



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Over the last ten years or so the construction industry has thrived as a result of the liberalization of the economy, which has attracted both local and foreign investors. Construction of new structures (office complexes, industrial zones with factories and warehousing facilities, infrastructure etc.) and upgrading or remodeling the existing structures has become the order of the day. Therefore, the question of safety in construction can no longer be ignored and deserves due consideration.

However, in the recent past, fatal accidents have occurred due to the collapse of some structures at various sites in the country. These have been given wide publicity in the local and international media and have accordingly raised great concern and anxiety among the public.

This spate of events has raised a big outcry from the general public as to whether engineers and other people involved in the construction process are competent enough to undertake such projects. The public wants an assurance as to whether there are some measures being put in place to ensure safety of workmen and property. It is revealed that there is weakness in enforcement, and also ignorance of the importance of Safety and Health Regulations, for example as stipulated in the Ugandan Factories Act (1964) and the Ugandan Public Health Act (1965), both of which need updating. More critical though, is the fact that

many of the accidents in the construction industry arise from workers' negligence, ignorance and carelessness.

With the increasing construction activity prevailing countrywide, a study of the current safety practice in the construction industry was therefore warranted. This would enable the authors to establish the causes of accidents on construction projects from which strategies for improved safety practice would be developed. This is the purpose for which this research was conducted.

1.1.1. Problem Statements

The following research questions were formulated to further examine the problem statement:

1. What are the causes of accidents on construction sites?
2. Which are the present and potential safety hazards in the construction industry?
3. What is the way of improving safety measures by the respondent for the construction industry in Indonesia?
4. What is the different of the sources of accidents in Indonesian and Ugandan construction industry?

1.1.2. Benefits

1. The research was expected to establish the causes of accidents in the construction industry and the inadequacies of the mitigate measures.

2. The findings would assist in developing an appropriate guideline for construction safety practice for people engaged in the construction industry in order to minimize accidents.
3. The research was also expected to recommend improvements to the safety (and health) regulations currently in use.
4. It was expected to contribute to the knowledge of the future readership, and as a source of reference for further research.

1.2. Limitations

The research covered many cities with relatively high construction activity. Emphasis was, however, put on public and private building construction projects, which were randomly selected to study the extent to which safety is given consideration, the causes of accidents and adequacy of mitigate measures to the accidents. The main issue of this research is the human error aspect on causes of accidents in construction industry. This was done by making observations on randomly selected projects in the selected cities and administering questionnaires to people involved in the construction process. This paper presents some recommendations that have been proposed for achieving improved safety on construction sites.

1.3. Objectives

1. To determine the causes of accidents on construction sites.
2. To identify the present and potential safety hazards in the construction industry.
3. To analyze the safety measures used on construction sites in relation to existing safety regulations, design standards and code(s) of practice, and their impact on the safety of workers.
4. To compare the sources of accidents in Indonesian construction industry and in Ugandan construction industry.

1.4. Outline of the Thesis

Chapter one contains background of choosing the topic, limitation to direct the study, objectives of the study, and method of study. Chapter two consists of literature review and basic theories used in the study. Chapter three explains about methodology used in collecting the data, instruments used for the study and how to analyze the data. Chapter four describes result of the study and data analysis. Chapter five consists of conclusion and suggestion based on result of the study.