

# Ergonomically Redesigning Paint Spatula Scraper to Reduce Risks Associated to Work-Related Disorders: A Case of Calumpit, Bulacan

Jeremy Laurence Mendoza Bañez, Jhonnell Ignacio Dela Cruz, Rosechel Joy Stacy San Juan, Neil Patrick Mendoza Torres

College of Engineering, Bulacan State University, City of Malolos, Philippines

## Email address:

[jeremylance.banez@bulsu.edu.ph](mailto:jeremylance.banez@bulsu.edu.ph) (J. L. M. Bañez), [jhonneldelacruz.jdc@gmail.com](mailto:jhonneldelacruz.jdc@gmail.com) (J. I. D. Cruz),

[ligaystacy@gmail.com](mailto:ligaystacy@gmail.com) (R. J. S. S. Juan), [neilpatrickmtorres@gmail.com](mailto:neilpatrickmtorres@gmail.com) (N. P. M. Torres)

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**Abstract:** With the increase of human population, the demand for infrastructures, estates and housing also increase. For that reason, construction firms become in-demand and its labor force will tend to rise up. Among those are painters who are in-charge in finishing of the structures to make them more aesthetically pleasing. Since their role in construction is significant, they must be given special attention to provide them comfort at work. To provide such comfort, the researcher chose one of their commonly used tools aside from paint brushes and paint rollers, the Paint Spatula Scraper (PSS). The researcher assessed paint spatula scraper by the discomfort it brings to painters in a construction of an apartment in Calumpit, Bulacan using Body Discomfort Chart and Strain Index Chart. The results showed high risks pertaining to the discomfort that was being experienced by the workers that may lead to work-related disorders like Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) and Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs) if the activity will be done repetitively. To resolve the issue, the researcher proposed an ergonomically redesigned paint spatula scraper that may reduce the stated risks associated when using the present type of scraper used by painters. This study will provide an insight for different construction firms and other related firms that use paint spatula scraper or similar tool to it regarding the risks these tools might pose if not properly designed or not properly evaluated when used in the long run.

**Keywords:** Body Discomfort Chart, Construction Firms, Paint Spatula Scraper, Strain Index Chart, Work-Related Disorders

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Ergonomics is the science of work of people who do it and the way it is done. It specifically concerns more of anthropometry and product design. [1] Anthropometry is the branch of the human science that deals with body which includes the consequences of repetitive motion, materials handling, workplace safety, comfort in using portable devices, working postures, and the work environment. Understanding physical characteristics, capabilities, limitations are needed to reduce the physical discomfort.

In production systems, human workers may be at risk for

developing manual work, resulting in pain, inability to work, productivity losses and replacement of personnel. [2] Product design means to create a new product to be sold by a business to its customers. A very broad concept, it is essentially the efficient and effective generation and development of ideas through a process that leads to new products. Considering the people, the researchers redesign wherein a product that properly fits for the users.

Home interior plays a vital role in giving the best ambiance and relaxing environment, while considering interior design or interior painting. But, if the paint is applied improperly and in careless manner, it can cause wrinkling, crazing and flaking paints, inter coat peeling, and solvent blistering. Since, it is inevitable, there are methods for

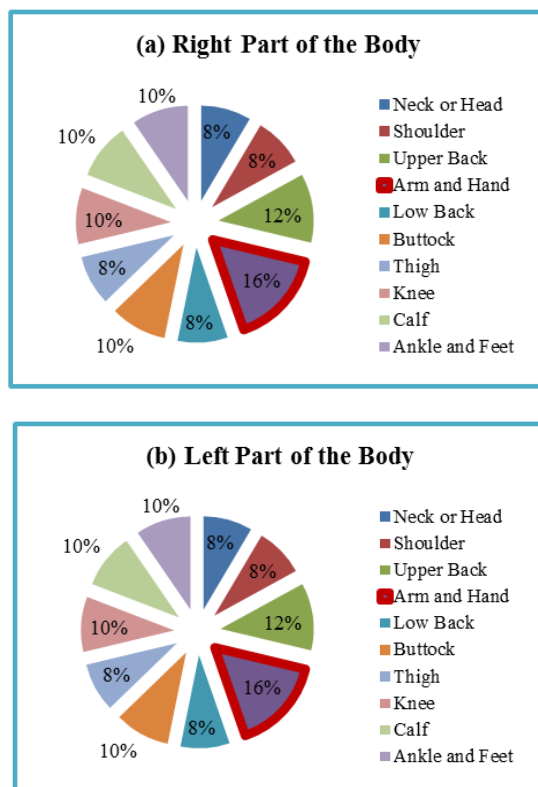
removing paints: abrasive, thermal and chemical. [3] This study focused on abrasives, such as scraping where it works by raking the damaged areas of paint away and exerting much force is needed.

Construction-related ergonomics is needed to provide users comfort at their work. In abrasive removal of paint, tools provide discomfort and risks that may result to work-related disorders. More particularly, it relates to such a scraper having semi-flexible characteristics such that the scraper's handle is weightier than the stainless steel of the scraper wherein the painters may have a hard time scraping the paints. [4]

The present designs of some handles of Paint Spatula Scraper (PSS) maybe risky to the painters. Some grip handles are plastics and metals and the discomfort in hand may occur. Also, most of the scrapers nowadays are made up of wood that may accidentally cause finger splints. With the application of Ergonomics, solutions for the problem were discussed. The redesigned scraper will make the end users work more comfortable at their job in order to become efficient and to maximize their work without any injuries and to lessen the body discomfort.

