

# IDENTIFICATION & EVALUATION OF CRITICAL CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTIVITY FACTORS

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## ABSTRACT

*In developing countries construction industry is a prominent sector in improving the country's economy. It is a diverse sector which contains engineer, architects, contractors etc. Thus it is crucial to make the construction sector more effective and efficient. This paper focus on several predominant factors which enables to maximize the output at given resources include money, cost and technology. The research is based on the construction productivity in India which aims at providing the latest data which helps in improving the management of the construction processes. The manual investigation is based on the questionnaire which were distributed among the concerned experts and were asked to assess and rank the factors on five point Likert scale. The data obtained from the experts was quantitatively analyzed by Relative Importance Index (RII) method and Microsoft Excel software. The study recognized four important factors as administration of labors, qualified and dedicated employees, manufacturing methods and economical factors, among which administration of labors was identified as the most critical factor. These critical factors can be improved by modern technology, superior management and adequate capital.*

**Keywords – construction productivity, construction technology, labor, productivity improvement, socio economic problems.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

“PRODUCTIVITY” is basically the ratio of the input work to the output work. Company's success and development depend upon the most important key component i.e. productivity. Construction companies may gain advantage over their competitors by improving upon productivity to build projects at lower costs, so the standard of the project is affected variably by the productivity.

Productivity is an important factor in the construction industry, which have a great impact on the economy. Better planning is most impertinent i.e. if contractors do not order material to arrive at a date when it needed, then the worker will be pressurized and will have to wait for material. This study is carried out a different way to find how to increase productivity. In order to increase the productivity different measures serve for different purposes. Safety is the most important component considered on site. A construction company should analyze each phase of its process to determine the factors improving productivity. The construction company can set aim of using equipment efficiently and planning for management.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the past this type of case study and research shows there are different factors which affect the productivity, but still there are numbers of anonymous factors further need to be studied even in developing countries. Experts and researchers have made several contributions for improving construction productivity all over the world.

(MistrySoham and Bhatt Rajiv,2013)A survey was carried out in Gujarat region on civil contractors, all 51 responses were analyzed by Analytic Hierarchy Process(AHP) and Relative Important Index(RII) through which five most critical factors were identified i.e. delay in payments, skill of labour , shortage of material, motivation of labour and clarity of technical specification. Critical factors according to AHP technique were rain, temperature, high wind, motivation of labour and physical fatigue.(Mohamed S. Abdel-Wahab et al. 2007) A survey of the existing literature relating to skills and productivity suggests common factors namely: logistics and late material delivery, workforce skills, labour training and Education attainment. It is concluded ultimately, that the existing evidence linking skills and productivity is inconsistent without providing training to skills development. (Serdar Durdyev et al. 2013) Qualitative data collected through references formed the basis for questionnaire surveys conducted among the experts and these references revealed 28 labour productivity constraining factors, however after the reliability test was conducted questionnaire based on corrected scale merely consisted 24 of the factors. (Ibrahim Mahamid et al. 2013) conducted a study to identify the main factors affecting labor productivity in Palestinian(Saudi Arabia) building construction projects. He concluded that the top five factors variably affecting labor productivity in construction are: retread, lack of co-operation and communication between construction parties, financial status of the owner, lack of labor experience and lack in materials. (Soekiman et al. 2011) The groups of factors that give high effect are: supervision, material, execution plan and design. Moreover, for large companies including above these factors equipment factors have also high effect and in small and medium companies, consultant factors also need special attention. All past researches tried to show that health and safety factors has not been a concern of small/medium companies and has some effect, while large companies are better, although not as major concern and has average effect. (Nabil Ailabouni1 and Kassim Gidado,2009) This research aims at developing regression models for predicting changes in productivity, when the underlying factors affecting productivity are varied. These factors were broadly categorized as general work environment, organizational work policies, group dynamics and interpersonal relationships and personal competence of the employees as applicable to the construction industry in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The most significant factors amongst these were determined through surveys using the Severity Index and Chi Square computations for significance. (H. Randolph Thomas,1 Member, ASCE, and Iacovos Yiakoumis2, 1987) The factor model states that there are many factors which cause disturbances to better performance. If these factors can be analyzed from actual productivity data, one is left with an ideal productivity curve, which can be used to predict future performance. Methods for collecting and combining data from various projects are presented and illustrated using actual productivity data from three commercial construction projects. The factor model is display by considering the effect of temperature and relative humidity on productivity. The results of the weather model are compared to similar relationships reported by other researchers and the factor and weather model appear to be valid. The relationship developed by the researchers is consistent with those reported in the literature. (Gerald P. Klanaca and Eric L. NelsonbA, 2004) A loss of

