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AN AWARENESS OF QUALITY ASSESSMENT SYSTEM IN CONSTRUCTION (QLASSIC) AMONG CONTRACTORS

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ABSTRACT

The performance of construction structures is assessed and evaluated using the QLASSIC rating system. It is based on CIS 7:2006, the Construction Industry Standard. Some of the construction project's workers are still unaware of how QLASSIC might improve the project's quality; they only know QLASSIC as an evaluation tool. The objectives of this paper research are to determine the level of awareness QLASSIC implementation. This research paper employed the quantitative method, a questionnaire survey form that enabledthe collection of information on the issues concerning the related person involved in a terrace house construction project at Perak Tengah, Perak. Thirty-three valid responses were received and used for the analysis. The result shows that the most important awareness of QLASSIC is that it will reflect the overall quality performance of a given construction project. The highest result for the advantages of QLASSIC is to ensure defect issues are identified for future improvement and while for the strategy to improve implementation, QLASSIC is to provide training for employees at the construction site. The purpose of this paper is to further strengthen the awareness and implementation system of QLASSIC.

Keywords: construction, house, strategy, awareness, contractor

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INTRODUCTION

The construction industry is a vital sector that has significantly driven the nation's growth. Within this industry, ensuring high-quality standards is essential for ensuring tenant satisfaction. To support Malaysia's economy's rapid expansion and development, continuous improvement in construction sector quality is imperative.

Construction projects must submit an application to the Quality Assessment System in Construction (QLASSIC) to guarantee that the industry's quality will remain high or improve. In order to assess the level of workmanship of construction projects in compliance with the Construction Industry Standard (CIS 7:2006), the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) introduced QLASSIC in 2007 (SPBproperty 2021).

In order to deliver high-quality products to clients, construction quality assessment was implemented in Malaysia. Although QLASSIC was developed by CIDB in 2007, even after some time in use, its utilization in building projects is still relatively minimal. Some of the construction project's workers are still unaware of QLASSIC, which can improve the project's quality. They are just aware of QLASSIC as an evaluation tool. (Seman et al., 2021). The major objective of this paper is to determine the level of awareness implementation QLASSIC at the construction site.

This study's primary interest is in how well contractors are aware of the quality assessment system in construction (QLASSIC). The terrace house construction project in Perak Tengah, Perak, which costs in the range of RM220,000.00 to RM300,000.00, is the subject of the study's research on the construction industry type. Architects, engineers, safety and health officers, quantity surveyors, site supervisors, contractors, and project managers make up the sole sample in this study. This study used a quantitative approach that made it possible to gather the necessary data on the concerns of individuals associated with a terrace house construction project, as well as the level of awareness, benefits and identify the strategies to improve QLASSIC implementation at Perak Tengah, Perak.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Quality is crucial in the construction sector to ensure the pleasure of the building owner and residents. In order to support the industries and Malaysia's economy's rapid expansion and development, quality for the construction sector must thus be continually improved. The baseline for the level of workmanship for the various building construction work components is established by QLASSIC. Marks are given depending on how closely the workmanship complies with the standard (CIS 7: 2014) to calculate the QLASSIC Score (%) for the building work (Report CIDB 2020).

Objectives of Qlassic

According to (CIDB), QLASSIC have 5 objectives that why it was being launched such as raising the standard of quality in the construction sector, having a uniform quality assessment system that serves as a benchmark for the excellence of construction projects, assessing a construction project's level of workmanship in accordance with the relevant approved standard, to utilize the QLASSIC score as a criterion to evaluate the performance of the contractors and to compile data for statistical analysis in determining the level of productivity and quality in the construction sector.

Important of Qlassic

To know more about the important of QLASSIC, (SPBproperty 2021) have divided itinto two parts. Which are:

For home-buyers

High QLASSIC ratings demonstrate the value place on workmanship and commitment to offering the best product available. Therefore, prospective homeowners must be aware of the developers' QLASSIC scores, or at the at least, comprehend the basics of how it works and what it signifies. By analysing if the housecomplies with the norms and requirements set by CIDB with the aid of this essential information, homebuyers may make wiser decisions and lower the risks of purchasing a property with construction problems evident everywhere. Product quality is alwaysmore crucial than product quantity.

For developers

In many ways, QLASSIC is also crucial for developers. It not only serves as a benchmark for how well developers perform in terms of quality in relation to standardpractices in the industry, but it also makes it possible to compare workmanship in terms of quality and quantity, which might be used as a benchmark for building standards. Enabling developers to identify their weak points and make the required improvements.

Scope of Qlassic

The standards for many construction components used in building projects and otherinfrastructure operations are described in QLASSIC, according to (Report CIDB 2020). If the workmanship and finishes of the construction work fulfill the criteria, points are awarded. These standards serve as the foundation for the quality evaluation of the workmanship and finishes.

The final quality score for a project is then calculated using these points, and it is known as the QLASSIC Score (%). Field testing and inspection are used to carry out the assessment on the construction site. According to the Report CIDB 2020, the evaluation will be based on recently examined construction projects (Report CIDB 2020).

