

# Experimental Evaluation of Noise Emission by Workshop Machines Due To Production Activities

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**Abstract-** Measurements of background, idle, and production noise generated during production activities of plain turning, drilling, boring, and threading on the Lathe; flat, keyway, rectangular groove, and Tee slot on Shaper; facing, plain milling, slot, gear, and threading on the Milling Machine; sheet metal, plat bar, angle iron drilling on the Pillar Drill machine; solid shaft, sheet metal, square pipe, angle iron, and stainless steel grinding on the Pedestal Grinder; and sheet metal, flat bar, square pipe, and angle iron grinding on the Angle Grinding Machine, were carried out at Engineering workshop of the Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi. Noise dosimeter and sound level meter with model 2310 SL and IEC 61672 type-2 factory calibrated with a resolution of 0.1dB were used. Measurements were taken one meter from the source of noise on each machine, and all the six (6) Machines were switched at the same time to determine the total noise generated. Results showed that the mean noise levels around these machines were lowest from the Lathe Machine which had 85.4dB, and highest for the Angle Grinder which had 107.8dB. This results serves as a standard for these machines when using noise as a diagnostic tool for preventive maintenance which showed that the machines were in good condition. Preventive maintenance at regular interval, are necessary to keep the machines in this condition.

**Index Terms-** Production noise, mean noise level, preventive maintenance.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Noise is sound that is not wanted by the perceiver, because it is unpleasant, loud, or interferes with hearing. Most machinery and manufacturing processes generate noise as an unwanted by-product of their output. Typical examples of noise sources in the workshop include; impact noise associated with punch processes, motors, generators and other electro-mechanical devices, unbalanced rotating shafts, gears, shaping machine, power saws, lathes, grinding machines, drilling machine etc (Anjorin et al, 2015).

Human production activities which require crushing, cutting, riveting, drilling, punching, pressing and drilling, results in the use of machines commonly found in the workshop to generate a lot of noise. The phenomena can transcend several human developments, ranging from breakdown of communication to annoyance and built-up tension. When several of these activities occur simultaneously the level of noise can go beyond being a nuisance, but harmful and inimical to the

production activity. Occupations at highest risk for Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) include those in manufacturing, construction, transportation, mining, agriculture and military (Ahmed et al, 2000).

High level noise not only hinders communication between workers, but depending on the level, quality and exposure duration of noise, it may also result in different type of physical, physiological and psychological effects on the workers (NIOSH, 1998). The acceptable noise exposure standard in the workplace is 85dB(A) averaged over an eight-hour period (Bies and Hansen, 1996; Schmidt 2005; Norton and Karczub, 2003). This is not to imply that below 85dB(A) a safe condition exist. It simply means that an eight-hour exposure of 85dB(A) is considered to represent an acceptable level of risk to hearing health in the workplace. Noise generated from the workshop causes health and social problems, it causes acute and chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, acoustic trauma, noise induced hearing loss, hindrance communication between the employees, fatigue and loss of concentration. The noise induced hearing loss affects the both ears simultaneously. A person's overall noise exposure may come directly from an individual machine, but noise from other machinery or processes elsewhere in the workshop may also contribute to this.

A number of studies have been carried out to evaluate industrial noise in processing, mining, oil and gas, construction and manufacturing industries and the results show that high percentage of industrial workers were exposed to more than 85dB(A) noise levels (Ydego, 1991; Boateng and Amedofu, 2004; Kisku and Bhargava, 2006; Saadu, 1988; Bockhoff et al, 2003; Lim et al, 2008). In spite of these studies, high noise levels have been taken for granted in industries in developing countries especially Nigeria.

The environment has become heavily polluted by various human activities. Production activities also contribute to this pollution. Establishing the various sources of noise, and establishing measures of regulating same, will go a long way in ensuring that noise and its harmful effects are reduced to nearest minimum.