productivity represent loss of efficiency which arises when productivity is influenced by events for which the contractor is not responsible and is allow to additional compensation. Loss productivity claims are one of many types of claims asserted on construction projects. Contractors assert claims for loss of productivity when the anticipated means, methods, techniques, scheduling or work sequence are altered by events or circumstances outside the contractor's control, and the contractor is entitled to relief for the loss. (Mojtaba Afsharian et al. 2013) At the firm level productivity growth reveals that resources have been used efficiently and this situation causes decrease in the costs. A firm, therefore, can reduce the prices of its products while maintaining or increasing profit margins. At the national level, productivity is one of the main determinant of economic growth and progress. Productivity growth provides to decrease in rate of inflation and it also develops the competitiveness of domestic firms. (JiukunDai et al. 2009) All critical factors in a descending order of their negative impact on construction productivity as measured by the converted factor score were represented by the following: construction equipment, materials, tools and consumables, engineering drawing management, direction and coordination, project management, training, craft worker qualification, superintendent competency, and foreman competency. Although there were differences observed in the latent factors between trades and between supervisors and craft workers. (Khaled Mahmoud El-Gohary, M.Eng.; and RemonFayek Aziz, Ph.D,2014) Construction industry sectors have been experiencing chronic problems such as poor management, inferior working conditions and insufficient quality. To improve construction labor productivity, one must identify and recognize the influence of the primary factors affecting productivity. This study reveals the importance of management factors on construction labor productivity over the other two categories, labor/human and industry. Despite the importance of management factors, they are almost unpredictable, especially during the bidding phase. (Enno Koehn, M. ASCE and Gerald Brown,1986) Labor productivity is of most and prime interest to the any construction project of any nation. In response to this concern, this paper investigates labor productivity factors for 47 countries throughout the world the data obtained from a survey of international contractors and available literature show that productivity factors can vary quite widely for different country. It is a measure of the spread of the data and a method to appraise the overall experience of different contractors working in the specific countries involved.

### **III. METHODOLOGY**

Study comprised of manual research conducted in 3 phases:

- 1) Preparation of the structured questionnaire and distribution among the experts.
- 2) Collection of data and overall identification of the critical factors by RII method and short listing the factors which have an adverse effect on the construction industry.
- 3) Collection and analysis of critical factors based on RII from four different category of experts.

The questionnaire factors were collected from various journal papers and internet. Eight main factors were recognized which were further subdivided into total 68 factors. 172 questionnaires were circulated among the 4

categorized experts all over India and 126 questionnaire were received in response, out of which 41 responses were from engineers, 34 from contractors, 29 from architects and 22 from clients.

Analysis of all the factors was done by Relative importance index (RII) method. The equation for the RII is given by;

