

FACTORS AFFECTING IMPLEMENTATION OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY: THE CASE OF MOMBASA COUNTY, KENYA

Degree Programme: [MASTER OF ARTS IN PROJECT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT](#) [1]

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This study sought to establish the factors affecting implementation of occupational health and safety measures in the building construction industry in Kenya with a focus on Mombasa County. The specific objectives were; To establish the extent to which health and safety management systems in a building construction company affects implementation of occupational health and safety measures; To establish the extent to which training and inductions affects implementation of occupational health and safety measures in building construction sites; To investigate whether the cost of risk control measures affect implementation of occupational health and safety measures and lastly; To assess how a building-project client influences implementation of occupational health and safety measures in a building project. The research design was a survey descriptive study using simple random sampling technique and self-administered questionnaires as the main data collection instrument supplemented by interviews and observations. The study's target population was the building construction firms carrying out building construction business in Mombasa County. Data was collected and analyzed using the SPSS a statistical computer software for research data. Findings from the study indicate that although 57.6% agree to have health and safety policy at workplace, only 30% and less have any knowledge about health and safety management systems. 76.1% of the respondents claim to do training and induction of their staff. 72.6% of the respondents think providing and maintaining risk control measures is costly. 46.6% of the respondents think their clients are not responsive to enforcing health and safety measures in their building projects. 51.8% of the respondents feel government policy on health and safety in the construction industry is poor, hence only 45.7% possess a copy of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2007. The researcher concluded that a number of factors inhibit the implementation of occupational health and safety measures in the construction industry, among them; Absence of health and safety management systems, lack or inadequate training and inductions, the high costs involved in providing and maintaining risk control measures, lack of concern towards health and safety issues in building project by the clients and the government's limited capacity in providing appropriate legal framework and inspectorate personnel to enforce compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2007. The researcher recommended that measures be taken to enlighten building contractors about the importance of health and safety management systems which they should integrate into their management fibre to help create a health and safety culture in their organizations. Through awareness forums conducted by professional bodies in partnership with government departments, building contractors to be encouraged to seek ISO certifications relevant to health and safety management issues. The government on the other hand should strengthen the legal, institutional framework and inspectorate activities in order to enforce compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2007. Finally, Kenya being a member country at the International Labour Organization should ratify all conventions relevant to issues of health and safety in construction works in a bid to demonstrate its commitment to worker's health and safety.

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