

A STUDY ON FACTORS INFLUENCING QUALITY IN CONSTRUCTION

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ct—
Construction projects play a vital role in the development of
ion. Quality is one of the important features in all
. Success parameter in construction greatly depends
quality performance. In construction projects lack of
results in delays cost overrun and unsafe structure.
Research mainly focuses on identifying and scrutinizing
factors that affects quality in construction. From literature
the main factors that affect quality of construction is
A questionnaire survey is to be carried out in various
ies and rank them by Relative Importance Index.
that data's the major factors that affecting the quality
to be identified. Then conduct T-test using SPSS
e to analyze the data to find out the significant
ce between the ranking of contracting and consulting
ies towards the importance of quality factors. Finally
ne results suitable suggestions was given to the
ies for improving their product quality.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

Quality is one of the important aspects of all
ts. The level of success of construction
ts greatly depends on the quality
mance. Quality in construction cannot exist
t a project and a construction project cannot

functional areas. These wastages can be ac
by maintaining quality throughout the project.
been seen that the quality and customer s
offered by an enterprise plays a crucial role
survival and success of an enterprise und
existing environment. Quality is a key to a n
economy. It is an essential requirement f
product. The quality of an engineering produ
therefore be measured in terms of num
characteristics that contribute to an
performance which satisfies cust
requirements; this is termed as perfor
characteristics.

Quality policy is the overall intention
directions of an organization as regards to
as formally expressed by top management.
management is all activities of the
management function that determine the
policy, objectives and responsibilities,
implement them by means such as quality pla
quality control, quality assurance and
improvement within the quality system.
Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK), a

menting quality management.

1.2 MEANING OF QUALITY

Quality is customer satisfaction," "Quality is for Use".

The American National Standards Institute, British Standard Institution and the American Society for Quality (ASQ) define quality

The totality of features and characteristics of a product or service that bears on its ability to satisfy given needs

1.3 QUALITY PERSPECTIVES SITE

Everyone defines Quality based on their own perspective.

Judgmental perspective "goodness of a product." Examples of products attributing to this perspective are Rolex watches, Lexus cars.

Product-based perspective "function of a product, measurable variable and that differences in performance reflect differences in quantity of some product attributes."

User-based perspective "fitness for intended use. Individuals have different needs and wants, hence different quality standards.

Value-based perspective "quality product is the one that is as useful as competing products and is available at a lesser price."

Manufacturing-based perspective "the desirable outcome of a engineering and manufacturing practice, or conformance to specification." Example: Coca-cola – "quality is manufacturing a product that people can depend on every time they reach for it."

4 DIMENSIONS OF QUALITY

stated conditions of use.

- Conformance: the degree to which product and performance characteristics of a product match pre-established standards.

- Durability: the amount of use one gets from a product before it physically deteriorates or replacement is preferable.

- Serviceability: the speed, courtesy, competence or repair.

- Aesthetics: how a product looks, sounds, tastes or smells.

- Perceived quality: subjective assessment resulting from image, advertising or brand name.

1.5 QUALITY SYSTEM IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The construction industry is typified by highly differentiated, fragmented and loosely structured system. The skills, loyalty and orientation of professionals and practitioners in the industry have developed in an environment of specialization, differing traditions and opposing interests at integration, if any, are presently weak. Developing a quality system is the first step towards improving quality in the construction industry. A quality system consists of the following (Nee, 1996):

- Quality policy
- Organization structure
- Procedures
- Processes
- Training
- Quality manual

1.6 TYPES OF SURVEY RESPONSE SCALES

When designing surveys, there are three different models for survey response

choices that are diametrically opposed to each other. Some examples would be:

- “Yes” or “No”
- “True” or “False”
- “Fair” or “Unfair”
- “Agree” or “Disagree”

There’s no chance for nuance in a response, and there’s no way for a respondent to be neutral. But there’s actually a lot of value in the lack of a neutral option.

Sometimes, especially in long surveys, you’re subject to what’s known as the error of central tendency when answers gradually regress to the middle of the scale, or the neutral options. A dichotomous scale will give you a clearer, binary answer, but can also fall prey to fatigue – respondents then tend to lean toward positive answers.

1.6.2 Rating Scales

Rating scales are probably what you’re most familiar with. “On a scale of 1-10, how satisfied were you with our service today?”