$$RII = \frac{\sum(W_i * F_i)}{S * N}$$

Where,

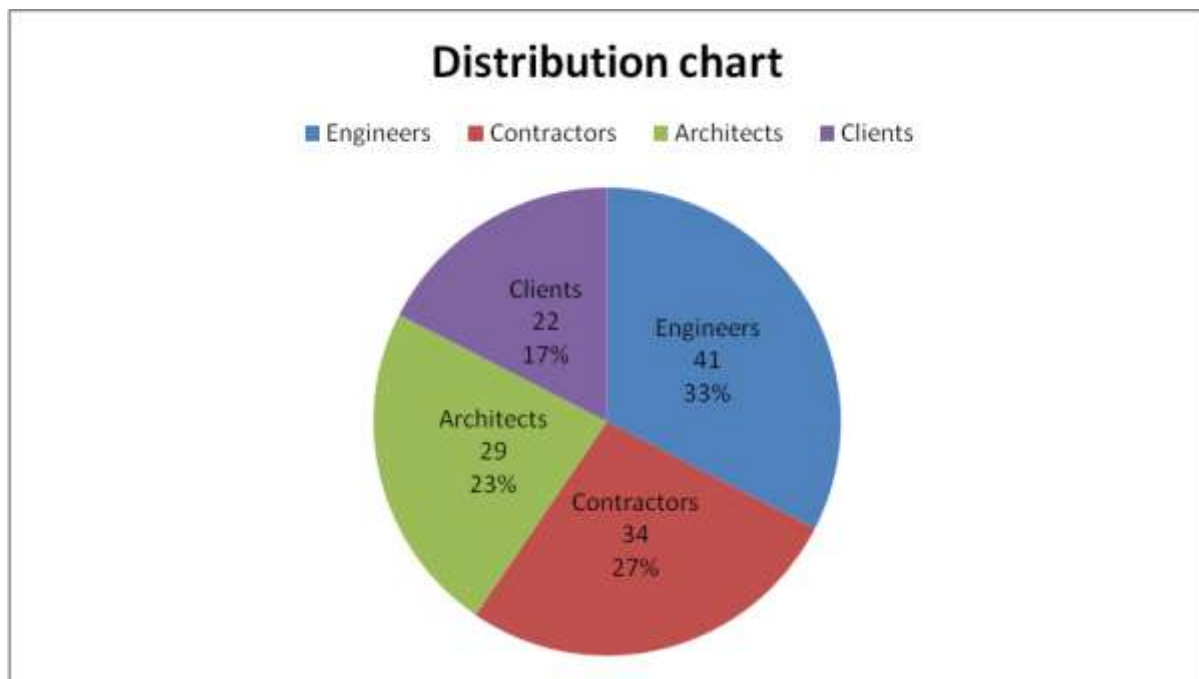
$W_i$  = Weightage of the given factors,

$F_i$  = Frequency of occurrence of given factor,

$S$  = Number of divisions on the weightage scale (5 point Likert Scale),

$N$  = Number of Responses.

The pie chart no.1 given below gives the detail about the sub division of the questionnaire distributed among the experts. Table no.1 gives the detail about the questionnaire distributed. The frequency given in the table has a weightage ranking from 5 to 1 where, 5 has the maximum weightage and 1 has the minimum weightage. The weightage decreases from 5 to 1 according to the importance of the factor.