## 1.2. Problem Statement

Based on the survey conducted in construction site, 30 (21 are right-handed and 9 are left-handed) workers who use scrapers for four to eight hours a day often experience body discomfort while doing the task. This may lead to cumulative trauma disorder due to repetitive motion. [5]



**Figure 1.** Initial Survey Results Using Body Discomfort Chart on Each Body Part: (a) Right Part; (b) Left Part.

## 1.3. Objectives of the Study

Present work focuses a framework providing the guidelines and principles to the researchers to improve the quality, usability of product (Paint Spatula Scraper) in order to increase the comfort level, reduce the risk of Musculoskeletal Disorder (MSD) due to prolong working in construction site and Cumulative Trauma Disorder (CTD) due to repetitive task.

The objective of the research is to redesign the PSS by considering ergonomic guidelines in order to reduce the risk of body pains such as CTDs and MSDs. Based on this guiding principle, the objective of present work are as follows:

- To assess the discomfort that occurs on painters while they are scraping
- To evaluate the data gathered from Body Discomfort Chart and Strain Index Chart
- To improve the grip handle of Paint Spatula Scraper considering anthropometric measurements particularly in hands of the painters
- To simulate the newly redesigned Paint Spatula Scraper
- To determine the comfort work zone considering the newly redesigned Paint Spatula Scraper

## 1.4. Rationale of the Study

Due to numerous constructions of different infrastructures, estates and houses mainly due to increase in population, construction industry becomes in demand. [6] Through that, many construction workers will be hired to suffice the need of the demand. But based on observations especially from small and medium sized construction firms, laborers like that of painters use tools that seem to provide them discomfort. If they repetitively experience such, it may lead to lead high risks of having work-related disorders. [7] One of the tools used by painters is the Paint Spatula Scraper (PSS). It will be assessed if such tool poses certain risks to construction workers and if evaluated to have the risks, the researcher will ergonomically redesign it to reduce the risks associated to it. The end users will benefit to the redesigned paint spatula scraper that might help to the reduction of the body discomfort.

## 1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study focuses on the construction sites mainly in paint works, design and the other equipment which affect the efficiency and safety of the workers. Data are gathered through observations and questionnaire surveys with the participation of 30 users of Paint Spatula Scrapers from Calumpit, Bulacan renovating an apartment.

The study is limited in the evaluation of the current design and ergonomic redesigning of the Paint Spatula Scraper. Assessing only the posture of the hands of the users and other body parts exposed while scraping were included.

## 1.6. Review of Related Literature

The purpose of this review of literatures is to assess and understand the application of Ergonomics in the past researches related with scraping task. Also, comfort and discomfort assessment has been a topic of major concern when comparing and evaluating products.

### 1.6.1. Manual Task Exertion Risks

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, handling is defined as: seizing, holding, grasping, turning, or otherwise working with the hand or hands. Fingers are involved only to the extent that they are an extension of the hand, such as to turn a switch or to shift automobile gears. Manual handling of containers may expose workers to physical conditions (e.g., force, awkward postures, and repetitive motions) that can lead to injuries, wasted energy, and wasted time. To avoid these problems, an organization can directly benefit from improving the fit between the demands of work tasks and the capabilities of the workers. Remember that workers' abilities to perform work tasks may vary because of differences in age, physical condition, strength, gender, stature, and other factors. In short, changing the workplace by improving the fit can benefit the workplace by: reducing or preventing injuries; reducing workers' efforts by decreasing forces in lifting, handling, pushing, and pulling materials; reducing risk factors for musculoskeletal disorders (e.g., awkward postures from reaching into containers); increasing productivity, product and service quality, and worker morale; lowering costs by reducing or eliminating production bottlenecks, error rates or rejects, use of medical services because of musculoskeletal disorders, workers' compensation claims, excessive worker turnover, absenteeism, and retraining. [8]

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are one of the most common work-related ailments. Throughout Europe they affect millions of workers and cost employers billions of euros. Tackling MSDs helps improve the lives of workers, but it also makes good business sense. Musculoskeletal disorders usually affect the back, neck, shoulders and upper limbs, but lower limbs can also be affected. They cover any damage or disorder of the joints or other tissues. Health problems range from minor aches and pains to more serious medical conditions requiring time off or medical treatment. In more chronic cases, they can even lead to disability and the need to give up work. The two main groups of MSDs are back pain/injuries and work-related upper limb disorders (commonly known as 'repetitive strain injuries'). Most work-related MSDs develop over time. There is usually no single cause of MSDs; various factors often work in combination. Physical causes and organizational risk factors include: handling loads, especially when bending and twisting, repetitive or forceful movements, awkward and static postures, vibration, poor lighting or cold working environments, fast-paced work, and prolonged sitting or standing in the same position. [9]

