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A Model for Evaluation of Delays in Construction Projects

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ABSTRACT: This study aims to identify the main causes of delay in construction projects. The study depends on a questionnaire survey list for determining the probability and the severity for the main causes of delay in construction projects. The questionnaire consists of total factors of ten groups. These ten groups have been consisted of total 63 delay factor.

In this study, the authors found that most five important factor which effect on delay of the construction project are "Delay in progress payments by owner", "Poor site management and supervision by contractor", "Lack in qualified labours", "Difficulties in financing project by contractor", and "Ineffective planning and scheduling of project by contractor".

A CPD Evaluation Model to evaluate the importance of each cause according to its importance index (IMP.I) and then ranking all causes was designed. The model was designed by using Virtual Basic.net.

KEYWORDS: Construction industry, causes of delay, Probability Index, Severity Index, CPD Evaluation Model .

I. INTRODUCTION

The construction industry is considered as one of strategic industries in Egypt, where construction occupies third place in the number of employment after agriculture and industry [15]. Delays are one of the biggest problems in construction companies all over the world. According to the World Bank (2007) the delays varied between 50% - 80% for many projects completed worldwide between 1999 and 2005 (Sambasivan and Soon, 2007; Kaliba et al., 2009) [21]. According to American Arbitration Association (AAA) over the past 74 years the number of allegations caused by delays reached almost 25% of the 1.7 million allegation (Kassab et al., 2006)[16]. In Malaysia, at 2005,about 17.3% of 417 government contract projects have more than 3 months delayed or abandoned (Alaghbari et al., 2007) [20]. In India, at 2004 the infrastructure and Project Monitoring Division of the Ministry of Statistics and Programmed Implementation report that out of 646 central sector projects that cost about 2500 Cr, approximately 40% are delayed from 1 to 252 months [27]. In the United Kingdom (U.K), at 2001 the National Audit Office made a report entitled "Modernizing Construction", according to this report 70% of the projects undertaken by Government department and agencies were delivered late, and recently Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) made a research that found that nearly 40% of all studied projects had overrun the contract period (Lowsley and Linnett, 2006) [17]. In Nigeria, at 2000 Odusami and Olusanya reported that most projects in Lagos city faced an average delay of 51% on their planned duration (Iyer and Jha, 2006) [18].

II. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The main objectives of this study are:

1- Identifying the main causes of delay in construction projects from the point of view of contractor and consultant.

2- Develop a model to evaluate the top five causes of delay in construction projects..



(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 5, Issue 3, March 2016

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Assaf and Al-Hejji (2006) defined the delays in construction as "the time overrun either beyond completion date specified in a contract, or beyond the date that parties agreed upon for delivery of a project" [13]. Zack 2003 defined the delays in construction as "an act or event which extends required time to perform or complete work of the contract manifests itself as additional days of work"[12]. Aibinu and Jagboro (2002) defined the delays in construction as "a situation where non completion of a project within the original or stipulated or agreed contract period" [11].

A lot of national and international studies of literatures were done; many researchers have conducted surveys on the causes and impacts of delay in the construction industry by asking the advice from experienced civil construction parties including owners, consultants, and contractors.

Table (1) presents a summary of the national and international research studies finding out the factors causing delays. These Researches was carried out from 1970-2014 t different countries (United States, Turkey, Nigerian, Egypt, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, UAE, Malaysian, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Ghana, Pakistan.