The aim of this study was to examine the effect of workshop noise as a result of production and operation activities of some machines on the health of workers.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Six machines namely, Lathe (Harrison 600), Shaping, (Elliott 14M), Milling (Ajax 28277), Pillar drill (Brook

Crompton MF5), Pedestal grinder (AJH Bison), and the Angle grinder (Bosch), were used in this study. At the beginning of the experiment, the background, idle, and production noise in various operations was carried out using the sound survey meter, sound level meter, and noise dosimeter respectively. The noise level for each operational duration of 60 seconds was recorded, and the average calculated using Equation 1.

$$N_i = N_m - N_b \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where;

- N<sub>i</sub> - Idle noise
- N<sub>m</sub> - machine noise
- N<sub>b</sub> - background noise

The overall noise was calculated using Equation 2 below.

$$O_n = I_n - P_n \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Where;

- O<sub>n</sub> - Overall noise
- I<sub>n</sub> - Idle noise
- P<sub>n</sub> - Production noise

Three (3) speeds; low, medium and highest speeds were obtained directly from each machine used. The mean speed of the machine is obtained from Equation 3 below.

$$\text{Mean speed} = \frac{(\text{Highest} + \text{Lowest}) \text{ speed}}{2} \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

Production noise was obtained using Equations 4

$$P_n = O_n - B_n \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

Where;

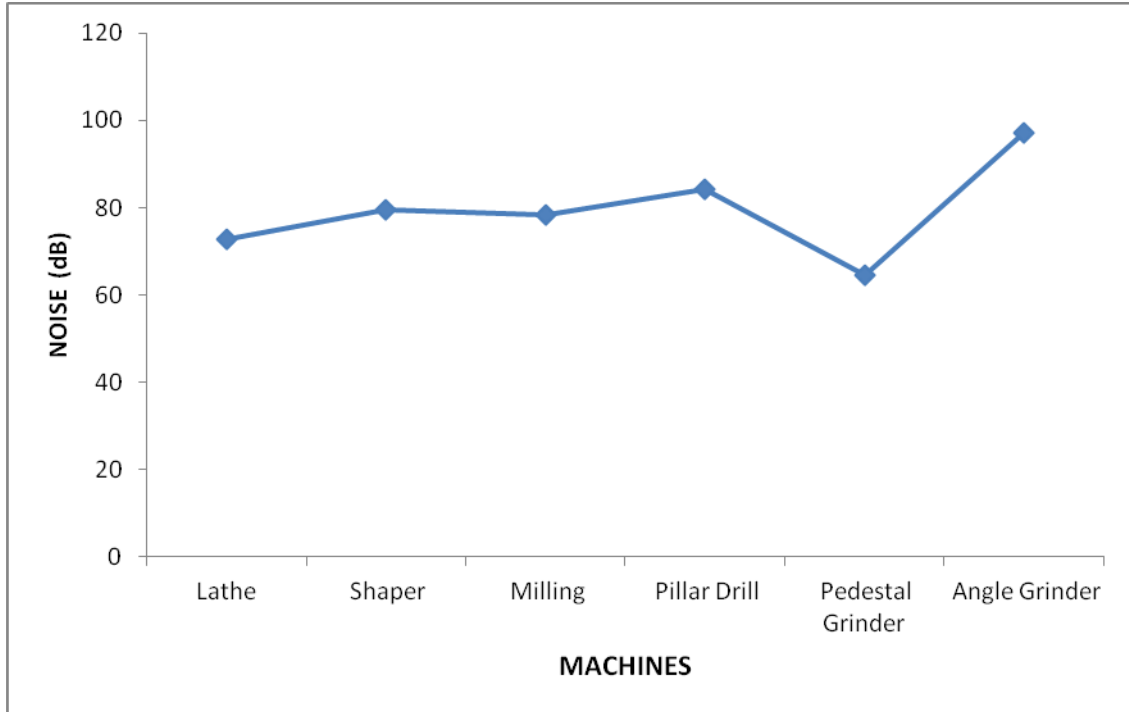
- P<sub>n</sub> - Production noise
- O<sub>n</sub> - Overall noise
- B<sub>n</sub> - Background noise

Noise dosimeter and sound level meter with model 2310 SL and IEC 61672 type-2 factory calibrated with a resolution of 0.1dB were used. Measurements were taken one meter from the source of noise on each machine, and all the six (6) Machines were switched at the same time to determine the total noise generated. From the measurement of the noise, when the difference between the measured background noise level (that is when the machines are turned off), is equal to 10dB or more, the change in the resultant noise level after subtraction of the background noise level is negligible. But when less than 10dB, a correction is made to the noise level reading at a source to make the measured value valid using the addition and subtraction decibel scale. Measurements of sound level were done three times for each machine operation and the average reading was calculated and recorded in tables using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.

