



Comprehensive Analysis of Physical and Mental Workloads for Electronic Installation Workers Utilizing CVL and NASA-TLX at the Building X Construction

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ABSTRACT

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This research represents a crucial advancement in enhancing workplace safety within the construction sector. It investigates the evaluation of both physical and mental workloads among workers involved in electronic installations at the Building X construction site. The objective of the study was to evaluate physical workload using the Cardiovascular Load (CVL) method and to assess mental workload through interviews, along with the distribution of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration-Task Load Index (NASA-TLX) questionnaires. The findings show that ten employees aged between 21 and 45 recorded a %CVL value of under 30%, suggesting they did not encounter significant physical workload in their tasks. Nevertheless, the assessment of mental workload indicated that three employees faced a very high mental demand. According to the comparative analysis of the NASA-TLX categories, the effort is the most prominent factor, which underscores the necessity for intense focus and the capacity to meet established goals within this position. The primary three elements affecting mental workload are fatigue/saturation, the work environment, and air dust pollution. Recommendations for alleviating workload should be adhered to by referencing the Hierarchy of Risk Control in Occupational Safety and Health, in accordance with ISO 45001.

1. INTRODUCTION

Technological developments and innovations in the industrial world always align with the times. This fosters a competitive attitude and supports the company's competitiveness to achieve efficient and optimal performance [1]. Additionally, the role of human resources must be a priority for the company, as it significantly influences the promotion of good occupational safety and health. A critical consideration for the company is the workload experienced by employees. If the workload exceeds the standard, it can adversely affect employee performance and productivity [2].

The concept of workload can stem from the demands of tasks or jobs and the employee's skills, work environment, perceptions, and behaviors [3]. Human activities can be divided into two categories: physical work, which requires physical energy (muscles), and mental work, which requires concentration (brain) as the primary cognitive function [4]. Each person experiences different levels of workload in their work. Therefore, assessing or measuring workload levels is essential to achieve an optimal balance [5]. Companies must thoroughly evaluate the workload of their employees, as it significantly impacts their safety and health, particularly in electronic installations that require considerable physical and mental exertion [6]. However, many companies continue to overlook the critical nature of this analysis. Both physical and mental workloads are essential factors that influence employee

productivity [7]. It is imperative for organizations to conduct assessments of employee workload, as these evaluations can directly affect overall health and safety within high-demand work environments such as electronic installations [6]. Unfortunately, a substantial number of companies fail to acknowledge the importance of this analysis, despite its relevance in shaping employee productivity [7].

In a construction project, electronic installation work involves a complex system that requires physical and mental health. One of the ongoing construction projects, particularly in Jakarta City, is the Building X construction project, which currently aims to complete the electronic installation section. This project was chosen for the study due to its scale and the variety of electronic systems involved. Electronics work includes telecommunication systems, sound systems, nurse station equipment, CCTV, IP-TV, computer networks/LAN, and smoke and heat detectors. To finish this section, employees are experiencing physical and mental workload. The workload experienced by employees can be due to several factors, such as age, gender, body size, physical and mental health, skill level, and nutritional state [8].

Ergonomics researchers have identified several methodologies for assessing workload. To evaluate physical workload, researchers may employ objective measurements such as pulse rate, Cardiovascular Load (CVL), eye blink frequency, flicker tests, and salivary acid levels [9]. In contrast, the measurement of mental workload is generally conducted

through subjective assessments utilizing various techniques. Prominent methods in this regard include the Subjective Workload Assessment Technique (SWAT), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Task Load Index (NASA-TLX), Modified Cooper Harper Scaling (MCH), the Rating Scale Mental Effort (RSME), and the Defense Research Agency Workload Scale (DRAWS) [10].

