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International Journal For Research in  
Applied Science and Engineering Technology



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# **INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH**

IN APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

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**Volume: 7      Issue: V      Month of publication: May 2019**

**DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22214/ijraset.2019.5281>**

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# Waste Detection in the Construction Industry using Lean Techniques

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**Abstract:** *The construction industry contributes a lot to a country's economic stability by providing employment, physical facilities and infrastructures. The effort towards economic development and urbanization has created a significant demand on natural resources, consuming more than half of the mineral resources excavated from nature and the rest gets wasted. Waste generation has, therefore, become a serious drawback that the construction industry is suffering from and one of the major challenges affecting its performance. Thus, the introduction of Lean Construction (LC) as a waste reduction, supply management, value for money and project quality management mechanisms in the construction industry. The aim of this study is to detect the waste affecting in the Kerala construction industry using Lean techniques. Data collection was done through well-structured questionnaire survey, carried out among clients, engineers and contractors. A total of 123 questionnaires were collected, the data were analyzed using SPSS software. From the study it concluded that ineffective planning, scheduling and inappropriate project coordination results in various forms of waste generation.*

**Keywords:** *Lean, ANOVA, CREDAI, Questionnaire, RII, SPSS.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. General

LC has become one of the primary performative improvement recipes for the construction Industry. Firstly, LC emphasizes on waste reduction from the technical and operational point of view and secondly on the elimination of harmful relationships in the process while promoting teamwork between the supply chain managers. These are wastes generated from all the activities involved in the construction processes. Waste is defined as any construction activities or process that incur costs which do not directly or indirectly add value to the construction project. These construction activities can be value-adding activities (conversion of raw materials to the final product) and non-value adding activities (wastes, wasteful operations). Construction waste could be because of errors in design, modifications, redoing of work, defects and the use of excess materials. It is therefore important to ensure waste generation is minimized in construction processes and activities.

### B. Waste from construction processes

Construction waste comprises of waiting times, lack of safety, rework, unnecessary transportation trips, excess inventory, quality costs, set up, handling, inspections, expedition, prioritizing, improper choice of management method and lack of constructability amongst others. These wastes are generated at one stage or the other in a construction process.

- 1) **Waste from Overproduction:** Overproduction is related to the production of a quantity greater than required or than necessary. Making products for which there is no demand is wasteful, therefore waste from overproduction is difficult to identify, unless what is produced is compared with what is sold and shipped otherwise nothing appears wrong.
- 2) **Waste from Rejects:** Waste of defects occurs when the final or intermediate product does not fit the quality specifications. These will add additional rework, inspection, design changes, process changes, and machine downtime.
- 3) **Waste in Transportation:** The transportation is concerned with the internal movement of materials on site where workplace layout or a lack of process flow creates many stops and start in a production cycle. Every movement should have a purpose for items being moved incur a cost. Excessive handling, the use of inadequate equipment or bad conditions of pathways can also cause this kind of waste.
- 4) **Waste in Over Processing:** It is the extra processing of the job beyond the requirements of the client. This is also referred to as unused employee creativity by not making the most use of employee skills, creativity, and knowledge.



- 5) *Waste from Inventory*: The excess inventory can be found in construction products and raw materials (in deterioration, losses due to inadequate stock conditions on site, robbery, and vandalism) and monetary losses due to the capital that is tied up.
- 6) *Waste from Waiting*: It includes waiting for materials, information, equipment, and tools among others. Waste of waiting is necessarily about jobs waiting to be processed. This can be drastically reduced by linking up the processes together to one which feeds directly into the next.
- 7) *Waste from Motion*: It is generated through the movement of resources including human being and equipment not necessary for the successful completion of the operation. This might also be caused by inadequate equipment, ineffective work methods, or poor arrangement of the working place resulting in processing delays.

### C. Research Objectives

The objective is to identify the non-value adding activities and wastes in the construction industry through questionnaire survey and to analyze the data collected using SPSS software.

### D. Need for Study

The construction industry is faced with chronic problems such as time and cost overruns, low productivity, poor safety, inferior working conditions, insufficient quality, lack of skilled manpower etc. By implementing lean principles, major focus is on elimination of waste, it is important to understand and quantify the amount of waste present in Indian construction sites. Thus, with the help of adopting lean principles in the sites, the construction wastes can be effectively reduced and thus can increase the efficiency and productivity of the construction industry.

## II. METHODOLOGY

This chapter is divided into different sections,

A preliminary survey was conducted in order to know the factors affecting in the formation of waste on various construction projects. For this preliminary survey a questionnaire was distributed to different companies in Kerala.

