

IMPACT OF ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR OF PROFESSIONALS ON THE PROJECT SUCCESS IN THE SRI LANKAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Weerakoon, W.M.J.C., Jayasooriya S.D. * Lakmal A.H.,
Karunarathna D.B. and Gayantha D.W.K.

*Department of Quantity Surveying, Faculty of Built Environment and
Spatial Sciences, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University,
Sooriyawewa, Sri Lanka*

**jachiwee04@gmail.com*

The construction industry worldwide is widespread with unethical behaviours. Professionals' unethical behaviour is a significant factor that has affected the performance and the success of the construction project. Those common unethical behaviours include unfair conduct, fraud and bribery, collusion, and conflict of interest occur in developing and developed countries as well. This research paper assessed the application of ethical conduct among industry professionals toward the project success of the construction industry. Accordingly, the study used a mixed approach having qualitative and quantitative techniques and for the identification of factors, a review of the literature was undergone. To identify the impact of the factors, a web-based questionnaire was distributed among 40 professionals such as quantity surveyors, civil engineers, architects, project managers and contractors within the Sri Lankan construction industry. To identify the mitigation approaches, interviews were conducted by selecting 10 industry professionals with more than 10 years of experience as the sample. With the analysed data, it was identified that the construction sector in Sri Lanka experiences unethical practices due to personal interest, lack of time, political involvement, high competition to get a project, and lack of law enforceability. Further, this study concluded that the necessity of existing an ethical code which can be legally acted, a system to ensure that the construction professionals are continual with the mandatory standard, duties and behaviours, training and education in ethics suggested as approaches for fighting against unethical behaviours.

Keywords: Industry professionals, project success, unethical behaviour