In this study, electronic installation employees' physical and mental workloads were measured using the CVL and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration-Task Load Index (NASA-TLX) methods. The CVL method, based on pulse or heart rate, is essential for indicating a person's overall physical health or fitness [11]. Factors such as physical activity can affect a person's pulse rate. The electronic installation work, particularly in construction projects, requires high physical energy and can lead to physical fatigue [12]. The NASA-TLX method is widely used to measure the workload experienced by individuals. This method allows respondents to provide subjective feedback based on their views, perceptions, and feelings, making it a more sensitive assessment system [13]. The method involves a questionnaire with six subscales for assessment, which is easier for respondents to understand than other subjective measurement methods [14].

Based on the aforementioned background, this study will employ two methodologies to assess the physical and mental workload of employees involved in electronic installation: the measurement of pulse rate, which reflects the CVL method and the NASA-TLX method. According to the findings of Dias et al. [15] and Yoopat et al. [16], both the CVL and NASA-TLX methods present several notable advantages, including cost-effectiveness, ease of application, and high sensitivity, which collectively minimize the potential for errors. Consequently, these methods are deemed appropriate for evaluating physical and mental workload. The analysis derived from these methodologies will facilitate an understanding of the levels of physical and mental workload experienced by employees engaged in electronic installation. Furthermore, the study will offer actionable recommendations for improvement strategies aimed at effectively managing the workload encountered by these employees.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted directly using objective and subjective measurement methods. Objective research will be carried out using a physiological approach to employees that can be quantified by changes in the function of the employee's body. In contrast, subjective research is carried out based on the perception/subjectivity of the employee. In addition, this study's first data collection method was observation, which measured the pulse rate using the Pulse Oximeter type LED AB-98 (Mixio, Indonesia) directly when employees carried out work and when resting. This pulse measurement is carried out to determine the physical workload of employees. The pulse measurement method or CVL method refers to research [17] where pulse data will be carried out two times at the time before work at 08.00–09.00 and at work time 09.00–11.30, and the measurement is carried out for seven days.

The second method of data collection is to conduct interviews and disseminate NASA-TLX questionnaires, where employees will be asked to determine rating values against six subscales on NASA-TLX consisting of Mental Demand (MD),

Physical Demand (PD), Temporal Demand (TD), Performance (PF), Frustration Level (FR), and Effort (EF).

2.1 CVL method

CVL is a method used to measure a person's physical workload by monitoring their pulse rate [18]. This method involves identifying respondents based on age, gender, length of service, type of work, and hours of work and rest. The employee's pulse is measured by clamping the Oximeter tool to their fingers. Pulse measurement is carried out twice: first, when the employee is not working, and second, when the employee is performing their work. Based on the outcomes of the two pulse measurements, we can calculate the percentage of CVL by applying Eq. (1). This equation allows us to quantify the variability or concentration of the measured parameters, providing valuable insights into the data collected from the measurements [19].

$$\%CVL = \frac{100 \times (\text{working pulse} - \text{resting pulse})}{(\text{max. working pulse} - \text{resting pulse})} \quad (1)$$

Information:

- 1) The maximum pulse rate for men is 220-age.
- 2) The maximum pulse rate for women is 200-age.

The maximum working pulse for men can be calculated using the formula (220-age), while for women it is (200-age). Once the results have been calculated using the CVL percentage equation, the physical workload can be studied based on the classification standards listed in Table 1 [20].

Table 1. CVL classification standards

Category	Value (%) CVL	Information
Light	<30%	No significant workload occurs
Medium	30-60%	Repairs are needed but not urgent
Heavy	60-80%	Allowed to work in a short time
Heavy	80-100%	Immediate corrective action is required
Very heavy	>100%	Work activities should not be carried out

2.2 National aeronautics and space administration-task load index (NASA-TLX)

The NASA-TLX method, developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, measures an individual's mental workload. This method involves distributing questionnaires to respondents, who then provide subjective ratings on six different subscales using a scale of 0 to 100. The NASA-TLX method, on the other hand, involves conducting interviews and disseminating questionnaires to employees, where they will be asked to determine rating values against six subscales on NASA-TLX consisting of as follows: (1) Mental Demand (MD) refers to the cognitive effort required for task completion, including perception, decision-making, and memory load; (2) Physical Demand (PD) refers to the physical activity, strength, and endurance required to perform a task, encompassing factors such as manual handling, repetitive motions, and overall bodily exertion; (3) Temporal Demand (TD) refers to the stress associated with performing tasks under time constraints or pressure; (4) Performance (PF) refers to how effectively and efficiently

tasks are executed, encompassing output quality, accuracy, and speed of completion; (5) Frustration Level (FR) refers to the degree of annoyance or dissatisfaction experienced by individuals when facing obstacles or challenges during task performance. It is associated with the emotional response to difficulties encountered during task execution; (6) Effort (EF) involves the physical and mental exertion invested in task performance, including energy, concentration, and determination [21].

