

## **Study on Occupational Health Safety and Ergonomics Issues in Small Scale Sweetmeat Industry**

**Pooja Aloorkar**

Department of Industrial & Production Engineering,  
P.D.A.College of Engineering, Kalaburagi, India  
[poojaaloorkar01174@gmail.com](mailto:poojaaloorkar01174@gmail.com)

**Qutubuddin S.M.**

Associate Professor  
P.D.A. College of Engineering, Kalaburagi, India  
[syedqutub16@gmail.com](mailto:syedqutub16@gmail.com)

**Saniya, Gunderaya, Laxmi and S.M. Hasanuddin**

Students, Department of Industrial & Production Engineering  
P.D.A. College of Engineering, Kalaburagi, India  
[naiksaniya463@gmail.com](mailto:naiksaniya463@gmail.com),  
[gunderayash2001@gmail.com](mailto:gunderayash2001@gmail.com), [Chavanlaxmi193@gmail.com](mailto:Chavanlaxmi193@gmail.com)  
and [s.hasanuddin20@gmail.com](mailto:s.hasanuddin20@gmail.com)

### **Abstract**

Ergonomics aims to make sure that tasks, equipment and the environment suit each of the worker and seeks to minimize the adverse effects of the work-place and environment upon the people, enabling every worker to maximize their contribution to a given job or task. These issues are significant for many developing countries, since the effects of non-ergonomic conditions, poor occupational health and lack of employee safety exists in majority of workplaces especially in small scale sector. Occupational health and safety issues in the food industry is not perceived as serious issue compared to engineering, mining, transportation, healthcare, construction and other industries. The present study is conducted at a sweetmeat industry manufacturing sohan-papdi, chikki and other local food products, located in Kalaburagi City. The main objective of the study was to identify the ergonomic deficiencies in the industry such as workplace and work station design, work environment and conditions, work postures and associated risks, and occupational health, safety and welfare activities. The industry employs about 35 workers including 13 females. The worker demographic data was collected and Nordic Musculoskeletal Discomfort Questionnaire was used to determine the prevalence of MSDs. The Postural assessment tools RULA and REBA were used. The overall safety, health and welfare activities were recorded. The results indicate that workers report MSD problems in several body parts like lower back, neck, shoulders and elbows. The postural analysis showed more than 50 % postures are in high-risk category. The use of personnel protective equipment is negligible. The study concluded with certain ergonomic interventions and recommendations to the industry for overall improvements.

### **Keywords**

Ergonomics, Occupational Health & safety, Postural Analysis, RULA, REBA