No.	Researcher	Important factors				
1	Baldwin and Manthei (1971) [1]	Weather, labor supply, and the subcontractors				
2	Arditi et al. (1985) [30]	Shortages of some resources, public agencies' and contractors' financial difficulties, delays in design work, frequent change orders, and considerable extra work are the most important sources of delay				
3	Zaki Kraiem, Et Al. (1987) [3]	For excusable delays there are three major factors: unforeseen events, events beyond the contractor's control, events without fault or negligence. For non-excusable delays the contractor is entitled neither damages nor time extensions from the owner.				
4	Mansfield et al. (1992) [4]	Financing of and payment for completed project, Poor contract management, Shortages of material, Price fluctuations, and Inaccurate estimates				
5	Amer (1994) [5]	Poor contract management, unrealistic scheduling, lack of owner's financing/ payment for completed work, design modifications during construction, and shortages in materials such as cement and steel				
6	Assaf, Al-Khalil, and A- Hazmi (1995) [6]	Approval of shop drawings, delays in payment to contractors and the resulting cash problems during construction, design changes, conflicts in work schedules of subcontractors, slow decision making and executive bureaucracy in owner's organizations, design errors, labor shortage, and inadequate labor skills				
7	Chan and Kumaraswamy (1997) [7]	Poor site management and supervision, Unforeseen ground condition, slow of decision making involving all project's elements, Owner changing orders, and necessary variation of works				
8	Mezher and Tawil (1998) [8]	Financial issues by owner, Contractors regarded contractual relationship the most important, and Project management issues				
9	Al-Khalil M. I., Al-Ghafly, M. A. (1999) [9]	Problems in obtaining work permits from government and authorities, a low-bid tendering system, and cash-flow problems				
10	Ayman H.Al Momani (2000) [10]	User changes, weather, site conditions, late deliveries, economic conditions, and increase in quantity, non- professional designers				
11	Assaf and Al-Hejji (2006) [13]	Change in orders by the owner during construction, delay in progress payment, ineffective planning and scheduling, shortage of labor, difficulties				

Table 1 – Important factors causing delays identified in past researches.



(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 5, Issue 3, March 2016

		in financing on the part of the contractor
12	Faridi, A. S., & El□Sayegh, S. M. (2006) [14]	Slow in drawing preparation and approval, inadequate and poor planning, lack of quick decision making from the owner, shortage in qualified labour, and lack of proper supervision and management
13	Sambasivan and Soon (2006) [19]	Inaccurate planning contractors, contractor's poor site management, unqualified contractor, inadequate client's finance and payments for completed work, problems with subcontractors, shortage in material, shortage in qualified labor, equipment availability and failure, lack of communication between parties, and mistakes during the construction stage
14	Sweis et al. (2007) [21]	Financial difficulties faced the contractor, many changes in orders from the owner, poor planning and scheduling from contractor, unskilled labour, and lack of skilled labour.
15	Abd El-Razek, Bassioni, and Mobarak (2008) [22]	Financing by contractor during construction, delays in payment by owner, changes in design by owner or his agent during construction, partial payments during construction, and poor management.
16	Pathiranage and Halwatura (2010) [23]	Financial problems of owner and contractor, poor site management by the contractor, poor weather condition, contract modification, lack of quick decision making, shortage of site labour and material, lack of sub-contractor's skill/ poor skills, construction mistakes, and poor site condition
17	Ehab Soliman (2010) [24]	Financial and design causes are the most important and frequent delay causes
18	Fugar and Agyakwah-Baah (2010) [25]	Delay in honoring certificates, minimize of the costs of projects, minimize of the complexity of projects, difficulty in accessing bank credit, poor supervision delay in completion of projects by contractors, shortage of materials, poor management, fluctuation of prices/ rising cost of materials, and poor site management
19	Haseeb et al. (2011) [26]	Natural disaster in Pakistan like flood and earthquake and some others like financial problems, improper planning, poor site management, poor experience, and lack of materials, and equipments
20	Jeykanthan and Jayawardena (2012) [28]	Inaccurate feasibility studies, errors in detail designs, short comings in contract document, disputes, variation and scope changes, land acquisition and resettlement, extreme weather, and shortage of bitumen
21	Remon Fayek Aziz (2013) [29]	Inadequate experience of consultant, delay in approving major changes in scope of work by consultant, delay in performing inspection and testing, poor communication between owner and contractor, poor communication between owner and consultant
22	Samad M E Sepasgozar et al. (2014) [2]	contractor organization attributes, lack of experienced labor, external factors, material deficiency, design issues,

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

At the initial step, a literature search and interviews was carried out. The literature review was conducted through books, conference proceedings, internet and international project management journals that resulting in identifying 63 causes factor of delay grouped into 10 groups as: Project related, Owner related, Consultant related, Contractor related, subcontractor related, Labour related, contract related, Material related, Equipment related, and External factors depending on their nature and mode of occurrence.



(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 5, Issue 3, March 2016

The questionnaire composed of two parts. The first part was a collection of general information concerning respondents. While the second part include the list of identified causes of delay in construction projects. The respondents were requested to give their response to each factor based on their experience. Two questions should be answered for each factor. First, what is the probability of occurrence of this cause? Second, what is the degree of severity of this cause on project delay? Both probability and severity were categorized on a six-point scale as follows: (0: no effect / not going to happen, 1: very low, 2: low, 3: Medium, 4: High, 5: very high).

