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UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY MARA (UiTM)**

**A STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPLICATION OF TOTAL
SUB/SUB-LABOUR FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

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CHAPTER 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preface

Being successful as a contractor can be difficult for the most experienced business owner. For individuals just starting out, or with limited experience in business matters, success might seem unreachable. Survival can depend on experience; experience that many contractors don't have. It is unusual for main contractor to carry out all the work with his own labour, except when the job is very limited and simple.



A few companies have no workmen on their own payrolls and sub-let all the various lines to other contractors. A few, at the other extreme, have all the workmen on their own payrolls and sub-let nothing. The majority however, do all the laying out and superintending and some of the work with their own men. In some countries, for example Malaysia, America, India, England, the Commonwealth countries, and generally in Malaysia, all the work is let by the client to a single contractor. The contractor then sub-lets work to other contractors.

Usually the main contractor carries out the main trades, masonry, concreting, excavating and carpentry with his own labour and sub-lets some of the finishing and the servicing trades. Sometimes the main contractor will sub-let virtually all the operations, he himself being responsible for organizing the work. This type of sub-contracting is known as total sub.

In Malaysia in recent years there has been a considerable increase in labour only sub-contracting, often referred to as the lump or sub-labour. Labour only sub-contractors as their name suggests, provide a labour force for particular sections of the work, such as concreting or bricklaying. The main contractor provides all the necessary materials including, usually, any necessary unloading and distribution. Waste may be even greater than usual since, as the basis for payment to the sub-contractor is usually on a schedule of labour-only rates or a fixed price, economy in the use of materials will not be uppermost in the sub-contractor's mind.