### 1.6.2. Wrist Injury on Workers

Wrist tendonitis occurs when the tendons in your wrist become inflamed, usually as a result of repetitive motion and/or overuse of the wrist. For this reason, perhaps the most commonly-identified form of wrist tendonitis is a Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) known as Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. This results over time from sustained periods of activities such as typing, or playing a musical instrument. Chefs, surgeons and some athletes may also experience this because they use their wrists and hands so much in the scope of their jobs. Symptoms of an RSI in the wrist may include decreased dexterity, loss of feeling in the hands, chronic pain, and reduced strength, such as a diminished ability to grasp things. Treatments depend on how severe the condition is. If the symptoms are mild, treatment may consist of simple things, such as a period of rest in which the activity is not performed, physical therapy, massage, use of a wrist splint, and/or anti-inflammatory medication. However, if the condition is more severe and a physician suspects nerve damage, surgery may be necessary to resolve or relieve wrist tendonitis symptoms. Surgery will be followed by a recovery period, of course, and it is important to follow the doctor's instructions. You should also obtain his or her advice about whether you should return to your previous employment -- including whether there should be any limitations placed on your job duties -- and what your future prognosis will be. [10]

Wrist injuries may not seem like a big deal at first, but one should know that they can potentially be covered by workers' compensation. According to a 2013 FindLaw.com survey, 20 percent of those injured on the job suffered repetitive motion type injuries -- including wrist injuries like carpal tunnel syndrome. Workers may just accept the pain associated with these injuries as acceptable parts of their jobs, but worker's compensation is typically available. Most wrist injuries fall into a category called repetitive stress injuries (RSIs) or repetitive motion injuries (RMIs), and they are fairly common. Wrist damage may take the form of carpal tunnel syndrome, tendinitis (also spelled tendonitis), or bursitis; the symptoms vary from slight aches and pains to debilitating pain, numbness, and loss of movement. Many of these injuries are aggravated by work activity, making it imperative to not ignore them. Workers suffering from wrist injuries may believe that they are not entitled to workers' compensation because their condition may have existed before starting work. However, most RSI and RMI problems (which cover many common wrist injuries) are covered by workers' compensation if the condition is caused or even aggravated by working conditions. For many employees who are engaged in daily typing or other repetitive motion that involves their wrists, these injuries can easily be aggravated and or triggered by normal working conditions. In either case, when a causal connection can be made between a wrist injury and the work environment, there is a good chance it can be covered by workers' compensation. [11]

### 1.6.3. Importance of Anthropometry in Tool Design

Anthropometry is the branch of ergonomics that deals with body shape and size. People possess different sizes and there is a need to take these variations into consideration whenever a product or work place is designed for their use. In industry the workstation design normally gives little consideration to the anthropometric measurements of the anticipated user. Designs that are incompatible with normal anthropometric measurements of a workforce could result in undesired incidents. The work performed in an environment that does not focus on ergonomics principles could lead to fatigue and discomfort and also injuries which are known as musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs). An ergonomics approach to the design of an industrial workstation attempts to achieve an appropriate balance between the worker capabilities and work requirements. Anthropometric dimensions for a given population can be generated and arranged in table through statistical methods. The need for such anthropometric databases is becoming increasingly important and grows in parallel with the goal to achieve efficient system designs. [12]

Gjessing, Schoenborn, & Cohen know the importance of adopting a participatory ergonomic approach to the study of tool design in authentic work situations involving tool users. Ergonomic field observation techniques should be applied to hand tools in order to provide specifications that will guide choices made by designers. It is generally admitted that no tool can in itself be considered as ergonomic. It can only be considered as such if it is properly adapted to all the different uses to which a specific user puts it. Given that work situations are by nature diverse, it is difficult to design a universal tool that is adapted to all possible work situations. Moreover, in certain work situations, it may well be more profitable and efficient, as much in terms of production quality as in terms of reduced risk of MSD, to modify certain parameters of the work situation (the object on which the tool is used or an element in the production process, for instance) than to modify the tool. Consequently, tool design includes the tool itself, as previously defined, but also advice, training, and above all the ability to study the specific details of a given work process. [13]

### 1.6.4. Study Related in Redesigning Paint Spatula Scraper

In building industry, painters suffer from more complaints of the upper extremities than the control group in the construction industry. A few years ago, all Dutch painters used the traditional trapezoid scraper. The main problems in working with the traditional trapezoid paint scraper were frequent extreme postures, high force of the hand, arm, and awkward postures in the back, shoulder, neck and elbow. This proves that the physical work demands related to physically demanding construction trades would be reduced by ergonomic measures and consequently MSDs would be maximized. [14]

According to European and Dutch data from the building industry, painters suffer from more complaints of the upper extremities than the control group in the construction

industry. A few years ago, all Dutch painters used the traditional triangular scraper. A study was done regarding the workload in painters including working with the paint scraper. Paint scraping was typified as one of the heaviest tasks by the painters. The main problems in working with the traditional triangular paint scraper were: (1) frequent extreme wrist postures; (2) high forces of the arm, also due to the large moment arm; and (3) awkward postures in the back, shoulder, neck, and elbow. Also, the painters saw blade grinding as inefficiency in the task. [15]

