**Title :** Ergonomics – Caring for our global family

**Author(s) :** David C Caple

**Institution :** David Caple & Associates Pty Ltd

**Email :** davidcaple7@gmail.com, david@caple.com.au

---

The objective of ergonomics is to optimize human wellbeing and systems efficiency (IEA, 2015). This is a key contribution that ergonomics makes to our global family. Enhancing human wellbeing is also a core goal of the WHO, the ILO and all health related professional associations. The WHO Millennium Goals and the ILO Decent Work programs are examples of proactive initiatives to care for the global family. The IEA has 21 Technical Committees to study specific areas of the ergonomics domain. These are global teams of researchers and practitioners sharing knowledge and tools to apply ergonomics at an international level. The domain areas reflect issues which apply to India as well as our global partners. With around 50% of India's workforce engaged in agriculture there are multiple ergonomics research projects from India that can be applied around the world particularly in other developing countries in Asia (D'Costa, 2015). The incidence of musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) across all industry sectors including manufacturing and services sectors are relevant in India where 25% of the workforce are employed. The chronic nature of these MSD injuries is an issue for our global family. Ergonomics has studied MSD prevention with children at school, workers in industry as well as recreational activities. The physical and cognitive challenges of an ageing workforce is a global challenge as people live longer and have smaller families as part of a growing middle class. This is common around the world and presents ergonomics an opportunity to apply research in work, transport and home environments to meet the needs of an ageing population. Healthcare is a major area of ergonomics research both in patient safety and injury prevention for healthcare workers. The outcomes of this research is used at a global level in developing healthy and safe hospitals and community health services.

The integration of ergonomics with the other international agencies and professional associations provides the opportunity to spread the potential impact of ergonomics research. Collaboration in research studies and sharing of knowledge in conferences and publications spreads the impact of ergonomics to our global family. The core values for researchers in ergonomics is to care for others through understanding their needs and providing them a more healthy and safe life. This is a key opportunity for the world to understand ergonomics as a domain that cares for our global family.