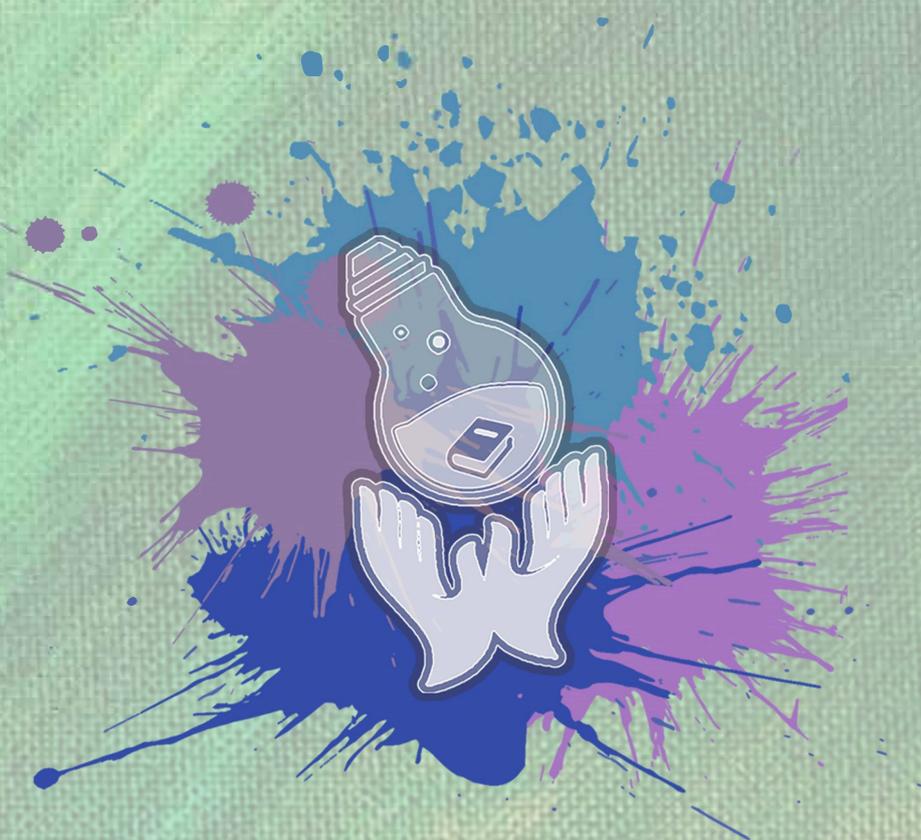




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# CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AT CONSTRUCTION SITES

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## **Abstract:**

The construction industry in Malaysia is fast growing nowadays. Along with that, this industry faces growing numbers of criminal activities at construction site such as theft, murder, bribery, vandalism and etc. The aim of this research is to identify the problems that contribute to the criminal activities and the ways to decrease criminal activities at the construction site. The research objective for this research is to identify the types of criminal activities at construction sites, to determine the contributing factors and to recommend precaution strategies to decrease the criminal activities at construction site. The questionnaire were distributed to G7 contractors in Kedah using probability sampling technique. The data were summarized into tables, diagram, charts and schedules and analysed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software version 25. This result indicates about the criminal activities at the construction site. This paper can identify the problems that contribute to the criminal activities and the ways to decrease criminal activities at the construction site.

## **Keywords:**

Crime; Construction Site

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The construction industry is the backbone in economic growth in developing many countries. On top of that, this industry is very important and need to be carried out without any problem appear. According to Evelyn (2004), construction industry is a complex industry which involves many parties and sometimes it called unsafe places. In the construction industry, time, cost and quality are important factors. Criminal activities which occur at construction site can make losses to the contractor and the client affecting the completion date need to be extended and the quality of the works will be affected. For example, theft of plant and machinery will affect the construction work program hence incur cost to the contractor. The research objective for this research is to identify the types of criminal activities at construction sites, to determine the contributing factors and to recommend precaution strategies to decrease the criminal activities at construction site.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