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Methodological Framework

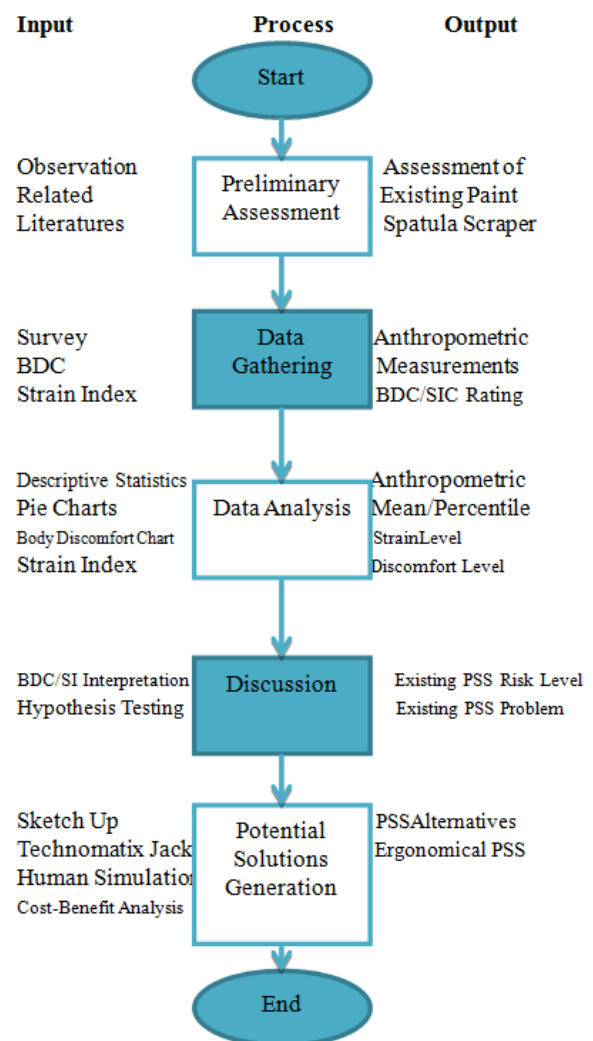


Figure 2. Methodological Framework Flow chart.

### 2.2. Subjects in the Study

The paramount subjects of this study are the end users of paint spatula scraper in the construction industry; 30 construction workers in Calumpit, Bulacan who are exposed to wrinkling, crazing and flaking paints, inter coat peeling, and solvent blistering. (Appendix D)

### 2.3. Anthropometric Data

Anthropometric data for hand breadth and hand length of workers in accordance to the length and diameter of the proposed paint spatula scraper for the end users is measured through the help of tape measure and ruler.

### 2.4. Research Instruments

#### 2.4.1. Observation Tools

The researchers observed the posture of the construction workers while scraping and they assessed the working postures through the use of Body Discomfort Chart (BDC) and Strain Index (SI). After evaluating the result of Body Discomfort Chart and Strain Index, the problem in the arm and hand was distinguished.

It is a form to assess the risk of CTD in the hand/wrist, and the researchers evaluated six task variables (intensity of exertion, duration of exertion, exertions per minute, hand/wrist posture, speed of work, and duration of task per day) by scoring it through a multiplier.

The researchers also used the Body Discomfort Chart to determine the exposed body areas where they feel discomfort. The workers answered the BDC questionnaire during their break time.

#### 2.4.2. Survey

Personal information like age and gender of a worker were indicated in the survey questionnaire and also the number of their working hours per day, whether they are right of left-handed and commonly experienced pain while scraping were included.

### 2.5. Data Analysis and Evaluation Tools

#### 2.5.1. Statistical Analysis Tool

The researchers used computer software, Minitab 16 to analyze the data they gathered to prove that the working condition of the workers is at risk.

#### 2.5.2. Product Design and Simulation Tools

SketchUp: 3D is a 3D modeling computer program for a wide range of drawing application. This is used to draw to proposed design of PSS that will be used for the simulation. Technomatix Jack Human Simulation Software is premium simulation tool for populating the design. Through the use of this software, the researchers will enable to evaluate the proposed designs of the paint spatula scraper without making an actual prototype to be used by humans.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Analysis of Results

The researchers focused their study in evaluating the discomfort that the workers is experiencing while scraping. As shown in Figures 3 and 4, the arm and hand got the highest percentage since these are the most exposed parts of the workers' body while doing the task.

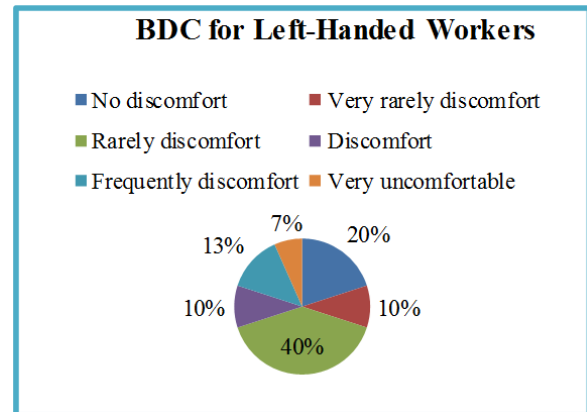


Figure 3. Total BDC Rating for Left-Handed Workers.

Figure 3 shows that twelve (40%) respondents fell under the rate of rarely discomfort. For the reason that most of the workers are right-handed and as their working time increases, some workers used their hands alternately. The 7% of the respondents who feels very uncomfortable are the left-handed workers.

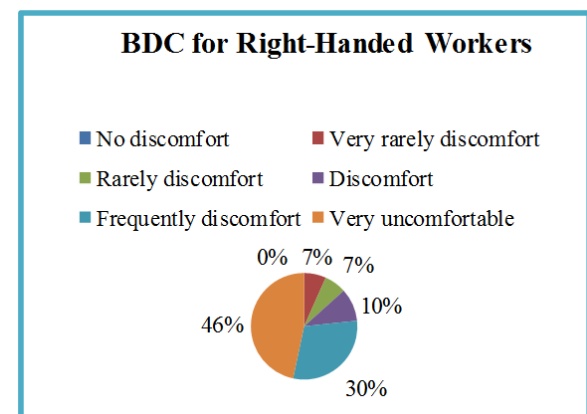


Figure 4. Total BDC Rating for Right-Handed Workers.

