

Assessment of Occupational Health and Safety Risks Faced by Workers in Road Construction Industry in Sri Lanka

MR Risny Saraf[#] and MD Rathnayake

Department of Quantity Surveying, University College of Anuradhapura,
University of Vocational Technology, Sri Lanka
#risny022@gmail.com

Construction work is a hazardous land-based occupation. Among the boom in the construction industry, the number of construction accidents and deaths have remained high. The absolute mortality in the construction industry remains unacceptably high, and the accidents can cause a significant loss of life and property, making the construction safety management important. In-depth investigation is needed on the occupational health and safety (OSH) perceptions, attitudes, and behavior of road construction workers and the management of health and safety practices. Therefore, the aim of the research is to develop a framework to investigate the occupational health and safety risks faced by workers in road construction industry in Sri Lanka. A mix based approach was utilized for the study. A comprehensive literature review explored the comprehensive survey on occupational health and safety. Occupational health and safety risks were observed through semi-structured interviews. Data was analysed via content analysis to generate qualitative outcome while SPSS software was utilized to analyse statistical data. Following instruction, recruiting educated workers and proper communication were identified as challenges faced by workers. Slips and fall, vehicle accidents and accident while handling machinery were identified as the major problems in OSH. Trained workers, traffic control and safety policy or standards were identified as strategies to be implemented. Environmental issues, workers' psychology and lack of skilled workers were identified as major factors that affected OSH risk. Insurance, special training, new technology and standards or policies were identified as necessities for workers.

Keywords: Occupational health and safety, Road construction workers, Practices, Risks