Six subscales of the NASA-TLX are necessary to evaluate the workload of workers involved in electronic installations through a comprehensive mental analysis that encompasses various types of work, including (1) installation of telecommunications systems, (2) testing of horn strobe/fire alarms, and (3) testing of telecommunications systems. Work in the field of electronic installations requires both mental and physical efforts, as it demands high levels of concentration and the capacity to achieve specific objectives while delivering results that meet or exceed expectations. When organizational targets are set high and employees are unable to complete their tasks within the designated working hours, they may find themselves compelled to work overtime, ultimately affecting their ability to meet these targets [22].

Table 2. Subscales comparing NASA-TLX factors

MD/PD	PD/TD	TD/FR
MD/TD	PD/PF	TD/EF
MD/PF	PD/FR	PF/FR
MD/FR	PD/EF	PF/EF
MD/EF	TD/PF	EF/FR

Table 3. Mental Workload Interpretation of NASA-TLX Methods

No.	Workload Intervals	Value
1	Low	0-9
2	Medium	10-29
3	High	30-49
4	High	50-79
5	Very high	80-100

According to Hart and Staveland [18], the NASA-TLX method for measuring mental workload involves the following steps: (a) explain the six NASA-TLX measurement subscales

to respondents to determine rating values; (b) compare and assign weights to 15 paired subscales as shown in Table 2 [18].

- a) Calculate the value of the product by multiplying the predetermined rating value by the weighting result using Eq. (2) as follows [17]:

$$Product = rating \times weight \text{ factor} \quad (2)$$

- b) Calculate the workload value (weighted workload) using Eq. (3) as follows [17]:

$$WWL = \Sigma product \quad (3)$$

- c) Calculate the average score to determine the category of mental workload experienced by employees using Eq. (4) as follows [17]:

$$Average \text{ score} = \frac{WWL}{15} \quad (4)$$

- d) Determine the category of mental workload and determine the interpretation of the workload experienced by respondents based on the mental workload intervals of the NASA-TLX method, which can be seen in Table 3 [18].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The construction project for Building X is located in Jakarta. Currently, the construction work is focused on electronics and involves ten male employees aged 21 to 45. These employees have been working on the project for 5 to 24 months.

3.1 CVL analysis

In this study, the CVL method was used to measure the pulse rate of electronic installation employees. The method involved using a pulse oximeter to collect data on resting pulse and working pulse over seven working days. Subsequently, the average resting pulse, work pulse, and %CVL for ten electronic installation employees were calculated and summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Recapitulation of pulse measurement data

I.D.	Age (Year)	Max. Pulse	Average Resting Pulse (Beats/Minute)*	Average Working Pulse (Beats/Minute) **	%CVL	Information
Employee 1	33	187	94.9	106.0	12.1	No significant workload occurs
Employee 2	21	199	100.7	104.7	4.1	No significant workload occurs
Employee 3	29	191	86.6	95.9	8.9	No significant workload occurs
Employee 4	38	182	69.7	85.9	14.4	No significant workload occurs
Employee 5	32	188	56.0	56.9	0.6	No significant workload occurs
Employee 6	22	198	105.4	106.4	1.1	No significant workload occurs
Employee 7	27	193	97.4	100.1	2.8	No significant workload occurs
Employee 8	45	175	57.3	63.7	5.5	No significant workload occurs
Employee 9	25	195	91.9	102.6	10.4	No significant workload occurs
Employee 10	23	197	88.1	94.1	5.5	No significant workload occurs

*Average summation results from resting pulse measurement data for seven days.