Since the majority of the respondents are right-handed, the researchers assessed that the fourteen (46%) workers experienced very uncomfortable scraping. No worker feels any discomfort as shown in Figure 4 because they also used their hands alternately.

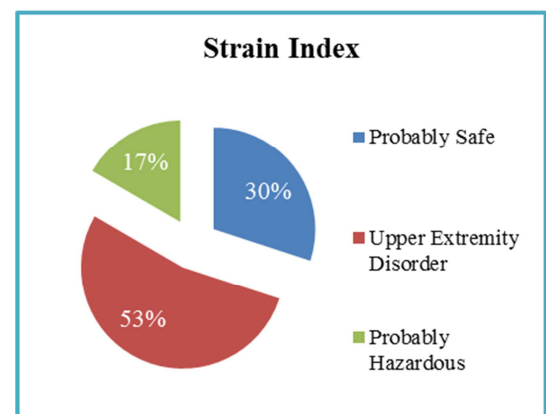


Figure 5. Total Strain Index Rating.



Strain Index (SI) is used to assess the risk of repetitive task connected with upper extremities (hand, wrist and elbow). If the range of the SI for each worker is not less than three but no more than seven, it will fall to the upper extremity disorders bracket. The job is probably safe if the SI is less than or equal to three while if the SI is greater than or equal to seven, the job is probably hazardous. In Figure 5, sixteen (53%) workers' task may place individual at increased risk for distal upper extremity disorders. This may be due to the posture of wrist that affects the efficiency of their work.

### 3.2. Assessment of Present Design of Paint Spatula Scraper

#### 3.2.1. Assessment of Wooden Handle PSS



Figure 6. Paint Spatula Scraper with Wooden Handle.

Table 1. Advantages and Disadvantages of Wooden Handle PSS.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
a. Good quality wood handle – can be durable and attractive	a. Inappropriate grip size – the optimal size for a power grip is roughly that which permits the thumb and the forefinger to overlap slightly; most of the wooden scrapers are with smaller grips so therefore, more exertion is needed to accomplish the same work
b. Wooden handle also adds a lot beauty to a scraper	b. Slippery grip – wooden scrapers have slippery grip that might cause the user to lose the handle and slip out of it
c. Wooden handle is simple to shape than any other metal grip handle	c. Sensitive to moisture and heat – regular maintenance and cleaning is mandatory for the wooden scraper to stay durable
d. Lots of variety unlike the other grip handles mostly like plastics and metals handles making it the most common type of scraper.	
e. Wooden handle is affordable	

#### 3.2.2. Assessment of Plastic Grip Handle PSS



Figure 7. Paint Spatula Scraper with Plastic Grip Handle.

Table 2. Advantages and Disadvantages of Plastic Grip Handle PSS.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
a. Plastic grip handle scrapers are light weight than any other handles available in the market	a. Plastic handle scrapers lack longevity
b. Known for its strength and durability so it does not break when it is dropped or handled roughly	b. Not sturdy and cannot predict how it can withstand heavy weight and pressure making it unsafe
	c. More expensive than low quality wooden scrapers
	d. There is a possibility to slip because of the palsied hands

#### 3.2.3. Assessment of Rubberized Handle PSS



Figure 8. Paint Spatula Scraper with Rubberized Handle.

Table 3. Advantages and Disadvantages of Rubberized Handle PSS.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
a. Rubberized handle scrapers are nice to touch and offers a warmer feel than plastic scrapers	a. Rubberized handle scraper is heavier than plastic and wooden handle scraper
b. Helps to reduce vibration, enabling a more comfortable and secure grip	b. Most expensive among the three types of scrapers
c. Can help avoid slipping due to sweat	c. Requires more exertion force

### 3.3. Hypothesis Testing

The results of Minitab 16 show that the BDC rating for right and left hand have a significant effect when scraping. The body segments that were used were only the right hand

and left hand because they were both on the high risk based on the Figure 1 These results prove that the discomfort is present on both hands of workers while doing their specific task.

**Table 4.** Test of Hypothesis for BDC Rating for Left and Right Hand.

Body Segment	Hypothesis	P-value	Interpretation
Right Hand	$H_0: \mu = 0$ , There is no discomfort $H_1: \mu > 0$ , There is a discomfort	0.000	Accept $H_1$ , Reject $H_0$ : There is a discomfort
Left Hand	$H_0: \mu = 0$ , There is no discomfort $H_1: \mu > 0$ , There is a discomfort	0.000	Accept $H_1$ , Reject $H_0$ : There is a discomfort

## 4. Recommendation

### 4.1. Alternatives

*Alternative 1:* Using Mild Steel Tube and Non-slip Soft Foam for the Grip handle of Paint Spatula Scraper

**Table 5.** Anthropometric Data for Alternative 1.

Hand Length (cm)	Hand Breadth (cm)
Mean = 20.0433	Mean = 9.3267
St.Dev. = 0.8468	St.Dev. = 0.6843
95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 21.4405	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 10.4558
5 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 18.6461	5 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 8.1976

The researchers used the data gathered from the anthropometric measures of the hands of the users of scrapers (Appendix A); they used it as the basis for the dimensions for their proposed design of the two PSS. The 95<sup>th</sup> percentile was used. The formula  $C = \pi D$  was also used to get the diameter of the inner grip. The outer grip was assumed by the researchers to be 4cm.



