

A Study of Burdens of Construction Projects in Developing Nations

Olufemi Oyedele (Nigeria)

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SUMMARY

Construction projects are embarked upon to produce or install hard infrastructure. They are the organised efforts to put in place buildings, roads, dams, bridges, telephone masts or simply put, physical infrastructure which improves the living standard of the people. Physical infrastructure is the platform upon which human activities depend. During construction process, the people living in the area near a construction site suffer some hardship. Construction projects have been causes of accidents on many occasions and may also be source of traffic holdup lasting the entire gestation period of the construction. It is a fact that construction brings about infrastructural development, creates skill development, jobs and incomes and contributes immensely to the gross domestic products (GDPs) of nations, but it also has its 'burdens'. These 'burdens' are the inconveniences experienced by residents of the construction neighbourhood. This paper adopted the qualitative and quantitative methods to evaluate the burdens of construction projects in Nigeria. Structured questionnaires were used to mine data from pre-determined and random respondents in four cities in Nigeria where construction projects are massively going on. The burdens of construction projects according to findings include "stress due to traffic holdups" and in some cases, "traffic blockage"; 'labour shift', "pollution"; "accidents"; "disaster whenever there is building or bridge collapse"; "damage to the ecosystem in the form of dredging for soil, damage to water source"; and "pressure on scarce fund" etc.

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