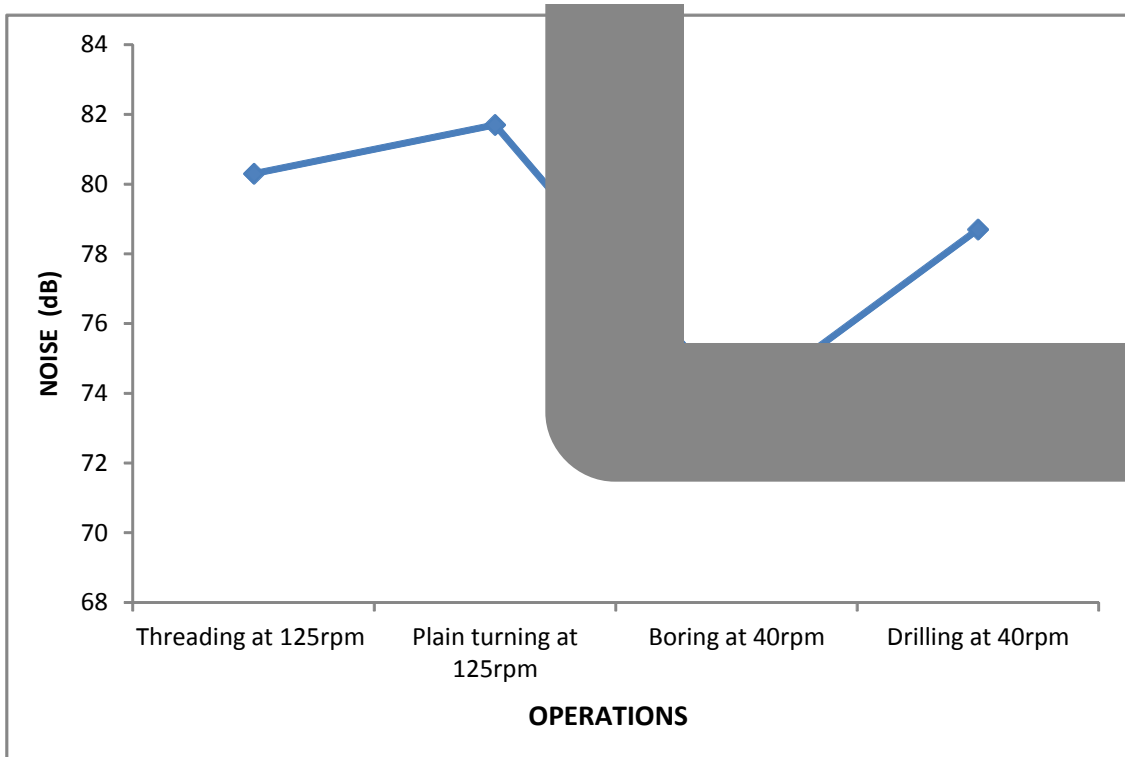
### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The result of idle noise levels, lathe operation noise, shaper operation noise, Milling machine operation noise, pillar drill operation noise, pedestal grinder operation noise, angle grinder operation noise, comparison of idle and operation noise levels, and different categories of machine noise levels are presented in figures 1-9.