The three most common rating scales are:

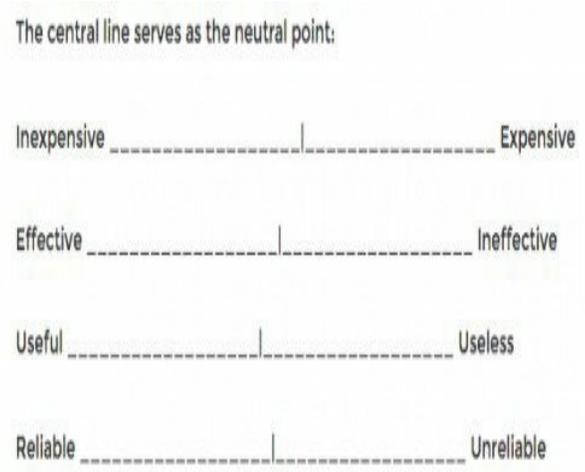
- 1-10 scale
- 1-7 scale
- Likert scale (1-5)

Is there a difference in the outcome based on which scale you choose? Totally. There’s more variance in the larger scales, so the norm is to use the Likert scale.

The most common, then, is the Likert scale. Dr. Rob Balon advises to “always use the 1-5 scale with 5 being the

:1.6.3 Semantic Differential Scale

I. Semantic differential scale gather data and “interpret based on the connoted meaning of the respondent’s answer.” These usually have dichotomous words at either end of the spectrum. They generally measure specific attitudinal responses, such as the following:



1.7 FACTORS AFFECTING QUALITY

The identified factors from the literature review are

- Design
- Contractor
- Subcontractor
- Owner
- Project
- Material

Financial issues

Execution

1.8 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study are

To identify various factors affecting the quality performance of construction projects

To rank them by degree of importance

To improve products quality

To minimize the rework

Helps to meet the customer requirements.

1.9 NEED FOR THE STUDY

Generally quality is essential for every product.

Development in construction projects develops the nation.

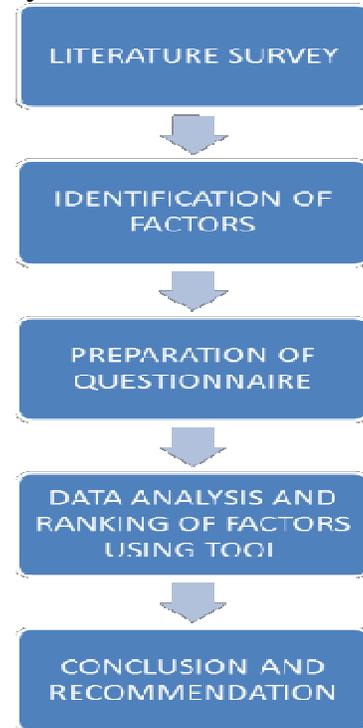
Quality in construction is very essential to increase end user satisfaction.

To increase end user satisfaction, study and analyses of the factors influencing quality in construction becomes necessary.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology adopted in this study is collection of data by the method of survey. Various methods for collecting information from the industry were evaluated from various sources. The flowchart represents the

factors affecting the quality have to be identified. From the results suitable suggestions have been given to the companies for improving their product quality.



3. QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

A thorough literature review was initially conducted to identify the factors that affect the quality of construction projects as a whole. Based on the identified factors the questionnaire for the survey was prepared. The questionnaire is divided into two parts. The first part consists of general information such as Name of respondent, Designation, Company, Type of the project and the second part consists of quality influencing factors for evaluation.

3.1 QUESTIONNAIRE SHEET

INTRODUCTION

This survey is a part of a study of factors influencing quality in construction. The main objective of the survey is to determine the factors affecting quality in construction. The information obtained will be used to identify the factors

ive of this survey is to determine the affecting quality in construction. The ation obtained will be used for research se only and no attempt will be made to identify individual or organization.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Name of the company :
- Status of the company :
- Address of the company :
- Size of the company (number of employees):
- Annual turnover :
- Age of the company :
- Name of the respondent :
- Position of respondent in the company:
- Contact no :

IDENTIFIED FACTORS

identified factors from the review are

ct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Location of the project - Site access
n	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drawings are prepared in full details - Conformance to codes and standards
act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A written contract with clear conditions - Using a standard contract Types of awarding system
rial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using a comprehensive material management system - Availability of good quality construction materials
r	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labor management system - Training courses for labor
me	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of equipment - Equipment maintenance
ont rs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Company's procedures of selecting subcontractors

Site staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation between Supervision and Contractor's staff - Understanding of contract administration by Supervision
Executio n	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using integrated project execution system - Testing for final products
Financia l Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amount of contractor's cash flow - Non-delay of interim payments
Owner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owner's quick response (no delays in making decisions) - Owner's contribution to desig

5 . RELIABILITY OF DATA

Prior to data analysis, the reliab data is done using Cronbach's Coe Alpha Method, in SPSS software wh commonly used to estimate the reliab data. Reliability scores are analysed fr respondents given from the survey Cronbach's alpha obtained for respon given in Table I.

