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## Ergonomic assessment of carpentry and furniture making in Port Harcourt, Nigeria

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Over the years, forestry related professions have been consistently considered as one of the most hazardous occupations around the world. Awareness to address this issue through the ergonomic improvement interventions is increasing, yet insufficient information is available about ergonomic conditions of Nigerian carpentry and furniture making enterprise. This study evaluated that the ergonomics of carpentry and furniture making at Iloabuchi cluster sawmill/wood market in Port Harcourt, Nigeria using qualitative and quantitative approaches. The carpenters/furniture makers (CFMs) were exclusively males 51.9% of them were within the age of 26 and 35

years with approximately 60% of them being married. Height of tables are weakly positively correlated with the height of CFMs ( $r = 0.250$ ,  $p < 0.026$ ), implying that vast number of the tables used were not anthropometrically matched. The occupational hazard outcomes frequently suffered by the CFMs included bruise/hands cut (34.4%), back pain (25.9%), nasal infection (25.9%), muscle pain (8.6%) and eyes infection (5.2%). These findings provide evidences by which the ergonomical target interventions to reduce future hazards and also to lessen the impacts of previous hazards on CFMs.

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