



Title : Caring for people Indian industry – today and tomorrow

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This paper looks at the growth of industrial ergonomics in India, with an example from one major industry.

Instances of early intervention efforts are cited, such as physiological responses during welding, ergonomics intervention in a welding industry, telephone operators' work-station, work with computer terminals, and control panel optimization in CNC machines. Three recent proactive initiatives including development of an Ergonomics Performance Indicator are described.

One of the major problems in making ergonomics "for everyone" is that of communicating ergonomics to influencers and the public, which is partly due to variability in knowledge and standards. This stresses the need for certification of professionals, processes and products. It is also essential to quantify the immediate and tangible benefits which are possible in many areas through the application of ergonomics by the assessment of improvement in productivity, and to extrapolate these gains over longer periods and demonstrate the Return On Investment (ROI).

The future drivers of ergonomics in Indian industry are likely to be the need for viable and demonstrable ergonomics solutions posed by rapid industrial growth, adoption of ergonomics related national standards, and certification to Occupational Health and Safety related management system standards becoming business needs.