**Figure 9.** Proposed Paint Scraper Spatula for Alternative 1.

**Table 6.** Materials Used for Alternative 1.

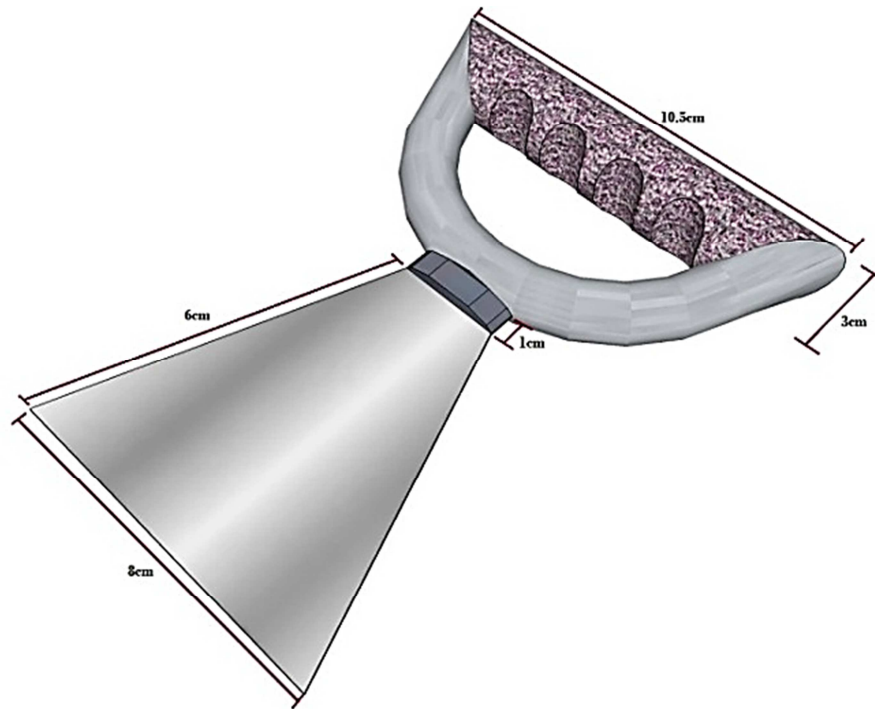
Parts of the Scraper	Materials Used	Measurement	Materials Brief Description
Blade	Stainless blade	8cm x 6cm Blade thickness = 1mm	Does not readily corrode, rust or stain with water as ordinary steel does
Inner Grip	Mild steel tube	D = 2cm Tube thickness = 1mm	Steel tube containing a small percentage of carbon, strong and tough but not readily tempered
Outer Grip	Non-slip soft foam (finger-styled)	D = 1cm Foam thickness = 5mm	Decrease the amount of high frequency vibration and shock transmitted to the hands
Fingers Supporter	Mild steel	D = 4cm Thickness = 0.50mm	Steel containing a small percentage of carbon, strong and tough but not readily tempered

**Table 7.** Advantages and Disadvantages of Materials Used in Alternative 1.

Materials Used	Advantages	Disadvantages
Stainless Blade	a. Rustproof b. Lasts more than other normal scraper blade c. Strong and durable	Slightly inexpensive than the normal blades
Mild Steel Tube	a. Strong and tough b. Affordable behind in its carbon content c. Easier to form and to shape d. Can be welded	Low tensile strength
Non-slip Soft Foam (Finger-Styled)	a. Conform to workers' hands making it more ergonomic b. Whether hot or cold, foam tubes insulate c. Comfortable handle grips d. Eliminates blisters	Flakes away quite easily after scraping

Materials Used	Advantages	Disadvantages
Mild Steel	a. Strong and tough b. Affordable behind in its carbon content c. Easier to form and to shape d. Can be welded	Low tensile strength

*Alternative 2: Using D-Grip and Non-slip Soft Foam for the Grip Handle of Paint Spatula Scraper*



**Figure 10.** Proposed Paint Scraper Spatula for Alternative 2.

**Table 8.** Anthropometric Data for Alternative 2.

Hand Length (cm)	Hand Breadth (cm)
Mean = 20.0433	Mean = 9.3267
St.Dev.= 0.8468	St.Dev.= 0.6843
95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 21.4405	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 10.4558
5 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 18.6461	5 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 8.1976

anthropometric measures of the hands of the users of scrapers (Appendix A, Table 13); they used it as the basis for the dimensions for their proposed design of the two PSS. The 95th percentile was used (Appendix B, Table 14). The formula  $C = \pi D$  was also used to get the diameter of the grip.