Table 2 - RELIABILITY STATISTICS

Cronbach's Alpha	0.791
No of Items	50

Cronbach's alpha value is 0.7 value must be in the range of 0.6 to the data has to be reliable. Hence analysis the data values reliable.

5.1 DATA ANALYSIS

A Questionnaire survey is con through post and field survey. Fron survey 75 responses were received. data are analyzed using Relative Imp Index method. Ranks are provided t

SPSS analysis techniques is to provide clear and non-technical formats for presentation of statistical procedures. It is also, because it is widely available and covers a broad spectrum of statistical procedures.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Five point scale

1 – strongly agree , 2 – Agree , 3 – moderate , 4 – disagree , 5 – strongly disagree.

ANALYTICAL TOOL

Relative Important Index

This method is used to find the contractor , owner and labor perceptions of the relative important of the identified quality factors.

$$RII = SW / AN$$

Where,
 RII - Relative Importance Index,
 W - weighting given to each factor by the respondents

(ranging from 1 to 5)

A - highest weight (i.e. 5)

N - total number of respondents

DATA COLLECTION AND DATA ANALYSIS

7.1 DATA ANALYSIS

Primary questionnaire helps in obtaining information regarding the demographic details of respondent. The demographic details include age of the respondent, gender of the respondent and designation of

according to the degree of importance impact; 2 =Low impact; 3 =Average impact; 4 =High impact; 5 =Very High impact). For analyzing data, SPSS 20, statistical analysis software was used.

7.1.1 MODE OF ANALYSIS

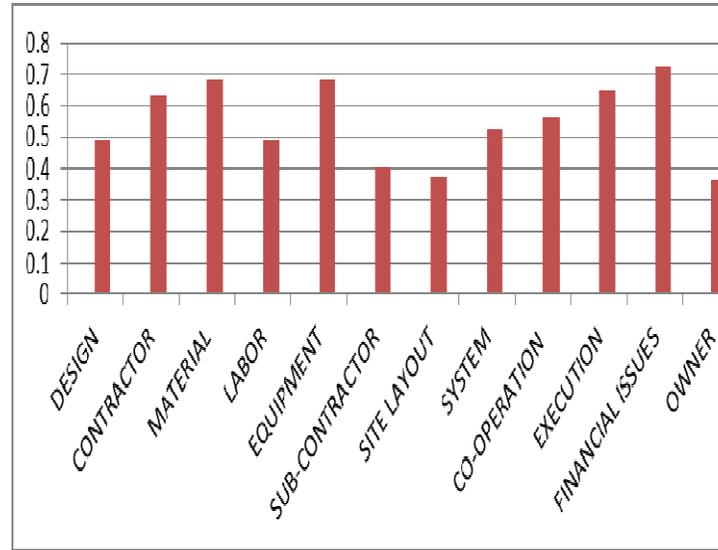
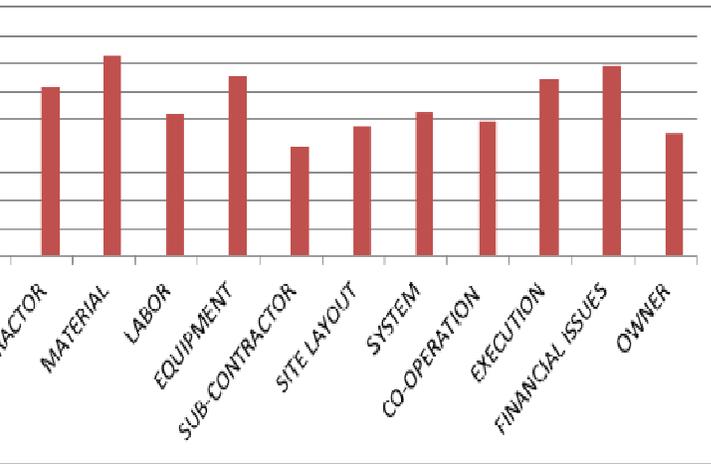
Analysis of data is done using SPSS software the result obtained can be obtained by using SPPSS software