One hundred and fifty questionnaires were distributed in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar. Hundred and fifteen of them responded correctly. The questionnaire survey was 55 consultants (47.8%) and 60 contractors (52.2%).

V. DATA ANALYSIS

The following indices were computed from the data collected through the questionnaire survey:

Probability index (P.I): A formula is used to rank the causes of delay based on frequency of occurrence and it was computed for each factor using Equation 1.

Probability Index (P.I.) (%) = Σ (a n/6 N) x 100 ------(1)

Where a: Value representing weighting given to each response, ranging from (0: not going to happen, 1: very low, 2: low, 3: Medium, 4: High, 5: very high), n: The number of responses choosing a value, N: Total no of responses.

Severity index (S.I): A formula is used to rank the causes of delay based on degree of severity and it was computed for each factor using Equation 2.

Severity Index (S.I.) (%) = Σ (a n/ 6 N) x 100-----(2)

Where a: Value representing weighting given to each response, ranging from (0: not going to happen, 1: very low, 2: low, 3: Medium, 4: High, 5: very high), n: The number of responses choosing a value, N: Total no of responses.

Importance index (IMP.I.): The importance index of each cause is calculated as a function of both probability and severity it was computed for each factor using Equation 3:

Importance Index (IMP.I.) (%) = [P.I. (%) * $\tilde{S}.I.$ (%)]/100------(3)

Spearman rank correlation

The Spearman's rank correlation coefficient "rs" is used to measure and compare the association between the rankings of two parties. Spearman's rank correlation is a non-parametric test. The test compare medians rather than means and, as a result, if the data have one or two outliers, their influence is neglected. It is calculated using Equation 4:

 $rs = 1 - [(6 \Sigma d2)/(n3-n)]$ ------(4)

rs - Spearman rank correlation coefficient between two parties, d is the difference between ranks assigned to variables for each cause, and n is the number of pairs of rank. The correlation coefficient varies between +1 and -1, where +1implies; a perfect positive relationship (agreement), while -1 results from a perfect negative relationship (disagreement). It might be said then that sample estimates of correlation close to unity in magnitude imply good correlation, while values near zero indicate little or no correlation

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table (2) shows the factors which cause delays in construction projects, their importance index, their ranking from the point of view of contractor and from the point of view of consultant, and then the Importance Index from overall view and its rank.

nc			From co	nsultant	From co	ntractor		
p p	No.	Factor	point c	of view	point o	f view	То	tal
0			IMP.I	Rank	IMP.I	Rank	IMP.I	Rank
	1	Project location	30.25	10	31.14	5	30.71	6
Project	2	Lack of time allowed for the preparation of schedule	16.46	56	34.59	2	25.92	30
Pr	3	Legal disputes between various parties	29.35	13	24.11	46	26.62	23
	4	High quality requirements	23.65	29	27.70	26	25.76	31
O ≽	5	Delay in progress payments by owner	40.79	1	36.04	1	38.31	1