The researchers used the data gathered from the

**Table 9.** Materials Used for Alternative 2.

Parts of the Scraper	Materials Used	Measurement	Materials Brief Description
Blade	Stainless Steel Blade	6cm x 8cm Blade thickness = 1mm	Does not readily corrode, rust or stain with water as ordinary steel does
D-Grip	Plastic	D = 2cm Tube thickness = 1mm	D-Grip mounts midway which gives lifting leverage to the forward hand
Grip Handle	Non-slip Soft Foam	D = 1cm Foam thickness = 5mm	Decreases the amount of high frequency vibration and shock transmitted to the hands

**Table 10.** Advantages and Disadvantages of Materials Used in Alternative 2.

Materials Used	Advantages	Disadvantages
Stainless Steel Blade	a. Rustproof b. Lasts more than other normal scraper blade c. Strong and durable	Slightly inexpensive than the normal blades
Plastic	Strong and durable lightweight material	Cost of plastic
Non-slip Soft Foam (Finger-Styled)	a. Conform to workers' hands making it more ergonomic b. Whether hot or cold, foam tubes insulate c. Comfortable handle grips d. Eliminates blisters	Flakes away quite easily after scraping



## 4.2. Comparison of Alternatives

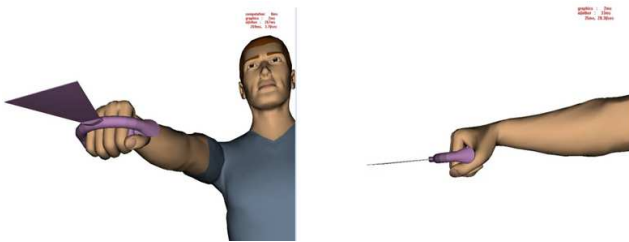
### 4.2.1. Alternative Simulation

*Alternative 1:* Using Mild Steel Tube and Non-slip Soft Foam for the Grip Handle of Paint Spatula Scraper



**Figure 11.** Simulated Wrist and Hand Postures Using Alternative 1.

*Alternative 2:* Using D-Grip and Non-slip Soft Foam for the Grip Handle of Paint Spatula Scraper



**Figure 12.** Simulated Wrist and Hand Postures Using Alternative 2.

### 4.2.2. Cost Analysis

*Alternative 1:* Using Mild Steel Tube and Non-slip Soft Foam for the Grip Handle of Paint Spatula Scraper

**Table 11.** Cost Comparison between Present PSS and Alternative 1.

Part of Scraper (Redesigned)	Present Design of PSS	Proposed Design of PSS
Blade		₱35.00 (welded)
Inner Grip	₱30.00 - ₱180.00	₱16.00
Outer Grip		₱40.00
Fingers Supporter		₱50.00 (welded)
Total Cost	₱30.00 - ₱180.00	₱141.00 (estimated)

*Alternative 2:* Using D-Grip and Non-slip Soft Foam for the Grip Handle of Paint Spatula Scraper

**Table 12.** Cost Comparison between Present PSS and Alternative 2.

Part of Scraper (Redesigned)	Present Design of PSS	Proposed Design of PSS
Blade		₱35.00 (welded)
D-Grip	₱30.00 - ₱180.00	₱80.00
Grip handle		₱40.00
Total Cost	₱30.00 - ₱180.00	₱155.00 (estimated)

### 4.3. Researchers' Recommendation to the End-Users

The researchers recommend Alternative 1 because on Alternative 2 (Figure 12) which is the simulated wrist and hand postures, the wrist is strengthened but the trade-off is that the workers will have a hard time scraping because there is no force from the thumb. In scraping process, the thumb is most important, the exertion of force is from it. Perhaps, the workers still need to bend their wrist in order for them to scrape but in Alternative 1 but the CTDs and MSDs will be reduced since the handle is made up of soft grip foam that will make the workers more comfortable.

## 5. Conclusion

After gathering all the data needed, the researcher assessed the discomfort that occurs on painters while they are scraping, and by evaluating the results using Body Discomfort Chart and Strain Index Chart, the researcher found out that the comfort they are experiencing poses risks that might lead to work-related disorders. He concludes that redesigning of the paint spatula scraper (PSS) through the Principles of Ergonomics can reduce the risk of cumulative trauma disorders (CTDs) and musculoskeletal disorders among the painters (MSDs) that were evaluated through the simulation software.

The posture of the worker when scraping contributes in acquiring risk factors when doing the task. The proper design, the dimensions in particular, which will fit the user's anthropometry, is necessary in redesigning to achieve improvement. For scraping, the researcher was able to conclude that using non-slip soft foam for paint spatula scraper handle will minimize discomfort in gripping the said tool. Therefore, the body discomfort might be reduced because in the newly redesigned spatula scraper, the users do not need to exert more force and the users can scrape more comfortably since the grip handle is now ergonomically redesigned.

## Areas for Future Work

The researchers suggest that the area for future studies is to gain more feedbacks from different construction sites on how the redesigned scraper is working to be more accurate in the size of the proposed design of the scraper. And so, it would be enough to justify the study for recommendation. Also, the researchers suggest that the area for future studies is to focus on how to improve more the extended handle and also in blade part because the researcher focused its study in the grip handle.

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## Appendix

### Appendix A. Anthropometric Measure for the Hand Breadth and Length

*Table 13. Actual Hand Length and Hand Breadth of the Workers (n = 30).*

Painter	Hand Length (cm)	Hand Breadth (cm)
1	19	9.2
2	19.2	9
3	19.8	10
4	21.6	10
5	19.3	10
6	21.8	9.5
7	19.7	10
8	20.2	9.5
9	19.4	8.5
10	19.8	10
11	21.3	10
12	20.6	9.8
13	19.2	9
14	18.8	8.8
15	20.6	9.2
16	20.3	10
17	20	8.9
18	21.3	10.4
19	19.5	8.7
20	20.6	9.2
21	20.5	9
22	21	9.3
23	19.4	10.2
24	20	9.8
25	20.7	10.1
26	18.8	8
27	20.5	8.3
28	20.2	9
29	19.2	8.3
30	19	8.1
	Mean = 20.0433	Mean = 9.3267
	St.Dev. = 0.8468	St.Dev. = 0.6843
	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 21.44	95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 10.46
	5 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 18.65	5 <sup>th</sup> Percentile = 8.20