Component of Qlassic

Before starting the assessment, the assessor will select the samples (components or locations) that must be examined. The samples were chosen using the construction project's blueprints and drawings. Samples of the structural works are taken in two or three stages, depending on the magnitude of the structural activities, beginning with the start of the superstructure activity and concluding with the completion of the structural works (Norizam & Malek, 2013). The components of QLASSIC are structural, architectural, mechanical, and electrical (M&E) and external works.

Awareness of Qlassic

Having QLASSIC in the construction sector can ensure that the construction project is in excellent condition. Construction plays a significant role in the development of the nation. Although QLASSIC contributes significantly to building, most individuals are unaware of its significance. These benefits include enhancing the project's effectiveness, enhancing the company's marketing initiatives, enhancing the company's ability to compete, ensuring that the construction project has fewer reworks and errors, securing the company's market position, expanding positive growth in the construction industry, raising employees' awareness of quality, enhancing the company's reputation, enhancing the company's ability to compete, improve the quality of the work, boost the efficiency of the construction projects, boostthe construction project's quality and lessen the need for rework on the projects (Manap et al., 2018).

METHODOLOGY

To identify the awareness of QLASSIC among contractors, an online questionnaire Google Form consisted of part A for the level of awareness of the implementation QLASSIC on a scale of 1 to 5, corresponding from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'.

This research's primary data collection method is an online questionnaire administered through Google Forms. The questionnaire targets various professionals involved in construction projects, including architects, engineers, safety and health officers, quantity surveyors, site supervisors, contractors, and project managers. These individuals have direct relevance to the construction field. Additionally, secondary data is obtained by thoroughly examining previous relevant articles, journals from online sources, books, and the internet.

FINDING

Table 1 below shows the Data collection about the level of awareness of the implementation QLASSIC. The data shown is in percentage form.

Table 1: Data collection about level awareness of implementation QLASSIC

Statement	The level of awareness of implementation QLASSIC	1	2	3	4	5
1	QLASSIC is to be the benchmark of the quality in the construction industry.	3%	12%	6%	33%	46%
2	QLASSIC assess structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical, and external works.	3%	0%	17%	40%	40%
3	QLASSIC assessment will be carried out by the external assessor.	0%	3%	30%	40%	27%
4	QLASSIC score will reflect the overall quality performance of a given construction project.	9%	3%	12%	27%	49%
5	QLASSIC is to provide a standard for satisfactory on-site workmanship by defining the desired final product quality.	6%	12%	6%	33%	43%

ANALYSIS

Regarding data collection reveals that a majority of the respondents strongly agree with statement 1, which QLASSIC is to be the benchmark of quality in the construction industry. They are aware that the QLASSIC assessment rating can be utilized to compare the performance of internal and external projects with similar scopes. Statement 2 garnered an equal number of respondents who agree or strongly agree, indicating that they understand that QLASSIC will assess structural, architectural, mechanical and electrical, and external works. While most respondents agree with statement 3, some remain neutral about QLASSIC assessment will be carried out by the external assessor, possibly because they have not undergone a QLASSIC assessment for their own projects. It is important to note that construction professionals must participate in the QLASSIC training course CIDB offers to become QLASSIC assessors (Sohimi, 2017). As for statement 4, half of the respondents strongly agree that the QLASSIC score will reflect the overall quality performance of a given construction project since QLASSIC assesses all aspects of the construction works. The outcome of the QLASSIC assessment is instrumental in determining the quality level of a project, whether it is deemed good or poor. Additionally, respondents strongly agree with statement 5, which QLASSIC is to provide a standard for satisfactory on-site workmanship by defining the desired final product quality. This alignment with statement 4 is significant because it allows workers to gauge the quality of their efforts. If the workmanship is determined to be poor, they can identify the areas that need improvement and strive to deliver better quality work.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this research focused on the awareness implementation of QLASSIC in the construction industry. The findings shed light on the current state of knowledge and perceptions among contractors regarding QLASSIC. According to the analysis of the survey data, there is a good amount of awareness regarding QLASSIC but there is potential for improvement. Many respondents recognized QLASSIC as a benchmark for quality in the construction industry and understood its assessment scope across various construction components. However, some respondents remained neutral, indicating a need for further education and awareness initiatives. To enhance the implementation QLASSIC knowledge and awareness in construction sites the employees must identify several strategies. These included providing employee training, engaging subcontractors and consultants in QLASSIC training, making QLASSIC compulsory for all development projects, hosting promotional events, reducing registration fees, and enforcing QLASSIC as a primary criterion for project approval. These strategies aim to improve awareness, knowledge, and adherence to QLASSIC standards, leading to better quality outcomes in construction projects.

By implementing the suggested strategies and addressing the identified areas for improvement, the construction industry can reap the full benefits of QLASSIC, enhance its reputation, and contribute to the overall growth and development of the nation's economy.

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