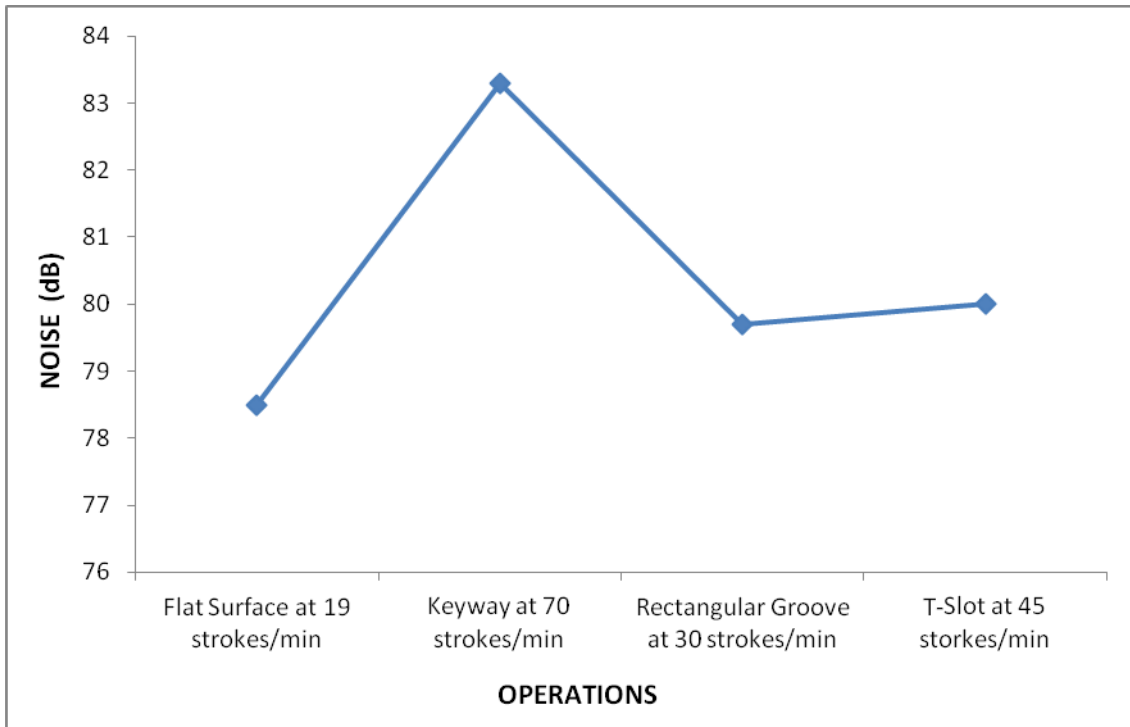
The idle noise was observed and recorded for each machine and it was found that angle grinder recorded the highest with 97.1dB, followed by pillar drill with 84.1dB and the least was pedestal grinder with 64.7dB as shown in figure 1. The lathe operation noise level was found to be highest when carrying out plain turning of mild steel at 125rpm, with a noise level of 81.7dB, followed by threading at 125rpm with a noise level of 80.3dB and lowest when carrying out boring operation at 40rpm with a noise level of 73.6dB as shown in figure 2. The shaper operation noise level was found to be highest when machining a keyway at 70 strokes/min with a noise level of 83.3dB, followed by machining a T-slot at 45 strokes/min with a noise level of 80dB and lowest when machining a flat surface at 19 strokes/min with a noise level of 78.5dB (See Fig. 3). The milling machine operation noise level was found to be highest when carrying out gear milling on mild steel at 320rpm, with a noise level of 81.9dB, followed by thread milling at 1140rpm with a noise level of 80.1dB and lowest when carrying out plain milling operation at 48rpm with a noise level of 75.6dB (See Fig. 4). The pillar drill operation noise level was found to be highest when drilling on a 2mm thick angle bar mild steel at 3600rpm, with a noise level of 89.2dB as shown if figure 5. This was followed by 2mm sheet metal at 87.5dB and lowest when drilling on wood at 480rpm with a noise level of 81.9dB. The pedestal grinder operation noise level was found to be highest when grinding 1mm thick hollow square pipe with a noise level of 93.5dB, followed by 10mm diameter shaft with a noise level of 91.6dB and lowest when grinding on a 0.5mm thick stainless steel, with a noise level of 84.6dB (See Fig.6). The angle grinder operation noise level was found to be highest when carrying out 10mm metal slab cutting operation with a noise level of 99.6dB as shown in figure 7, and the lowest was found when carrying out a 10mm diameter shaft grinding operation with a noise level of 84.9dB. During the idle mode operation as shown in figure 8, pedestal grinder recorded the least noise level with 64.7dB while the highest was angle grinder with 97.1dB. However in the working operation, the least noise was found in milling machine with 86.1dB while the highest was found in the angle grinder with 107.8dB. The result of the total noise when all the machines were running was 108.4dB as shown in figure 9. With the lathe machine turned off and the rest running simultaneously, there was no significant effect on the total noise level as it was still 108.4dB. The same was applicable when the shaper and the milling machine were turned off. This insignificant change or zero change in the total noise shows that the lathe, shaper and the milling machine each contribute less than 30% to the total noise level. The results also showed the angle grinder to have the highest/loudest noise level amongst the six (6) machines which when it is turned off, the total noise level dropped to 99.8dB. This can be attributed to the voids and spaces between the grains of the abrasive wheel of the grinding disk having coarser grain size.