### Appendix B. Formulas in Summarizing Anthropometric Measures

*Table 14. Formulas for 5<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> Percentiles.*

95 <sup>th</sup> percentile:	5 <sup>th</sup> percentile:
$P = m + kSD$	$P = m - kSD$
$k=1.65$	$k=1.65$

## Appendix C. Observation Tools

Strain Index Scoring Sheet							
Date: _____		Task: _____					
Company: _____		Supervisor: _____					
Dept: _____		Evaluator: _____					
Risk Factor	Rating Criterion	Observation		Multiplier	Left	Right	
Intensity of Exertion (Borg Scale - BS)	Light	Barely noticeable or relaxed effort (BS: 0-2)		1			
	Somewhat Hard	Noticeable or definite effort (BS: 3)		3			
	Hard	Obvious effort; Unchanged facial expression (BS: 4-5)		6			
	Very Hard	Substantial effort; Changes expression (BS: 6-7)		9			
	Near Maximal	Uses shoulder or trunk for force (BS: 8-10)		13			
Duration of Exertion (% of Cycle)	< 10%	Calculated Duration of Exertion (from inputs below)		0.5			
	10-29%	User Inputs	Left	Right			1.0
	30-49%	Total observation time (sec.)					1.5
	50-79%	Single exertion time (sec.)					2.0
	≥ 80%	Number of exertions during observation time					3.0
	Calculated Duration of Exertion (%)						
Efforts Per Minute	< 4	Calculated Efforts Per Minute (from inputs above)		0.5			
	4 - 8		Left	Right			1.0
	9 - 14						1.5
	15 - 19						2.0
	≥ 20						3.0
Hand/Wrist Posture	Very Good	Perfectly Neutral		1.0			
	Good	Near Neutral		1.0			
	Fair	Non-Neutral		1.5			
	Bad	Marked Deviation		2.0			
	Very Bad	Near Extreme		3.0			
Speed of Work	Very Slow	Extremely relaxed pace		1.0			
	Slow	Taking one's own time		1.0			
	Fair	Normal speed of motion		1.0			
	Fast	Rushed, but able to keep up		1.5			
	Very Fast	Rushed and barely/unable to keep up		2.0			
Duration of Task Per Day (hours)	< 1			0.25			
	1 < 2			0.50			
	2 < 4			0.75			
	4 < 8			1.00			
	> 8			1.50			
Results Key		SI ≤ 3	Job is probably safe				
		3 < SI < 7	Job may place individual at increased risk for distal upper extremity disorders				
		7 ≤ SI	Job is probably hazardous				
Notes/ Comments							

Figure 13. Strain Index Scoring Sheet.

		LEFT					RIGHT							
		No discomfort (0), Very rarely discomfort (1), Rarely discomfort (2), Discomfort (3), Frequently discomfort (4), Very uncomfortable (5)					No discomfort (0), Very rarely discomfort (1), Rarely discomfort (2), Discomfort (3), Frequently discomfort (4), Very uncomfortable (5)							
		Total Score I					Total Score II							
RIGHT	LEFT	Neck or head	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Shoulder	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Upper back	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Arm & hand	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Low back	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Buttock	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Thigh	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Knee	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Calf (leg below knee)	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Ankle & feet	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
		Total Score III												

Figure 14. Body Discomfort Chart.

#### Appendix D. Common Paint Problems that Can Be Solved Using Scraper



Figure 15. Crazing of Paint.

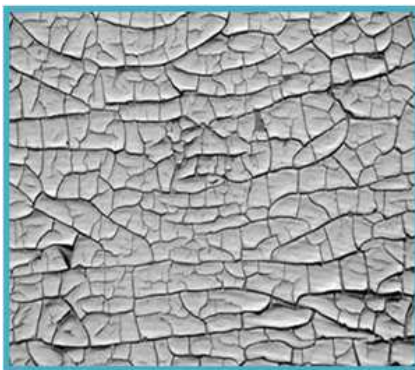


Figure 16. Peeling of Paint.



Figure 17. Solvent Blistering.

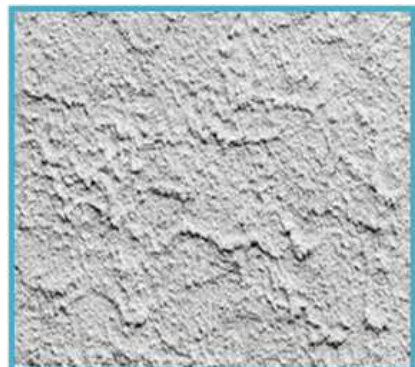


Figure 18. Wrinkling of Paint.



Figure 19. Flaking of Paint.

#### Appendix E. Hypothesis Testing Results

One-Sample T: Left								
Test of $\mu = 0$ vs $> 0$								
Variable	N	Mean	StDev	SE Mean	95% Lower Bound	T	P	
Left	30	2.067	1.484	0.271	1.606	7.63	0.000	
One-Sample T: Right								
Test of $\mu = 0$ vs $> 0$								
Variable	N	Mean	StDev	SE Mean	95% Lower Bound	T	P	
Right	30	4.033	1.217	0.222	3.656	18.15	0.000	

Figure 20. Minitab Results on Hypothesis Testing of Worker Discomfort.

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