Process of Working on the Project is as follows: -

- 1) Literature review
- 2) Factors identification
- 3) Questionnaire preparation
- 4) Questionnaire survey
- 5) Data analysis using SPSS software
- 6) Conclusion

### A. Identification of Factors

There are thirty plus literature are studied were done, based on literature survey top factors are identified and listed out.

The main wastes classified as transportation, inventory, motion, overproduction, over processing, correction and waiting.

### B. Questionnaire Sampling

Due to the limitation, the total population for this study were focused on the construction developers and their ongoing projects at Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Kollam and Thrissur.

Simple random approach was selected as the list of sampling frame had been created. Sample sizes larger than 30 and less than 500 are appropriate for most research. Here the total ongoing projects on these cities are 287 projects and to provide questionnaire survey it gets sampled to a total of 100 ongoing projects.

### C. Questionnaire Preparation

A questionnaire was designed based on the objectives of the study, which are waste affecting in the construction projects. A questionnaire survey was developed to get the opinion and understanding from the experienced respondents regarding the wastes in the construction industry.

The questionnaires are all classified into 2 sections:

- 1) *Section A:* Company and respondent profile
- 2) *Section B:* Waste in the construction industry.

Based on the literatures and factors considered, a questionnaire was designed as a measurement tool for impacts. The 94 factors were adapted to identify the waste in the construction industry. Also, the respondents were asked to rate their level of argument according to 5-point scale (Likert's scale) according to level of contributing.

Table 2.1: Likert's scale

SCALE	IMPORTANCE
1	No effect
2	Slight effect
3	Significant effect
4	Very significant effect
5	Extremely significant

#### D. Relative Importance Index (RII)

Relative Importance Index (RII) method was used as data analysis method to assess the most important factor. A five-point Likert's scale was adopted. The relative importance index, RII, was computed for each factor to identify the most and the least significant factors affecting in the formation of waste in the construction industry.

The causes were examined, and the ranking of their attributes was done using the Relative Importance Index (RII). The relative importance index is given as:

$$Rii = \frac{\sum W}{A \times N}$$

Where,

Rii = Relative Important Index

W = Weighting given to each factor by the respondents (ranging from 1 to 5)

A= Highest weight (here 5)

N= Total number of respondents

#### E. Data Analysis

This study will adopt the Statistical Packages for Science Social (SPSS) version 20 for interpretation to identify the most important factor affecting in the construction industry.

### III. DATA ANALYSIS

#### A. General

The computer software plays a vital role in analyzing the collected data. The software would give an efficient result for our work study. The analysis software is discussed in detail.

#### B. Statistical Package For Social Sciences

SPSS trends provide the power and flexibility required by experienced time series analysts, while at the same time being easy enough for those not familiar with time series techniques to use and master quickly. Its power and flexibility can be seen in the wide variety of identification, estimation, forecasting and diagnostic methods available and the opportunity for continuous interaction during the model-building process and the ability to quickly create new series as functions, transformation or components of the observed series for further analysis

#### C. Survey Analysis

From total of 158 survey forms distributed, only 123 were returned duly completed and could be utilized in this project study. Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 represent the detailed background of the respondents that participated in this project study.



Table 3.1 Respondents status

SL. NO	DESIGNATION	NO: OF RESPONSE
1	Managing Director, Executive Director	25
2	Project Manager, General Manager, Assistant Manager	43
3	Senior Engineer, Site Engineer	38
4	Main Contractor, Sub Contractor, Client, Supervisor	17
5	Others	-
	Total	123

From Table 3.1, it can be identified that the group who give the most feedback to the questionnaire is from the group of project executive, project manager and general manager which consist of 35% out of 123 respondents. It can be concluded that, project executive, project manager and general manager are the one who actively respond to the distributed questionnaire.

Table 3.2: Experience status

Sl: NO	YEAR OF EXPERIENCE	RESPONTANCE
1	0-5	12
2	5-10	38
3	10-15	46
4	Above 15	27

As from the Table 3.2, the highest respondents who had filled in the questionnaire completely are belonging to the group from between 10 - 15 years of experience. This means that 38% out of 123 respondents had an experience between 10 - 15 years in related to their status / title in their company. Whereas the least group who had participate in this study is contributed by those respondents who have an experience between 0-5 years.

#### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

##### A. Ranking of Factors

Questionnaire survey was conducted, and factors are analyzed by using SPSS software and they are ranked based on RII value.