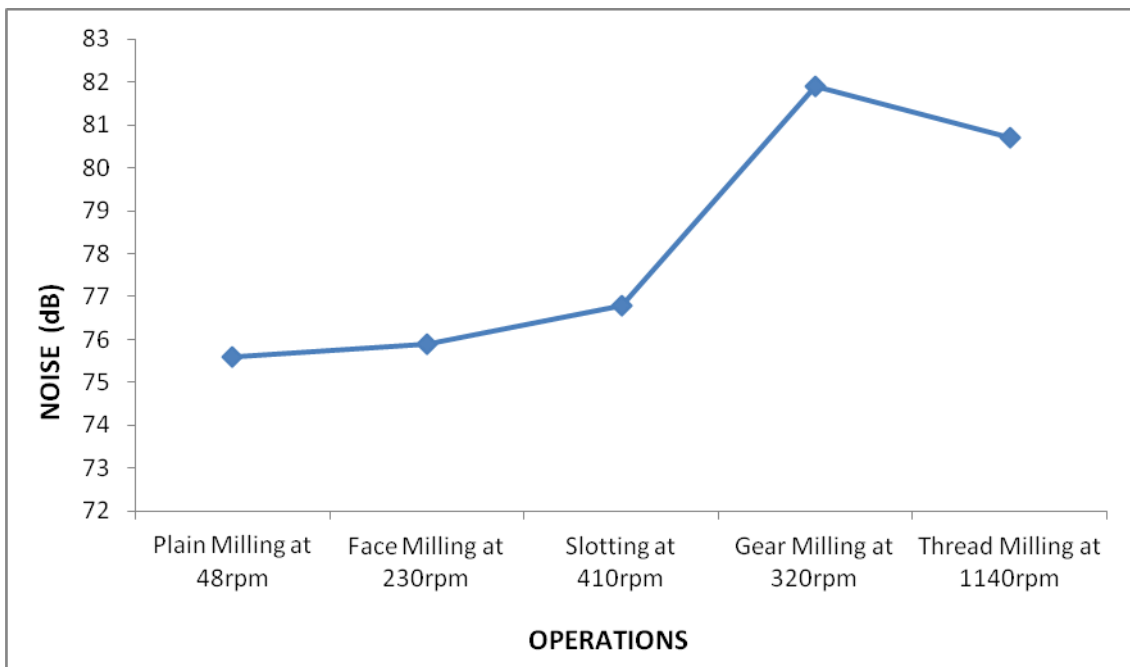
**FIGURE 1: Idle Noise Level for the Machines**