(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 5, Issue 3, March 2016

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	6	Delay to deliver the site to the contractor by the owner	28.50	16	29.78	11	29.17	13
	7	Legal disputes between various owners	23.51	32	22.52	52	22.99	42
	8	Delay in approving shop drawings and sample materials	23.08	34	29.33	12	26.34	27
	9	Slowness in decision making process by owner	22.31	39	27.44	28	24.99	36
	10	Suspension of work by owner	24.38	27	30.67	7	27.66	18
	11	Poor communication and coordination by owner and other parties	23.30	33	23.61	48	23.46	40
	12	Change orders by owner during construction	22.78	36	30.34	8	26.72	21
	13	Inadequate experience of consultant	22.35	38	29.25	13	25.95	29
	14	Late in reviewing and approving design documents by consultant	21.06	45	27.08	30	24.20	39
	15	Delay in performing inspection and testing by consultant	15.74	57	25.15	38	20.65	52
	16	Complexity of project design	14.57	61	21.30	55	18.08	60
Consultant	17	Mistakes and discrepancies in design documents	19.49	48	24.12	45	21.91	46
Cons	18	Insufficient data collection and survey before design	22.47	37	23.42	50	22.97	43
	19	Unclear and inadequate details in drawings	19.86	46	21.90	53	20.92	51
	20	Misunderstanding of owner's requirements by design engineer	13.47	62	17.13	62	15.38	62
	21	Delays in producing design documents	15.07	60	21.82	54	18.59	58
	22	Delay in approving major changes in the scope of work by consultant	19.28	49	24.31	42	21.90	47
	23	Ineffective planning and scheduling of project by contractor	31.69	8	30.70	6	31.17	5
	24	Delay in site mobilization	23.82	28	25.47	35	24.68	37
	25	Poor site management and supervision by contractor	34.07	3	34.03	3	34.05	2
	26	Difficulties in financing project by contractor	34.09	2	29.81	10	31.86	4
	27	Inefficient pricing tender	22.19	40	30.25	9	26.40	26
Contractor	28	The bad relationship between the Staff and the administration	28.29	17	24.16	44	26.14	28
Contr	29	Bad relationship between owner representatives and contractor representatives	23.57	31	25.52	33	24.59	38
	30	Disputes between labour in site	19.09	50	18.61	61	18.84	57
	31	Rework due to errors during construction	24.78	24	28.09	22	26.51	25
	32	Conflicts between contractor and other parties	26.62	22	24.90	39	25.72	32
	33	Improper construction methods implemented by contractor	31.69	7	27.44	27	29.47	10
	34	The control of the contractor to subcontractors is not sufficient	24.67	25	28.74	18	26.79	20
Sub- contractor	35	The quality do not fulfill project requirements a result of the quality of materials and tools used by the sub-contractor	26.47	23	29.05	17	27.82	17
S	36	Delay in the project depends on the financial stability of the sub-contractor	29.88	12	28.55	20	29.19	11
	37	Lack in qualified labours	32.47	6	31.89	4	32.17	3
labour	38	Low productivity level of labours	31.00	9	29.10	16	30.01	8
lab	39	Personal conflicts among labours	19.63	47	21.27	56	20.49	53
	40	A labor strike	17.53	52	19.19	60	18.40	59
C	41	Type of Contract	16.51	54	21.25	57	18.98	56



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Lack of incentives for the contractor to finish 23.02 42 21.62 42 24.30 43 41 ahead of schedule 43 Late procurement of materials 28.66 15 27.37 29 27.99 15 44 Delay in material delivery 28.05 18 25.33 37 26.63 22 Delay in manufacturing special building 45 27.78 19 25.47 34 26.57 24 materials Material Damage of sorted material while they are 46 21.07 44 24.36 41 22.79 44 needed urgently Late in selection of finishing materials due to 47 availability of many types in 17.14 53 23.45 49 20.43 54 Market Changes in material types and specifications 48 18.18 51 24.44 40 21.45 49 during construction 29.98 29.23 29.59 9 49 11 14 Shortage of equipment Equipment 50 33.25 27.71 25 30.36 7 4 Equipment breakdowns Low level of equipment-operator's skill 29.03 14 28.35 21 28.68 14 51 19 52 Low productivity and efficiency of equipment 27.19 20 28.09 24 27.66 53 Changes in government regulations and laws 15.36 58 26.91 31 21.39 50 54 Delay in obtaining permits from municipality 33.23 5 25.47 36 29.18 12 12.42 55 Effect of social and cultural factors 8.11 63 16.38 63 63 Unavailability of utilities in site (such as, 56 22.91 35 28.09 23 25.61 33 water, electricity, telephone, etc.) Delay in providing services from utilities (such 57 21.63 41 28.64 19 25.29 34 External as water, electricity) 58 Rain effect on construction activities 21.61 43 22.76 51 22.21 45 59 20.27 Traffic control and restriction at job site 16.48 55 23.74 47 55 15.12 59 20.46 58 60 Accident during construction 17.91 61 Effects of subsurface conditions (e.g., soil, 61 26.66 21 2.13 15 27.95 16 high water table, etc.) Delay in performing final inspection and 62 23.60 30 19.70 59 21.57 48 certification by a third party 32 63 Differing site (ground) conditions 24.46 26 25.63 25.07 35

Vol. 5, Issue 3, March 2016

As it shown from table (2), from the point of view of consultant; the first important factor is

"Delay in progress payments by owner" with an importance index of 40.79. The second factor is "Difficulties in financing project by contractor" with an importance index of 34.09. The third ranking factor is "Poor site management and supervision by contractor" which has an importance index of 34.07. From the point of view of the contractor the most three important factors are; (1) "Delay in progress payments by owner" with an importance index of 36.04, (2) "Lack of time allowed for the preparation of schedule" which has an importance index of 34.03.