Table 4.1: Rank value

WASTES	SL NO	AFFECTING FACTORS	RANK	TOTAL	RII
TRANSPORTATION	1	Ineffective planning and scheduling of the project	1	453	0.736
	2	Improper project coordination	1	453	0.736
	3	Equipment necessary to do the job not available on time	2	390	0.634
	4	Strikes called by political parties, hartals etc.	3	382	0.621
	5	Labor strikes	4	367	0.597
INVENTORY	1	Ineffective planning and scheduling of the project	1	422	0.686
	2	Lack of adequate space for storage of materials	6	367	0.597
	3	Lack of weekly project evaluation meetings	8	343	0.557
	4	Lack of experience of supervisor	4	385	0.626
	5	Inadequate instructions provided by supervisor	6	367	0.597
	6	Lack of experience of craftsmen	3	392	0.637

	7	Lack of team spirit among craftsmen	7	366	0.595
	8	Unavailability of materials in time at the workplace	5	380	0.618
	9	Delay in material delivery	2	413	0.672
	10	Frequent revisions of drawing/ design resulting in additional work/ rework	1	422	0.686
MOTION	1	Ineffective planning and scheduling of the project	1	428	0.696
	2	Improper project coordination	2	421	0.684
	3	Site congestion	5	380	0.618
	4	Lack of interaction among the site community	8	344	0.559
	5	Communication problem among craftsmen and supervisors	4	386	0.627
	6	Unavailability of tools on time at the worksite	6	363	0.59
	7	Equipment necessary to do the job not available on time	7	346	0.563
	8	Accidents causing hindrance to work at site	10	287	0.467
	9	Strikes called by political parties, hartals etc.	9	311	0.506
	10	Labour strikes	3	396	0.644
WAITING	1	Ineffective planning and scheduling of the project	7	391	0.636
	2	Improper project coordination	1	454	0.738
	3	Interference from other trades or other crew members	13	363	0.59
	4	Disputes with consultants/ owner causing stoppage of work	9	383	0.623
	5	Lack of interaction among the site community	10	379	0.616
	6	Communication problem among craftsmen and supervisors	11	377	0.613
	7	Slowness in decision making	4	418	0.68
	8	Lack of periodic meeting among the management, site personnel and the contractors	5	403	0.655
	9	Lack of experience of supervisor	8	384	0.624
	10	Inadequate instructions provided by supervisor	6	393	0.639
	11	Supervisor absenteeism	18	344	0.559
	12	Lack of experience of craftsmen	10	379	0.616
	13	Rework due to field errors committed by craftsmen	12	376	0.611
	14	Craftsmen absenteeism	16	356	0.578
	15	Unavailability of materials in time at the workplace	3	420	0.683
	16	Slow response on doubts arising from the drawings	12	376	0.611
	17	Frequent revisions of drawing/ design resulting in additional work/ rework	2	427	0.694
	18	Design difficult to construct	14	358	0.582
	19	Unavailability of tools on time at the worksite	15	357	0.58
	20	Equipment necessary to do the job not available on time	13	363	0.59
	21	Lack of maintenance of tools and plants	20	323	0.525
	22	Slow equipment repairs in case of breakdown	17	345	0.561
	23	Accidents causing hindrance to work at site	26	280	0.455
	24	Climatic changes	23	293	0.476
	25	Strikes called by political parties, hartals etc.	24	285	0.463
	26	Labor strikes	22	307	0.499
	27	Poor pay	21	311	0.506
	28	Lack of monetary incentives	25	284	0.462
	29	Lack of workmanship	19	341	0.554
	30	Disregard of craft worker suggestions/ ideas	24	285	0.4633

OVER PROCESSING	1	Ineffective planning and scheduling of the project	1	404	0.657
	2	Lack of weekly project evaluation meetings	2	369	0.6
	3	Lack of periodic meeting among the management, site personnel and the contractors	3	362	0.588
	4	Lack of experience of supervisor	5	339	0.551
	5	Inadequate instructions provided by supervisor	6	338	0.55
	6	Lack of experience of craftsmen	4	343	0.557
	7	Lack of team spirit among craftsmen	7	327	0.532
OVER PRODUCTIO N	1	Ineffective planning and scheduling of the project	1	431	0.701
	2	Improper project coordination	2	393	0.639
	3	Lack of adequate space for storage of materials	4	337	0.548
	4	Site congestion	9	306	0.497
	5	Lack of weekly project evaluation meetings	8	320	0.52
	6	Lack of periodic meeting among the management, site personnel and the contractors	7	323	0.525
	7	Lack of experience of supervisor	6	328	0.533
	8	Inadequate instructions provided by supervisor	3	371	0.603
	9	Lack of experience of craftsmen	4	337	0.548
	10	Lack of team spirit among craftsmen	5	334	0.543
CORRECTIO N	1	Ineffective planning and scheduling of the project	2	425	0.691
	2	Interference from other trades or other crew members	18	331	0.538
	3	Disputes with consultants/ owner causing stoppage of work	19	330	0.536
	4	Lack of interaction among the site community	10	363	0.59
	5	Communication problem among craftsmen and supervisors	7	386	0.627
	6	Lack of weekly project evaluation meetings	12	358	0.582
	7	Lack of periodic meeting among the management, site personnel and the contractors	15	342	0.556
	8	Lack of experience of supervisor	8	377	0.613
	9	Inadequate instructions provided by supervisor	9	372	0.605
	10	Supervisor absenteeism	21	315	0.512
	11	Lack of experience of craftsmen	14	355	0.577
	12	Lack of team spirit among craftsmen	13	357	0.58
	13	Rework due to field errors committed by craftsmen	16	341	0.554
	14	Craftsmen absenteeism	22	311	0.506
	15	Poor quality of materials	3	414	0.673
	16	Unavailability of drawings in time at the worksite	1	432	0.702
	17	Errors in the drawings	4	406	0.66
	18	Slow response on doubts arising from the drawings	6	394	0.641
	19	Frequent revisions of drawing/ design resulting in additional work/ rework	5	397	0.645
	20	Poor quality of tools provided/ used	11	361	0.587
	21	Lack of maintenance of tools and plants	20	324	0.527
	22	Disregard of craft worker suggestions/ ideas	17	339	0.551

