

ERGONOMICS AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS: The Case of the Philippine Garments Industry

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Abstract

The Philippine garments industry has been the second top merchandise export industry of the country for the past two decades. It is highly labor intensive relying on the skills and expertise of its women workers. The sustainability of this sector is presently threatened by the low cost of labor being offered by other countries. This paper addresses the need to apply ergonomic strategies to sustain the viability of the operations of the garments industry. Studies done by the author on the different garment companies are presented. Ergonomic interventions to address the need of having a sustained skilled workforce are also given. The concept of adaptation, innovation, and transfer of technology to achieve business sustainability is proposed by this paper.