
Title of Seminar: **Product Design Process in Informal Microenterprises in Tanzania**

Date: Thursday, November 23, 2023

Venue: **St. Joseph University In Tanzania, Room UB 10, University Building**

1.0.Objective

The seminar aimed to disseminate the findings of recent research conducted entitled "*An Investigation of the Product Design Process in Informal Microenterprises in Tanzania*". The primary goal was to share valuable insights on the research and to foster knowledge exchange among researchers, academicians, and industry professionals. The workshop attracted a total of 48 participants. The list of participants of the seminar is attached.

2.0.Series of Activities

2.1 Opening Session

Prof. Eliab Z. Opiyo delivered welcome address. He gave an overview of the seminar and provided background information on the research.

2.2 Keynote Address

Dr. Arul Raj, K., the Head of Department of Mechanical, Mechatronics and Industrial Engineering at St. Joseph University In Tanzania gave a keynote address on Product Design and Development, highlighting the significance of design process activities and their potential impact on quality of products designed in informal metal working microenterprises in Tanzania.

2.3 Presentation of Research Findings

Prof. Eliab Z. Opiyo, a member of the "*An Investigation of the Product Design Process in Informal Microenterprises in Tanzania*" research consortium funded by Swedish Research Council presented the findings of the research.

- He first gave a briefing on the objectives, methodology—highlighting research methodology employed and its relevance to the study—, and the scope of the study.
- Next, he presented the main findings of the research. He highlighted the key research findings, using data, charts, and graphs.
- He finally explained the limitations and challenges faced—giving candid acknowledgment of limitations and challenges encountered during the research process.

The presentation is attached.

2.4 Breakout Sessions

- The presentation of the findings of the research was followed by breakout sessions intended to gather the participants' insights into their experiences and perceptions on the product design processes in metal working microenterprises in Tanzania.
- The open-ended questions listed below were given to participants to stimulate discussion in 8 small groups of 5-7.

- Do we need dedicated/bespoke design models and methods for informal metal-working enterprises?

- *If YES, how should design models and methods be like (process steps? activities)? If NO, provide explanations*

- Is there a need to develop low-cost design support software tools for informal metal-working enterprises?

- *If YES, how should such tools be like (language? device? functionalities?) If NO, provide explanations.*

- Do you think that the results of this study hold true for the informal metal-working enterprises in Tanzania you know?

The responses of the 8 groups that participated in the seminar are attached as *Annexure III*.

2.5 Closing Session

- Finally, Prof. Opiyo recapped the key points that emerged during the seminar, and then acknowledged and thanked the participants—expressing his gratitude to participants, sponsors, and contributors.
- He also highlighted some potential avenues for future research and collaboration.

3.0. Conclusions

The seminar served as a platform for bridging the gap between design research and design practice in informal metal-working microenterprises in Tanzania, fostering collaboration, and encouraging the application of research findings in real-world scenarios. The dissemination of research results through this seminar was a crucial step toward advancing design knowledge and contributing to positive societal impacts.