**Fig. 1: Distribution of questionnaire among the experts.**

**Table 1: Overall RII of the factors**

SR.NO	FACTORS	PRODUCTIVITY FACTORS	FREQUENCY OF OCCURANCE					RII
			5	4	3	2	1	
1	A1	1) Safety	78	45	3	0	0	0.919
2	A2	2) Timeliness	22	88	15	1	0	0.807
3	A3	3) Quality	24	34	52	10	6	0.695
4	A4	4) Productivity	94	22	8	2	0	0.930
<b>Labour productivity</b>								
5	B1	1) Administration of labour	103	20	3	0	0	0.958
6	B2	2) Technical clarity	56	67	3	0	0	0.884
7	B3	3) Capability of labour	76	41	6	2	1	0.900
8	B4	4) Payment delay	57	45	7	16	1	0.823
9	B5	5) Weather situation	41	64	14	6	1	0.819
10	B6	6) Safety issues	75	46	4	1	0	0.909
11	B7	7) Impractical schedule	47	61	7	8	2	0.822
12	B8	8) Shortage of skilled labour	48	56	16	6	0	0.831
13	B9	9) Communication issues	60	42	21	1	2	0.849
<b>Equipments factor</b>								
14	C1	1) Greater use of mechanized equipments	60	63	3	0	0	0.890
15	C2	2) Maintainance and repairs	84	29	11	2	0	0.909
16	C3	3) Ineffectiveness of equipments	57	24	33	10	2	0.796
17	C4	4) Size and capacity	51	54	16	5	0	0.839
18	C5	5) Efficiency	91	26	8	1	0	0.926
19	C6	6) Versatility	22	56	43	3	0	0.744
20	C7	7) Investment cost and depreciation	51	40	31	4	0	0.819
21	C8	8) Keeping records of repair	40	38	43	5	0	0.779
22	C9	9) Performance of equipment	85	35	6	0	0	0.925
23	C10	10) Utilization of available equipment	82	24	20	0	0	0.898
<b>Socio-economic factor</b>								
24	D1	1) Economical factors	39	79	5	4	0	0.847
25	D2	2) Delay in arrival of materials	54	36	25	11	0	0.811
26	D3	3) Over crowded work area	48	27	38	9	4	0.768
27	D4	4) Shortage of transportation means	47	38	30	9	2	0.788
28	D5	5) Lack of economic motivation system	57	34	24	7	4	0.811
29	D6	6) Quality of raw material	89	18	18	1	0	0.909
30	D7	7) Laws by government	72	38	16	0	0	0.888
31	D8	8) Acquition of land	79	33	14	0	0	0.903
32	D9	9) Material scarcity	42	49	25	10	0	0.795
<b>Human resource factor</b>								
33	E1	1) Qualified and dedicated employees	100	24	1	1	0	0.953

34	E2	2) Relation between administration and employee	67	56	1	0	2	0.895
35	E3	3) Management factors	83	36	7	0	0	0.920
36	E4	4) Enthusiasm	48	62	17	3	1	0.866
37	E5	5) Encouragement for good performance	36	75	11	4	0	0.826
38	E6	6) Giving compliments for good jobs	52	63	10	1	0	0.863
39	E7	7) Management and coordination factors	93	32	0	1	0	0.944
40	E8	8) Project preparation	74	49	2	0	1	0.909
41	E9	9) Healthy work atmosphere	47	68	11	0	0	0.857
42	E10	10) Working time factors	36	79	9	1	1	0.834
43	E11	11) Several shifts	20	75	22	9	0	0.768
44	E12	12) Lack of struggle	8	81	24	13	0	0.733
45	E13	13) Absence of supervisor	48	48	15	12	2	0.798
		<b>Technological factors</b>						
46	F1	1) Manufacturing methods	100	23	1	1	1	0.949
47	F2	2) Drawings and conditions	61	57	7	0	1	0.880
48	F3	3) Modularization and prefabrication	36	80	9	1	0	0.839
49	F4	4) Cost assessment	81	38	6	1	0	0.915
50	F5	5) Software and hardware technology	75	39	10	2	0	0.896
		<b>Conflicts in construction</b>						
51	G1	1) Poor human resource administration	43	46	18	17	2	0.776
52	G2	2) Labour strike	22	61	11	26	6	0.706
53	G3	3) Mismatch in capacities in customers and architects	9	64	16	33	4	0.665
54	G4	4) Tendancy to hold responsible others	14	62	18	25	7	0.680
55	G5	5) Arguement among the team members	16	60	24	23	3	0.700
56	G6	6) Confusion among the labours	20	60	24	19	3	0.719
		<b>Construction mistakes,faults and concepts</b>						
57	H1	1) Advance site layout	78	39	4	5	0	0.901
58	H2	2) Nature of project	65	50	8	3	0	0.880
59	H3	3) Misuse of time schedule	24	72	10	20	0	0.758
		<b>Natural factors</b>						
60	I1	1) Bad weather	18	65	14	26	3	0.709
61	I2	2) Change in weather	8	76	23	14	5	0.707
62	I3	3) Temperature differences	21	62	22	19	2	0.728
63	I4	4) Rain	27	56	22	17	4	0.734
64	I5	5) High winds	10	65	19	25	7	0.673
65	I6	6) Earthquakes	16	44	23	25	18	0.623
66	I7	7) Landslides	14	53	14	30	15	0.633
67	I8	8) Floods	16	51	18	32	9	0.652
68	I9	9) Drought	12	50	24	33	7	0.642

The factors were overall analyzed and even analysed individually according to engineer, client, architect and contractor perspective respectively. Thus according to this method the top 4 factors identified were administration of labors, performance of equipment, manufacturing methods and qualified and dedicated employees. The following table no.2 shows the factors identified by the perspective of individual expert.