**FIGURE 2: Lathe Operation Noise Levels**



**Figure 3: Shaper Operation Noise levels**



**FIGURE 4: Milling Machine Operation Noise Levels**

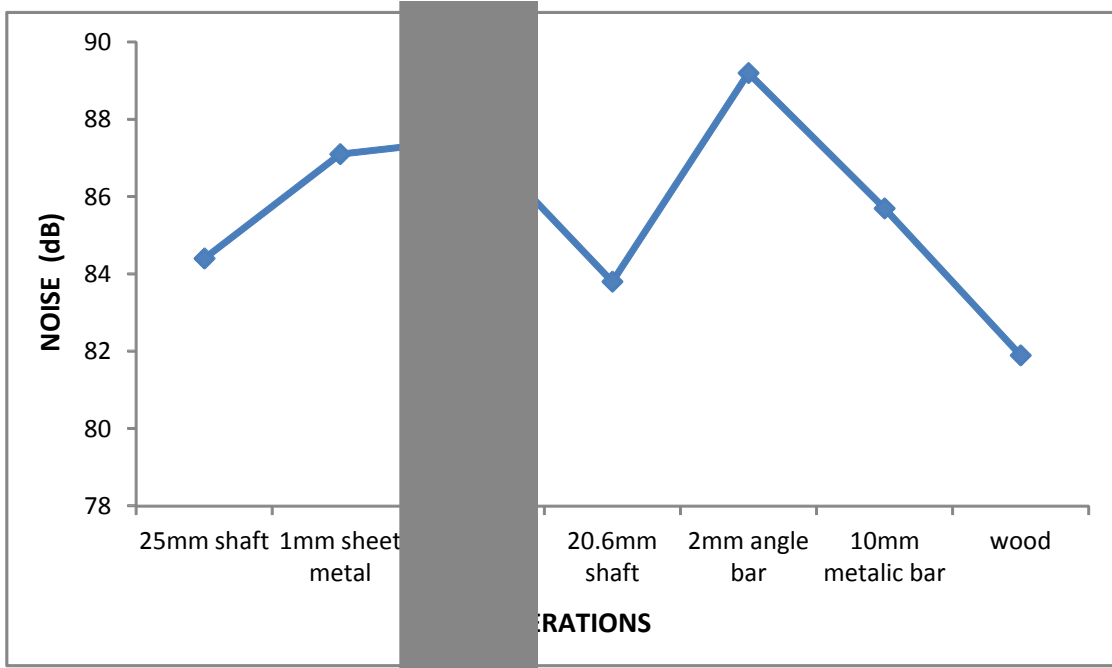


FIGURE 5: Pillar Drill Operation Noise Levels

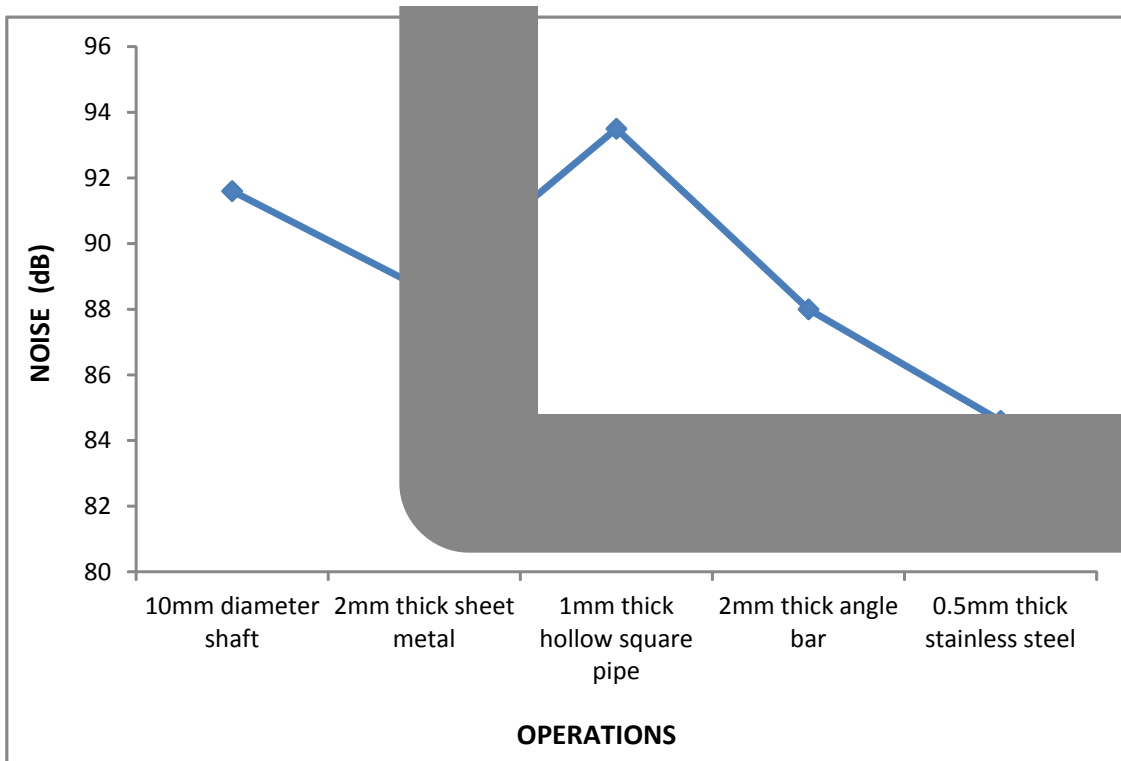


FIGURE 6: Pedestal Grinder Operation Noise Levels

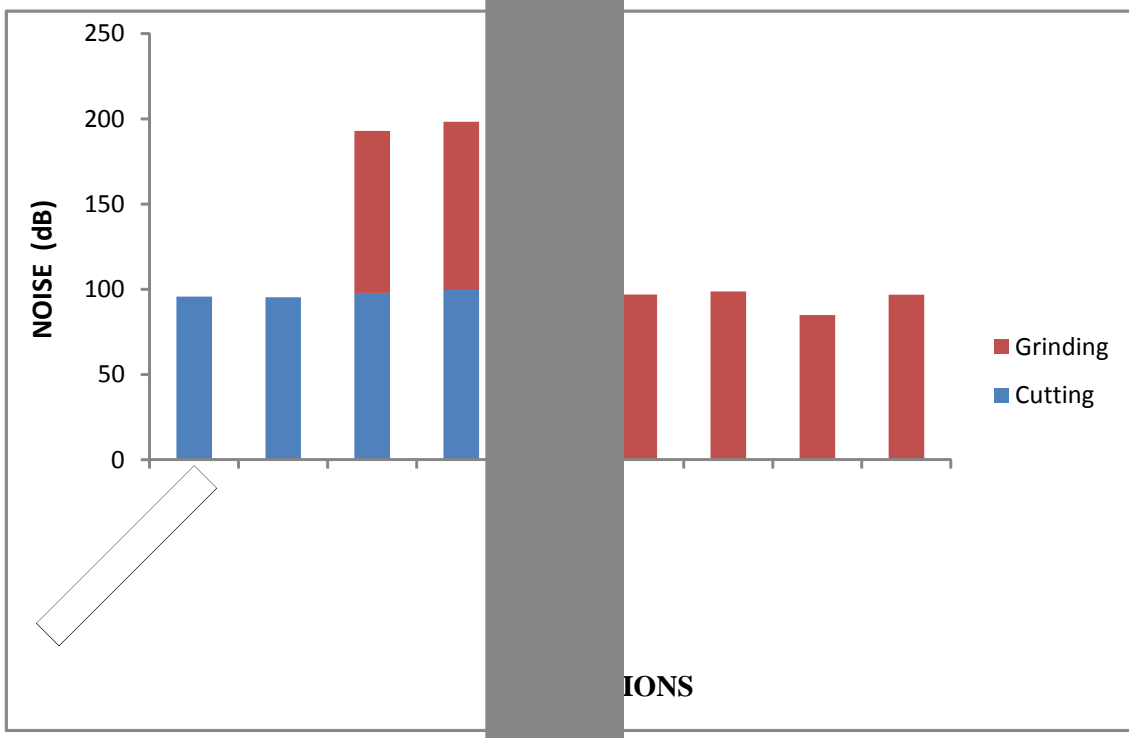


FIGURE 7: Angle Grinder Operation Noise Levels

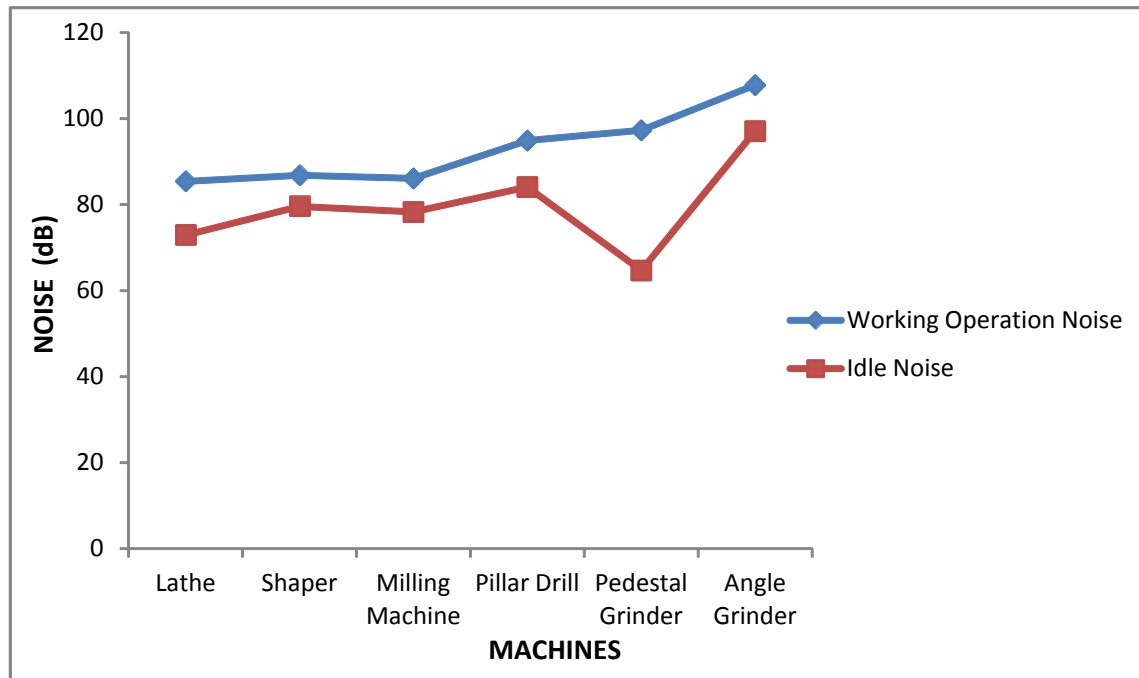


FIGURE 8: Operation and Idle Noise Levels of the Machines

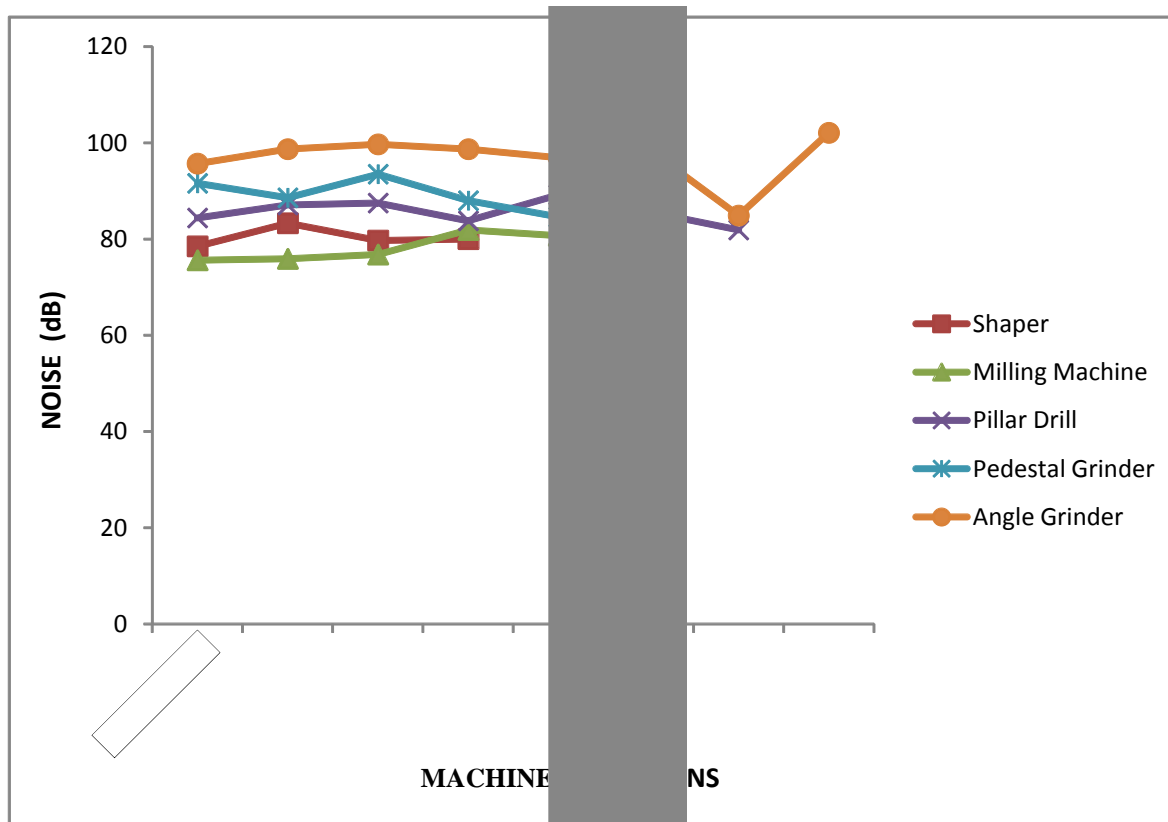


FIGURE 9: Comparison of Different Categories of Machine Noise Levels

#### IV. CONCLUSION

From the results of the study, the machines in the Federal university of Agriculture Makurdi Engineering workshop are in good and safe working condition. The lathe produces lesser noise of 85.4dB compared to the angle grinder with 107.8dB despite its size which shows that the noise level of a machine does not correlate with its size.

However, there is high possibility of a chronic health hazard problem for workers working in the workshop where noise levels are greater than 85 dB. This is because after the workers are exposed to high noise levels, they come out from the noise source after their duty hours to an environment of lower noise level; in which there occurs both physiological change and psychological stress in their system (Anjorin et al, 2015).

Preventive maintenance should be carried out on the machines at regular intervals to maintain a good working condition, which will in turn greatly affect the noise emission levels during production activities. However, ear muffs should be used when operating the angle grinder.

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