

Ergonomics and Informal Work in India: Case Examples from Eastern India

Informal Work Webinar Series

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Time: 15:00 UTC; 20:30 IST; 11:00 US EST

Duration: 90 minutes

Summary: This webinar organized by the IEA Informal Work TC will provide an overview on ergonomics and informal work in India. The most representative informal jobs from across India will be addressed by prominent speakers from University of Calcutta, Vidyasagar University and IIT Guwahati, and the state of ergonomics in addressing issues and future challenges in informal work will be reviewed.



Presentations:

- 1) Mitigation of musculoskeletal disorders in the informal sector in India - Tamal Das, PhD, University of Calcutta
- 2) Ergonomic modification of hand tools used in paddy cultivation in India - Prakash Dhara, PhD, Vidhyasagar University
- 3) Design innovation for productivity enhancement in the Indian agricultural sector- Sougata Karmakar, PhD, IIT Guwahati

Moderator: Somnath Gangopadhyay, PhD, University of Calcutta, India.

Organisers: Somnath Gangopadhyay, PhD, University of Calcutta, India; Clive D'Souza, PhD, University of Pittsburgh, and Chair, IEA Informal Work Technical Committee

Presenter Information:

Tamal Das, PhD, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Physiology, Vidyasagar Metropolitan College, University of Calcutta, India. He was previously a researcher in a WHO international project. He has 22 international publications. His research interests are on occupational health, physical ergonomics and design. He is the life member of different learned societies including Indian Society of Ergonomics.



Prakash Dhara, PhD, Former Professor of Dept. of Human Physiology with Community Health of the Vidyasagar University, India. His research interest includes ergonomics in unorganized sectors, sports physiology, community health, agricultural ergonomics, hand tool and furniture design, ergonomics of old age, ergonomics in mining. He has more than 110 publications in different national and international journals. Presently he serves as the Vice President of the Indian Society of Ergonomics.



Sougata Karmakar, PhD, Professor in the Department of Design, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, India. He teaches Ergonomics/Human Factors at the undergraduate (B.Des), post-graduate (M.Des) and doctoral levels. His research interests include Physical Ergonomics, Cognitive Ergonomics, Occupational Health & Safety, User-centered and Universal Design. He has published 53 research papers in international journals. He has acquired a good number of patents and design registrations for his innovative designs. He is an EC member of the Indian Society of Ergonomics.

Zoom Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cGjsALTZT5mCtDmALTC5lw

Registration is complimentary (free), but it is necessary to register to attend. Registered attendees can complete a brief post-webinar survey to receive e-certificates of completion. The webinar will be recorded and published on YouTube. Attendance permits live interaction with the presenters in a moderated Q&A.