**Table 2: Individual RII of the productivity factors by experts**

FTRS	{1-41} ENGINEER						{42-76} CONTRACTORS						{77-105} ARCHITECTS						{106-126} CLIENTS					
	5	4	3	2	1	RII	5	4	3	2	1	RII	5	4	3	2	1	RII	5	4	3	2	1	RII
A1	27	12	2	0	0	0.921	22	11	1	0	0	0.897	20	9	0	0	0	0.937	7	14	0	0	0	0.866
A2	9	29	2	1	0	0.824	9	18	7	0	0	0.788	0	23	6	0	0	0.758	4	17	0	0	0	0.838
A3	10	11	17	1	2	0.726	10	5	12	5	2	0.674	0	5	18	4	2	0.579	4	13	4	0	0	0.8
A4	34	6	0	1	0	0.956	23	6	4	1	0	0.874	17	8	4	0	0	0.889	19	2	0	0	0	0.98
B1	35	6	0	0	0	0.97	22	10	2	0	0	0.891	25	3	1	0	0	0.965	20	1	0	0	0	0.99
B2	25	16	0	0	0	0.921	12	19	3	0	0	0.828	12	17	0	0	0	0.882	6	15	0	0	0	0.857
B3	24	14	1	1	1	0.887	15	14	4	1	0	0.828	17	11	1	0	0	0.91	18	1	2	0	0	0.952
B4	16	15	3	7	0	0.795	6	21	3	3	1	0.742	14	8	1	6	0	0.806	16	1	4	0	0	0.914
B5	14	23	1	3	0	0.834	3	25	5	1	0	0.754	5	13	8	2	1	0.731	19	2	0	0	0	0.98
B6	26	13	2	0	0	0.917	23	8	2	1	0	0.885	22	7	0	0	0	0.951	4	17	0	0	0	0.838
B7	14	17	3	6	1	0.78	11	20	2	1	0	0.817	6	18	2	2	1	0.779	15	6	0	0	0	0.942
B8	11	14	11	15	0	0.848	6	25	2	1	0	0.788	14	12	3	0	0	0.875	16	5	0	0	0	0.952
B9	24	13	3	0	1	0.887	5	15	13	1	0	0.72	11	12	5	0	0	0.813	17	4	0	0	0	0.961
C1	19	20	2	0	0	0.882	21	13	0	0	0	0.897	18	10	1	0	0	0.917	2	19	0	0	0	0.819
C2	26	8	5	2	0	0.882	22	10	2	0	0	0.891	17	8	4	0	0	0.889	18	3	0	0	0	0.971
C3	17	5	12	6	1	0.751	8	6	17	3	0	0.691	10	13	4	1	1	0.806	21	0	0	0	0	1
C4	19	15	6	1	0	0.853	5	22	3	4	0	0.742	5	17	7	0	0	0.786	21	0	0	0	0	1
C5	34	4	2	1	0	0.946	14	15	5	0	0	0.828	22	6	1	0	0	0.944	18	1	2	0	0	0.952
C6	6	21	13	1	0	0.756	5	18	9	2	0	0.731	7	13	9	0	0	0.786	4	3	14	0	0	0.704
C7	14	19	7	1	0	0.824	7	8	18	1	0	0.702	11	11	5	2	0	0.813	18	2	1	0	0	0.961
C8	15	15	9	2	0	0.809	6	12	14	2	0	0.708	16	7	5	1	0	0.862	3	4	14	0	0	0.695
C9	37	4	0	0	0	0.98	11	21	2	0	0	0.828	17	10	2	0	0	0.903	19	0	2	0	0	0.961
C10	31	6	4	0	0	0.931	15	18	11	0	0	0.93	15	9	5	0	0	0.868	19	1	1	0	0	0.971
D1	9	29	0	3	0	0.814	12	18	4	0	0	0.822	14	13	1	1	0	0.875	3	18	0	0	0	0.828
D2	15	9	8	9	0	0.746	5	11	17	1	0	0.697	14	14	0	1	0	0.882	19	2	0	0	0	0.98
D3	15	2	17	6	1	0.717	4	22	7	1	0	0.748	7	3	14	2	3	0.662	21		0	0	0	1
D4	13	5	15	6	2	0.702	6	20	7	1	0	0.76	7	12	8	2	0	0.765	16	1	4	0	0	0.914
D5	15	11	9	3	3	0.756	16	12	5	1	0	0.828	6	9	10	3	1	0.71	19	2	0	0	0	0.98
D6	34	5	1	1	0	0.951	11	6	17	0	0	0.742	22	7	0	0	0	0.951	21	0	0	0	0	1
D7	22	12	7	0	0	0.873	21	7	6	0	0	0.862	24	3	2	0	0	0.951	5	16	0	0	0	0.847
D8	28	5	8	0	0	0.897	8	21	5	0	0	0.794	23	6	0	0	0	0.958	19	1	1	0	0	0.971