From table 4.1, the rank of various factors was obtained. The most important factor that affecting in causing transportation waste is ineffective planning and scheduling of the project and improper project coordination. Frequent revision of drawing/design resulting in additional work or rework is the important factor that affects in causing inventory waste. For waiting, the important factor affecting its occurrence is due to improper project coordination. Ineffective planning and scheduling of project is the main factor for

the occurrence of wastes including motion, over processing and over production respectively. In the case of waste due to correction, the main factor causing its occurrence is unavailability of drawings in time at the work site.

#### B. Analysis and Result of Regression in SPSS

The multiple regression analysis was done based on the most importance factors that were previously identified. Both backward and forward regression analysis (BRM and FRM) can be used for cost overrun. From the literature review, backward regression is more valid and applicable than the forward regression analysis.

Table 4.2: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.997 <sup>a</sup>	.995	.994	.48005

Table 4.2 provides the R and R<sup>2</sup> values. The R value represents the simple correlation and is 0.997 (the "R" Column), which indicates a high degree of correlation. The R<sup>2</sup> value (the "R Square" column) indicates how much of the total variation in the dependent variable can be explained by the independent variable, Factors. In this case, 99.4% can be explained, which is very large.

Table 4.3: ANOVA

	Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1756.699	7	250.957	1089.013	.0001
	Residual	9.218	40	.230		
	Total	1765.917	47			

The Anova table, which reports how well the regression equation fits the data (i.e., predicts the dependent variable). This table indicates that the regression model predicts the dependent variable significantly well. At the "Regression" row the "Sig." column indicates the statistical significance of the regression model. Here,  $p = 0.00001$ , which is less than 0.05, and indicates that, overall, the regression model statistically significantly predicts the outcome variable (i.e., it is a good fit for the data).

Table 4.4: Coefficients of Variables and T-test statistics

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-0.327	0.325		-1.007	0.320
	X1	0.991	0.119	0.189	8.316	0.000
	X2	1.140	0.074	0.207	15.354	0.000
	X3	0.947	0.087	0.180	10.931	0.000
	X4	1.077	0.085	0.215	12.713	0.000
	X5	1.016	0.117	0.160	8.658	0.000
	X6	0.811	0.083	0.161	9.740	0.000
	X7	1.089	0.075	0.258	14.520	0.000

The coefficients table provides us with the necessary information to predict waste from factors considered, as well as determine whether these factors contribute statistically significantly to the model (by checking at the "Sig." column). Furthermore, the values in the "B" column under the "Unstandardized Coefficients" was used to present the regression equation as:

$$\text{Waste} = 0.991 X_1 + 1.140 X_2 + 0.947 X_3 + 1.077 X_4 + 1.016 X_5 + 0.811 X_6 + 1.089 X_7 - 0.327$$

Thus, the regression model has a strong correlation coefficient R equal 0.997 and the coefficient of determination R square equal 0.995 which is a best fit which means that 99.5% of the total variation can be explained by the model. It must be noted that two of the previously considered top five input factors were only considered by the model developed.



## V. CONCLUSION

In overall, the objectives of this study have successfully conducted, and the data collected had also been analyzed. Totally 123 responses were collected through online and personal, and data were analyzed by using SPSS. From the findings, it was identified that waiting and transportation wastes are the major construction wastes affecting in the Kerala construction industry. While other wastes do not have heavy impact on the construction industry. Ineffective planning and scheduling of the project and improper project coordination are the major factors affecting in the occurrence of these major wastes. Through proper project managing and scheduling these wastes can be avoided.

## VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are thankful to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of Sri Vellappally Natesan College of Engineering for supporting us throughout this work.

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