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BY
SMALL SCALE CONTRACTORS**

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**PROBLEMS FACED BY
SMALL SCALE CONTRACTORS**

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ENG. A. P. RANJITH DE SILVA

THE THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT

OF

THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF



THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

SUPERVISED BY DR. A. K. W. JAYAWARDANE

We accept this thesis as conforming to the required standard

UOM Verified Signature

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University of Moratuwa

November 1993

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November 1993.

Summary

As in other developing countries construction industry in Sri-Lanka is weak. Although there are large number of small contractors throughout the country, their plight is not satisfactory compared to other grades. Though there are criticisms against them such as poor quality, failure to meet completion dates etc. there are several difficulties faced by the small scale contractors.

Under this environment Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa felt the need of carrying out this type of survey to identify the real problems and make recommendations to solve their problems by relevant parties. Very recently even the ICTAD and ACCSL have identified the necessity of such a survey in order to improve the plight of small scale contractors. They have organised some interviews with Road Maintenance Contractors and workshops for small scale contractors in few provinces up to now.



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Based on these work, author has done a comprehensive survey on small scale contractors involved in building industry. Contractors' views on problems they face were investigated under major areas such as Technical and Managerial; Financial; Construction plant, equipment and vehicles; Basic materials; Contract Administration; and finally the Social Aspect. This was done mainly through a detailed questionnaire survey supplemented by interviews and discussions. Contractors' views on reasons for such problems, their suggestions for improvements and support they need from outside parties such as ICTAD, ACCSL, CHPB, Government policy making bodies etc. were also considered.

In order to get the real picture, other parties such as clients, consultants, experts dealing with the small scale contractors were also interviewed and their ideas were incorporated.

It was found that the most critical problem that the small scale contractors have is the payment delays by the client due to various reasons. Other important problems are inadequate work throughout the year, difficulties in obtaining bonds, guarantees and loans, and non-availability of building materials and increasing prices.

Finally the recommendations were developed based on the questionnaire survey, interviews with selected contractors, clients, consultants and experts in this field.

It must be pointed out that the development assistance to small scale contractors, and the resulting benefits entirely depends on the success of implementation of results of this type of surveys.



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List of Abbreviations

ACCSL	-Association of Construction Contractors of Sri Lanka
ICTAD	-Institute for Construction Training and development
CHPB	-Centre for Housing Planning and Building
EA	-Engineering Assistant
TO	-Technical Officer
TA	-Technical Assistant
IESL	-Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka
MECA	-Mahaweli Engineering and Construction Agency
CECB	-Central Engineering and Consultancy Bureau
SEC	-State Engineering Corporation
BMC	-Building Materials Corporation
ILO	-International Labour Organisation
RMC	-Road Maintenance Contractor



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