CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE KEY FACTORS AFFECTING CONSTRUCTION LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY — AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract
Construction labour productivity is influenced by a multitude of factors. Though considerable research exists on productivity factors in other countries, no study has addressed productivity issues in India. A questionnaire survey was conducted, in the state of Kerala in India, to identify the factors impacting construction labour productivity and their underlying relationships. Among the 44 factors considered, material unavailability was identified as the most critical factor impacting construction productivity. Factor analysis employed to understand the underlying relationships among the factors, categorized the factors into ten groups, namely, (1) tool and equipment issues; (2) poor labour motivation; (3) improper supervision; (4) poor material planning; (5) poor site management; (6) improper drawing management; (7) project management incompetency; (8) craftsmen issues; (9) lack of meetings and (10) lack of communication. The research findings will provide better insights to construction practitioners into productivity issues in India and guide their efforts to achieve productivity improvement.

Keywords
construction industry, labour productivity, factors, India.

INTRODUCTION

Construction productivity, commonly defined as the ratio of the output to the input, is a topic that has been widely researched. The importance of construction productivity arises from the fact that it is a major determinant of success of a construction project. With the business environment becoming highly competitive, it is essential that organizations improve construction productivity performance for survival (Park et al., 2005). Because construction is a labour intensive industry and labour is the flexible resource available for the management, focus of the majority of the researchers and practitioners has been on improving construction labour productivity.

Construction labour productivity is influenced by a multitude of issues, which are rarely independent of the others (Dai et al., 2009). Considerable research has been carried out in various countries to understand the relative influence of the factors on labour productivity. Though poor labour productivity was identified as one of the