The calculated value of the correlation coefficient between consultant and contractor was (0.62) and it's considered a strong relationship between the point of view of consultant and contractor.

From data analysis, the most important factor which effect on delay of the construction project is "Delay in progress payments by owner" with an impotence index of 38.31. The second factor is "Poor site management and supervision by contractor" which has an importance index of 34.05. In the third place, the factor "Lack in qualified labours" which has an importance index of 32.17. The fourth factor is "Difficulties in financing project by contractor" with an importance index of 31.86. The fifth factor is "Ineffective planning and scheduling of project by contractor" which has an importance index of 31.17.

VII. A MODEL FOR EVALUATION THE CAUSES OF DELAY

As the probability of each factor may be change from company to another, authors create a model with ability to change the probability by the user. The model will evaluate all the causes for construction delay with the desire probability or the default one as the user wish. Then the program change these probability to its corresponding



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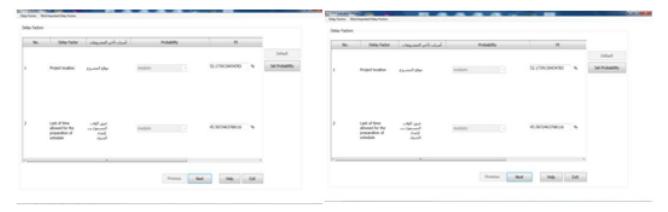
Vol. 5, Issue 3, March 2016

probability index. While the severity index is a stored value in the program. The model is designed to identify the importance of each cause according to its importance index (IMP.I) and then ranking all causes. The model was designed by using Virtual Basic.net.

As shown in figure (1), In the first screen the severity index is stored and the user can choose the a proper probability or use the default one and then in the next screen the final result will be the top five factor which the user will give attention to them to reduce project delay.

Figure 1- A Model for evaluation of the causes of delay

As shown in figure (1), In the first screen the severity index is stored and the user can choose the a proper probability according to his experience or he can use a questionnaire analysis of his own survey and if the user has no idea about the probability of a specified factor he can use the default one



AND THEN IN THE NEXT SCREEN THE FINAL RESULT WILL BE THE TOP FIVE FACTOR WHICH THE USER WILL GIVE ATTENTION TO THEM TO REDUCE PROJECT DELAY, THIS SCREEN ALSO TRANSLATED TO ARABIC IN ORDER TO GIVE MORE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THE CONSTRUCTION THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE PROGRAMME

	mportant Delay Factors nt Delay Factors	
No.	Delay Factor	مُ أسباب تأخير المشروعات
5	Delay in progress payments by owner	التأخير في المدفوعات من قبل المالك
25	Poor site management and supervision by contractor	بدوء إدارة الموقع والإشراف من قبل المقاول
37	Lack In qualified labours	نقص العمالة المدرية
26	Difficulties in financing project by contractor	صعوبات في تمويل المشروع من قبل المقاول
23	Ineffective planning and scheduling of	بدم كفاءة تخطيط وجدولة المشروع من قبل ≁ المقاول

VIII. CONCLUSION

This study summarize some major causes of delays that facing construction projects. Based on literature study and from interview of experts, 63 causes were identified under 10 major groups. These factors causing the delays analysed using Importance index as a function of frequency index and severity index, and ranked from contractor point of view and from consultant point of view.

The correlation coefficient between consultant ranking and contractor ranking was (0.62). So, it's considered a strong relationship between the point of view of consultant and contractor.



(An ISO 3297: 2007 Certified Organization)

Vol. 5, Issue 3, March 2016

The most important factor which effect on delay of the construction project is "Delay in progress payments by owner" followed by the factor "Poor site management and supervision by contractor". In the third place, the factor "Lack in qualified labours" then the factor "Difficulties in financing project by contractor". The fifth factor is "Ineffective planning and scheduling of project by contractor".

A model was designed by using Virtual Basic.net to evaluate the top five factor which the user will give attention to them to reduce project delay. The model allow user to change the probability if he want.

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