**Average summation results from working pulse measurement data for seven days.

Based on the resting pulse and working pulse data collected over seven days, the %CVL formula in Eq. (1) was used to calculate the %CVL results for ten employees. It was found

that all ten employees had a %CVL value of less than 30%, indicating that they did not experience significant physical workload while performing their jobs. Based on the resting

heart rate and working heart rate data collected over a period of seven days, the %CVL values were calculated using the formula presented in Eq. (1). The analysis revealed that out of ten employees who demonstrated %CVL results below 30%, these individuals did not encounter significant physical demands in the course of their respective job responsibilities. Notably, among the employees analyzed, three exhibited the highest %CVL values: Employee 4 at 14.4%, Employee 1 at 12.1%, and Employee 9 at 10.4%.

However, upon further analysis, it was discovered that one employee, employee 4, had the highest %CVL value at 14.4%. It is important to note that age and workload, when considered together, do not directly correlate with fatigue or a specific burden. While age and weight can individually relate to fatigue, no direct relationship was found between fatigue and the combination of age and workload [23]. The level of fatigue experienced by individuals of different ages and with different life experiences can be the same despite having the same workload. However, younger employees may experience a more severe workload than older employees due to factors such as additional activities, psychological factors (emotions), length of service, decreased body function (degeneration), or a history of certain diseases [24, 25]. A study conducted by

Susanti and Pangesti [26] examined physical workload utilizing the Continuous Vibration Level (CVL) method in the finishing area of a metal company located in Klaten, Central Java. The investigation revealed that performance measurements for employees had not been previously undertaken, despite the fact that employees frequently engaged in overtime to fulfill their work responsibilities. The findings indicated that 50% of employees required improvements in their performance, while the remaining 50% did not report experiencing fatigue.

3.2 National aeronautics and space administration-task load index (NASA-TLX) analysis

The NASA-TLX method involves collecting feedback from 10 employees at electronic installations to ascertain their subjective experiences related to mental workload. This assessment covers six key aspects: Mental Demand (MD), Physical Demand (PD), Temporal Demand (TD), Performance (PF), Frustration Level (FR), and Effort (EF), each ranging from 0 to 100. The result of this evaluation is displayed in Table 5 for detailed review and analysis.

Table 5. NASA-TLX rating data

Name	Category	Rating	Weight	Rating X Weight	Average Score	Interpretation
Employee 1	MD	50	3	150	64	High
	PD	70	4	280		
	TD	50	2	100		
	PF	20	0	0		
	FR	30	1	30		
	EF	80	5	400		
Sum		300	15	960		
Employee 2	MD	60	3	180	60.7	High
	PD	50	2	100		
	TD	40	1	40		
	PF	30	0	0		
	FR	60	4	240		
	EF	70	5	350		
Sum		310	15	910		
Employee 3	MD	80	3	240	80.7	Very High
	PD	100	5	500		
	TD	60	2	120		
	PF	30	1	30		
	FR	30	0	0		
	EF	80	4	320		
Sum		380	15	1210		
Employee 4	MD	60	2	120	72	High
	PD	75	4	300		
	TD	50	1	50		
	PF	0	0	0		
	FR	70	3	210		
	EF	80	5	400		
Sum		335	15	1080		
Employee 5	MD	50	2	100	63.7	High
	PD	60	4	240		
	TD	55	3	165		
	PF	30	0	0		
	FR	50	1	50		
	EF	80	5	955		
Sum		325	15			
Employee 6	MD	60	3	180	61	High
	PD	60	2	120		
	TD	50	1	50		
	PF	40	0	0		
	FR	65	5	325		
	EF	60	4	240		