Crime is an unlawful act punishable by a state or other authority. Criminal is the negative activities that occurs among the people. For instance, crimes can be in the form of corruption, rape, terrorist criminal activities, kidnapping, human trafficking, assault, vagrancy and failure to pay public tax, utility bills or transport, drugs and narcotics abuse, wanton environmental destruction and unauthorised dumping of toxic substances (Ghani, 2017). Crime is the illegal things by the law that can happen anywhere. Likewise crimes occur in the construction industry too. Stealing the property defined as those offences involving the loss of property during which there is no use of violence by the perpetrators (Ghani, 2017). There are many type of the properties available at site such as plant, machineries and materials which can be subjected to theft. Theft at the construction site targeting the construction equipment and building materials, is widely considered a common and extends problem (Sakurai et al. 2008). As mentioned by Boba (2008), the big negative impact on the region that prided itself on the traditional measures of its performance due to the increases in theft at the construction site. Vandalism is another negative activity carried out by irresponsible person. This activity can occur the losses to the contractor and drain their money. Vandalism and theft can directly impact the success of a project and decreasing the potential profitability of the project under construction (O. O Farinloye, et al 2005). In construction industry which involve huge amount of money, bribery activities are possible to occur. The corrupt activities can be found at every phase in construction projects, for example in the planning stage, the selecting of

construction contracts as well as the operation and maintenance of projects after construction is finished (Sohail and Cavill, 2006).

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

The scope area for the study of this paper is in Kedah while the target respondent for the study is contractors from the grade G7 which will be selected randomly by using the stratified sampling method. In total, 227 sets of the questionnaire were distributed to the numbers of contractors and from the questionnaires distributes, only 73 contractors had responded to this survey. The questionnaire comprises of four (4) sections which are Section A: Company particulars, Section B: Types of Criminal Activities Arising in Construction Site, Section C: Factors That Contributed to the Criminal Activities in the Construction Site, Section D: The Crime Precaution Strategies To Decrease The Criminal Activities Arising In The Construction Site.

### 4.0 ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Table 1: Types of Criminal Activities Arising in Construction Site

	Ranking	Mean
Stealing The Property	1	4.2192
Vandalism	2	3.9863
Bribery	3	3.9726
Terrorism	4	3.9589
Murder	5	3.3014

The top rank of the types of criminal activities occurred at the construction site is stealing the property with the mean 4.21 and the lowest ranking is murder with the mean 3.30.

Table 2: Factors That Contributed to the Criminal Activities in the Construction Site

	Ranking	Mean
Foreign Labour	1	4.3699
Lack of Supervision	2	4.1644
Internal Theft	3	4.1507
High Cost in Construction Material	4	4.0685
Trespass	5	4.0274
Physical Environment	6	4.01

The top rank for the factors that contribute the criminal activities at the construction site is foreign labour with the mean 4.36 and the lowest ranking is physical environment with the mean 4.01.

Table 3: The Crime Precaution Strategies to Decrease the Criminal Activities Arising In the Construction Site

	Ranking	Mean
Provide Hoarding	1	4.4384
Lock Everything Up	2	4.3836
Control Site Access	3	4.3699
Build a Crime Prevention Signage	4	4.3151

Natural Surveillance	5	4.2466
Surveillance Devices	6	4.2055
Identifying Property	7	4.2055
Target Removal	8	3.9589

The top rank for precaution strategies to decrease the criminal activities at the construction site is providing the hoarding with the mean 4.43 and the lowest ranking is target removal with the mean 3.95.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

In summary, there are few types of criminal activities at the construction site. The highest is theft followed by vandalism of the property. The main factors that contribute to the criminal activities at sites are foreign labours and lack of supervision. Next, the main precaution strategies preferred by the contractor to decrease the criminal activities arising in the construction site is by providing hoardings and locking up properties. As a conclusion, it is hope that this research can help the construction industry with explaining about the criminal activities at the construction site can reduce the risk of criminal activities at sites thus ensuring the smooth run of construction projects.

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