D9	11	12	12	6	0	0.736	9	17	7	1	0	0.777	15	5	6	3	0	0.82	7	14	0	0	0	0.866
E1	34	6	1	0	0	0.96	25	9	0	0	0	0.92	21	7	0	1	0	0.931	19	2	0	0	0	0.98
E2	27	13	0	0	1	0.917	10	23	1	0	0	0.828	22	6	0	0	1	0.931	8	13	0	0	0	0.876
E3	32	8	1	0	0	0.951	9	20	5	0	0	0.8	24	4	1	0	0	0.958	17	4	0	0	0	0.961
E4	17	23	0	1	0	0.873	14	8	10	2	0	0.777	7	14	7	0	1	0.779	4	17	0	0	0	0.838
E5	13	27	0	1	0	0.853	13	9	10	2	0	0.771	8	19	1	1	0	0.834	2	19	0	0	0	0.819
E6	22	18	1	0	0	0.902	15	19	2	1	0	0.908	13	9	7	0	0	0.841	1	20	0	0	0	0.809
E7	34	6	0	1	0	0.956	24	10	0	0	0	0.914	20	9	0	0	0	0.937	14	7	0	0	0	0.933
E8	26	14	0	0	1	0.912	24	9	1	0	0	0.908	20	8	1	0	0	0.931	3	18	0	0	0	0.828
E9	15	21	5	0	0	0.848	22	12	0	0	0	0.902	8	15	6	0	0	0.813	2	19	0	0	0	0.819
E10	18	17	5	1	0	0.853	2	30	2	0	0	0.777	10	16	2	0	1	0.834	5	16	0	0	0	0.847
E11	4	24	8	5	0	0.731	9	18	5	2	0	0.777	4	14	9	2	0	0.737	3	18	0	0	0	0.828
E12	0	25	8	8	0	0.683	5	20	7	2	0	0.742	0	17	9	3	0	0.696	3	18	0	0	0	0.828
E13	10	13	10	7	1	0.717	21	5	4	3	1	0.822	12	14	1	2	0	0.848	5	16	0	0	0	0.847
F1	37	2	0	1	1	0.956	23	10	1	0	0	0.902	25	4	0	0	0	0.972	14	7	0	0	0	0.933
F2	27	13	0	0	1	0.917	12	20	2	0	0	0.834	13	11	5	0	0	0.855	8	13	0	0	0	0.876
F3	12	28	1	0	0	0.853	12	18	4	0	0	0.822	6	18	4	1	0	0.8	6	15	0	0	0	0.857
F4	30	8	3	0	0	0.931	13	18	2	1	0	0.828	22	6	1	0	0	0.944	15	6	0	0	0	0.942
F5	25	14	1	1	0	0.907	23	9	2	0	0	0.897	11	10	7	1	0	0.813	16	5	0	0	0	0.952
G1	7	12	10	11	1	0.663	16	11	6	1	0	0.822	12	9	2	5	1	0.779	8	13	0	0	0	0.876
G2	1	15	4	19	2	0.57	7	16	7	3	1	0.725	13	9	0	4	3	0.772	1	20	0	0	0	0.809
G3	1	16	8	13	3	0.595	1	12	4	17	0	0.565	5	16	4	3	1	0.744	2	19	0	0	0	0.819
G4	3	16	9	9	4	0.624	6	8	7	13	0	0.622	3	18	2	3	3	0.703	2	19	0	0	0	0.819
G5	4	14	5	16	2	0.609	6	13	12	3	0	0.708	4	13	7	4	1	0.703	2	19	0	0	0	0.819
G6	4	14	8	13	2	0.624	5	15	11	3	0	0.708	8	12	5	3	1	0.758	3	18	0	0	0	0.828
H1	29	7	2	3	0	0.902	12	19	2	1	0	0.822	19	9	0	1	0	0.917	17	4	0	0	0	0.961
H2	25	12	2	2	0	0.892	8	24	2	0	0	0.811	13	11	4	1	0	0.848	18	3	0	0	0	0.971
H3	4	19	4	14	0	0.663	8	22	3	1	0	0.794	5	16	3	5	0	0.744	7	14	0	0	0	0.866
I1	0	21	3	15	2	0.609	15	12	4	3	0	0.805	1	12	7	8	1	0.627	2	19	0	0	0	0.819
I2	0	23	11	5	2	0.668	5	24	5	0	0	0.777	1	9	7	9	3	0.572	2	19	0	0	0	0.819
I3	6	16	12	6	1	0.697	10	21	2	1	0	0.811	1	7	8	12	1	0.565	4	17	0	0	0	0.838
I4	3	18	10	8	2	0.658	18	8	5	2	1	0.811	6	8	7	7	1	0.675	0	21	0	0	0	0.8
I5	1	14	7	15	4	0.565	8	18	6	1	1	0.76	1	11	6	9	2	0.6	0	21	0	0	0	0.8
I6	4	14	0	15	8	0.556	7	3	18	3	3	0.628	4	6	5	7	7	0.551	1	20	0	0	0	0.809
I7	2	13	3	16	7	0.536	8	12	6	6	2	0.685	3	8	4	8	6	0.558	1	19	1	0	0	0.8
I8	3	14	2	17	5	0.565	8	9	9	7	1	0.674	4	8	6	8	3	0.613	1	19	1	0	0	0.8
I9	1	14	6	15	5	0.556	5	9	13	6	1	0.645	5	7	4	12	1	0.62	1	19	1	0	0	0.8