Name	Category	Rating	Weight	Rating X Weight	Average Score	Interpretation
Sum		335	15	915		
Employee 7	MD	60	2	120	69.7	High
	PD	50	1	50		
	TD	65	3	195		
	PF	40	0	0		
	FR	70	4	280		
	EF	80	5	400		
Sum		365	15	1045		
Employee 8	MD	90	4	360	74.7	High
	PD	100	5	500		
	TD	60	3	180		
	PF	30	2	60		
	FR	20	1	20		
	EF	10	0	0		
Sum		310	15	1120		
Employee 9	MD	100	5	500	81	Very High
	PD	80	3	240		
	TD	50	0	0		
	PF	50	2	100		
	FR	20	1	20		
	EF	90	4	360		
Sum		390	15	1220		
Employee 10	MD	70	1	70	93	Very High
	PD	100	5	500		
	TD	100	4	400		
	PF	20	0	0		
	FR	80	2	160		
	EF	90	3	270		
Sum		460	15	1400		

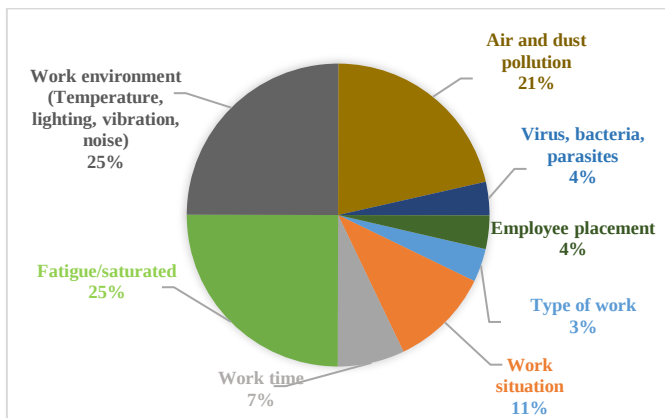


Figure 1. Factors affecting the mental workload of electronic installation employees

According to the results obtained from measuring mental workload using the NASA-TLX method, out of 10 employees of electronic installations, seven employees scored in the high category of NASA-TLX (50-79), while the other three employees scored in the very high category (80-100). The challenge of mental workload can lead to transformative changes in human performance and behavior [27]. These results suggest that employees of electronic installations require extensive mental effort when performing their duties, indicating a high workload. High workloads can lead to fatigue, increasing the risk of work accidents and occupational diseases [28].

Based on the comparison of the 15 selected paired subscales, it can be concluded that the weights for each subscale are as follows: Mental Demand (MD) 28, Physical Demand (PD) 35, Temporal Demand (TD) 21, Performance (PF) 5, Frustration Level (FR) 21, and Effort (EF) 40. The dominant subscale, which can significantly impact the mental workload of electronic installation employees, is Effort (EF), which weighs

40. This indicates that employees must make a significant effort to meet their daily targets. If the targets are high and employees cannot complete their work within regular working hours, they would need to work overtime, leading to difficulties meeting the targets. This suggests the presence of three dominant aspects [29].

The mental workload of electronic installation employees was evaluated using the NASA-TLX questionnaire on ten employees. Figure 1 shows additional information about several factors affecting the mental workload. The top three factors influencing the mental workload are fatigue/saturation with the situation, the work environment, and air and dust pollution. It is noted that the physical conditions of the environment or existing working conditions can contribute to fatigue [30].

Some work areas still need proper lighting, impacting work effectiveness and employee posture. Many work areas in the room are small and need better air circulation. Additionally, certain work areas are affected by noisy activities, such as welding, and there is a significant amount of dust on the work area floor and in the air [31].

Based on the findings of the NASA-TLX questionnaire, the mental fatigue or saturation experienced by electronic installation employees may be influenced by factors such as individual conditions, including age, level of education/experience, genetics, and culture [32]. The degree of mental fatigue can also be significantly influenced by personality traits such as introversion or extroversion. Individuals with an introverted personality tend to have a more introverted or individualistic lifestyle, which can lead to increased mental fatigue. On the other hand, individuals with extroverted personalities tend to be more active and may be less affected by monotony [33]. Another critical factor is the social cognitive aspect or social support within the surrounding environment. Social cognitive factors have a significant impact on an individual's mental load. When

people enter a new environment, they face the demand to adapt and adjust to their new surroundings. An individual's inability to adapt can negatively affect mental and physical health [34]. The last factor is having a strategy or solution for managing every mental or stressful workload. When a person encounters a mental or stressful workload that they cannot cope with or control, it can impact their performance. This may lead to feeling cynical and having negative judgments about themselves, others, or their work [35].

4. IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of measuring physical and mental workloads, the top three factors causing mental workload are the work environment (temperature, lighting, vibration, and noise), fatigue/saturation, and air and dust pollution. To reduce the workload experienced by employees of electronic installations, improvement efforts can be proposed by referring to the Hierarchy of Risk Control in Occupational Safety and Health based on ISO 45001:

4.1 Engineering controls

To address and reduce the issue of an unsafe work environment and activities that may pose a danger, design, and engineering controls can be implemented by providing a proper lighting environment. Certain working areas need more lighting sources or have no lighting at all. The absence of adequate lighting in these areas can lead to eye strain and fatigue, as employees are forced to work in low-light conditions. By examining the various factors that impact work performance, valuable insight can be obtained to optimize lighting design and operation for better overall performance. The research conducted by Konstantzos et al. [36] found that task performance improves with brighter lighting, contrast ratios between 7:1 and 11:1 (while ensuring glare is avoided), and higher correlated color temperatures. Moreover, adjusting the lighting spectrum towards red or blue wavelengths has also demonstrated beneficial effects [36].

4.2 Administrative controls

The division of duties can be adjusted as part of our administrative controls to reduce the workload on employees. By reorganizing the allocation of tasks, the high mental load experienced by employees can be addressed. This may be due to imbalanced task distribution and differing employee abilities, leading to fatigue and decreased productivity. To ensure effective and efficient distribution of employee duties, clearly defining job specifications in written form is essential. This includes outlining the required employee qualities, educational qualifications, physical, technical, emotional, and communication skills, and work experience needed to carry out the responsibilities associated with a particular job effectively.

Ensuring job satisfaction is essential for driving employee productivity and reducing organizational turnover. Inegbedion et al. [37] proposed a model outlining the significant factors influencing job satisfaction. They emphasized that employees' satisfaction with their jobs is heavily impacted by how they perceive the balance of their workload. They focused on three key factors: comparing their workload to that of their coworkers, the organization's staffing levels, and how well

their roles align with their responsibilities [37].

4.3 Personal protective equipment

One way to improve working conditions for electronic installation employees is by providing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The work environment, including temperature, lighting, noise, vibration, and dust pollution, can contribute to mental workloads. Personal protective equipment, such as earplugs and masks, can help address these challenges. Earplugs can protect employees from excessive noise in the project area, while disposable paper, cotton, or gauze masks can shield employees from dust, ensuring better breathing conditions [38].

5. CONCLUSIONS

Over seven days, measurements were taken to assess the physical workload of employees in the electronic installation department using the CVL method and resting pulse measurements. The results indicated the employees did not experience a significant workload, as the %CVL value was below 30%. Additionally, the mental workload of the employees was evaluated using the NASA-TLX questionnaire method. The results showed that seven employees experienced a high mental workload, while 3 experienced a very high mental workload. Employee 10 had the highest average mental workload score, with a score of 93. The analysis of the NASA-TLX scores reveals that a critical factor influencing mental load is the social cognitive aspect, specifically the availability of social support within the surrounding environment. Social cognitive factors exert a substantial influence on an individual's cognitive and emotional processing, thereby impacting overall mental load. Based on the findings from the physical and mental workload measurements, it is recommended that improvements be implemented following the hierarchy of risk control in occupational safety and health (ISO 45001). These improvements include design/engineering steps such as providing additional work lights, administrative controls like rearranging the division of duties based on employee abilities and providing personal protective equipment such as earplugs and masks to reduce the workload experienced by employees. Conversely, mental plays a significant role in influencing employee performance, encompassing critical factors such as social support and the overall working environment. Fostering healthy professional relationships and emotional connections among employees may alleviate their workload and enhance their productivity.

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