MEAN AND RANK

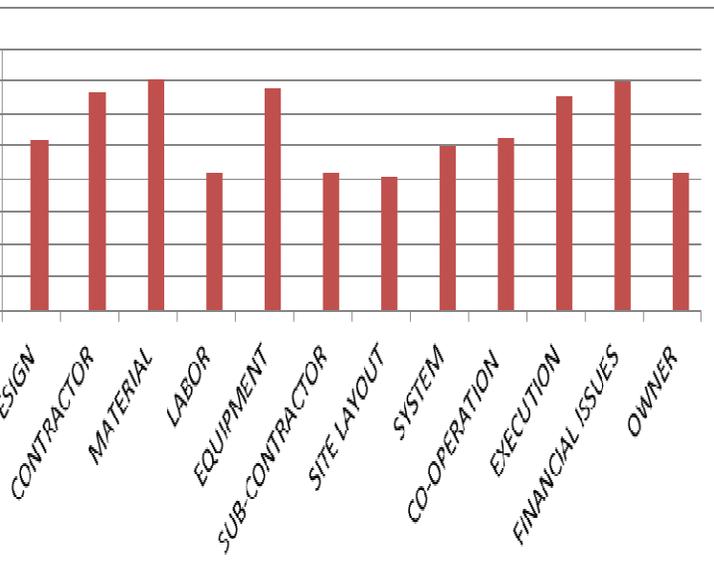
MAJOR FACTOR	CONTRACTOR		CONSULTANT		OWNER
	MEAN	RANK	MEAN	RANK	
DESIGN	0.551	6	0.524	7	0.492
CONTRACTOR	0.617	5	0.665	4	0.632
MATERIAL	0.728	1	0.706	1	0.684
LABOUR	0.52	7	0.2	10	0.492
EQUIPMENT	0.66	3	0.677	3	0.68
SUB-CONTRACTOR	0.402	12	0.42	11	0.405
SITE LAYOUT	0.42	10	0.40	12	0.377
SYSTEM	0.524	8	0.50	8	0.528
CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PARTIES	0.495	9	0.525	6	0.505

GRAPH OF MEAN RII

- MEAN RII OF CONTRACTOR



- MEAN RII OF CONSULTANT



7.2 INDEPENDENT T-TEST FOR RESPONSE AGREEMENT

The t-test was conducted to find if there is a significant difference between the ranking of contracting and consulting companies towards the importance of quality factors. T-test was carried out on the average weighted factors resulted from ranking the factors affecting quality. It is important to check whether there are differences in the views of respondents or not. So for this reason independent t-test was conducted

The data collected from the responses are analyzed using SPSS software.

8. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Questionnaire was collected from various nature of projects such as;

The secondary questionnaire is used to find major factors affecting labor productivity. 45 factors are used for the preparation of questionnaire. 5 point Likert scale is used for impact measurement : (1=No impact; 2 =Low

TABLE-5 INDEPENDENT T-TEST RESULTS

CATEGORIES	t-test	P-value
Contractor	1.742	0.089

CONCLUSION

Construction projects play a significant role in the development of any country and quality of the important factors in the success of the construction industry. There is a lack of understanding of quality is the problem in the construction industry. Construction industry is a wide and big industry that allow any state to try fast development to the whole country in the form of infrastructure and capital income. Construction industry requires the involvement of all parties to ensure that the construction projects are completed in the right path. Many literatures are reviewed and the major factors affecting the quality of construction is identified. Based on that questionnaire are prepared and distributed to the 35 companies and 25 were successfully received. From that data by using relative important index and RII is identified and ranking were provided for the major factors.

From that result we conclude that the top 5 factors that affect the quality of construction in the view of respondents like contractor, consultant and owner are Materials, Financial problems, Method of execution, Management, Problems in contractor side. The respondents observed that the quality of raw materials, conditions and Usage of equipment, Method of execution of work, Financial issues and contractual problems are the main factors affecting causes

RECOMMENDATION

1. All the materials procured for the construction should be undergo quality check before procurement.
2. All the procured materials should be handled properly.
3. Material inventories should be checked periodically to avoid over stocking or deficiency of material.
4. Make timely delivery of material to the site.
5. Equipment should be checked for its correctness before procure.
6. Equipment should be maintained properly and make service periodically.
7. Equipment should be used for its full utilization.
8. Use proper method of execution of work.
9. Make field test before and after the work.
10. Owners should contribute in design.
11. Owners should make the payments at correct time.
12. Avoid financial problems.
13. Make timely payments to the labors.
14. Co-operation between parties is very important.
15. Proper communication between contractor and clients.
16. Maintain the construction site with

Maintain the site layout clean.

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