Thus the top overall factors and individual factor according to engineer, client, architect and contractors were identified and then it was cross verified.



#### IV. CONCLUSION

In today's world, the construction sector is rated as one of the key sectors. It helps in developing and achieving the goal of society. Study and knowledge of construction productivity are very important since they eliminate the losses to the governing agencies and also influence the economics of the construction industry. Prior knowledge of construction productivity during construction can save money and time. Investments for these projects are very high and because of the complexity in construction, various factors can highly affect overall productivity, thus the project can end up adding even more time and money in order to be completed. This research is intended to identify the causes of probable factors affecting construction productivity in industry.

Now defy the complex nature of construction activities and the presence of several contents of questionnaire of outside the control of management, the models and the underlying implications can help construction personnel to achieve improved productivity rates on sites; i.e. to ensure favourable factors for achieving optimal productivity, keeping costs within budget, completing projects on time and ultimately helping contractors to run their business profitably.

#### V. RECOMENDATIONS

1. Administration of labors must be proper- Labors must be be managed properly. At sites safety instructions must be provided to them for their well being.
2. Proper working of equipments- Every equipment must be checked on regular basis and record should be maintained for them.
3. Dedicated employees- It must be ensured that dedicated and knowledgeable employees must be recruited at site.
4. Manufacturing methods- Mordernized equipments must be used as much as possibl to reduce time and cost of construction.

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