

Tracing the Modern Technology Applied in Marimba and Mbira Making in Zimbabwe

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Abstract

This chapter explores technological advancements in marimba and mbira production, emphasizing hardware and software integration in their industrialization. The study focuses on instruments with specific specifications, chosen from selected manufacturing workshops to ensure reliable data. Guided by theories of technological determinism, acceptance, and socio-cultural influences, the research posits that technology drives social change and acceptance hinges on efficacy and usability. A qualitative approach was employed, collecting data through interviews, participant observation, and document analysis. Instrument makers, registered producers of marimba and mbira, were selected via purposive sampling for their qualifications. Findings indicate that most manufacturers have not fully adopted new technologies, facing challenges like funding shortages, resistance to change, and technophobia. There is a crucial need for funding and education to enhance skills among both aspiring and established makers, enabling value addition and the use of new machinery for larger-scale production.

Keywords: Tracing, manufacturing, mbira, marimba, modern technology, traditional