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SAFETY IN CONSTRUCTION: REDUCING THE PHYSICAL DEMANDS ON WORKERS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

A proactive safety culture helps to save lives, retain workers, reduce claims and enhance productivity on construction sites. Previous studies show that health and safety has not been given enough attention in the construction industry in Nigeria. This paper investigated the physical demands on construction workers in different project sites. This study was carried out on the construction of 10 number senior staff bungalow at Asaba campus of Delta State University, belonging to the same client and ten different building contractors. Data for the study were generated from two methods, using questionnaire and interview guide. To achieve this, one hundred (100) questionnaires were developed and distributed randomly to ten workers on each site and a response rate of 100% was achieved because the research assistants administered and collected immediately, while the interview source is the site head on each site. Data was analysed using frequency tables, percentages and ranking. The result of the analysis reveals that site workers are exposed to high risks in construction, low safety policies are in place and most of the workers do not know how to use some of the existing safety tools. Implications of these findings and future research directions are discussed. The study concludes that improved safety culture and ergonomics of the physical demands on all workers in the construction industry would bring changes in the workers' attitude and improved the site productivity in Nigeria.

Author Keywords

Construction, culture, ergonomics, policies, safety, physical demands.

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