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Implementation of the Best Practices for Scaffolding in Construction Industries to Prevent Workplace Incidents

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Abstract: *This research project is undertaken to measure the degree of safety in the use of scaffolds in India and to correlate safe scaffold practice to construction management and labor. Fall from height is the leading cause of death for construction workers. Accident that relates to scaffold due to collapse or fall from scaffolding is the second leading cause of fall averaging 32% in five years 2003 to 2021- [NIOSH]. This study focus on accident that relate to five types of scaffolding that are commonly employed in construction site. The methodologies used in this research are interviews with the people involved in the construction site and questionnaires which are distributed to the construction management and workers. Literature review discovers that adequate training, competency of erecting and dismantling scaffold and sufficient inspection and maintenance of scaffold can prevent accident. This paper discusses about the scaffolding safety in construction sites in Penang. Safety of workers at construction sites is one of the major concerns in construction industry. It is well recognized that the construction industry is one of the most dangerous industries in which to work in. The reasons for these dangers are the hazards faced by the workers in this industry. The equipment of their use on the construction sites are the cause of many of these hazards. One of the equipment with which injuries and death commonly occur among workers is working with scaffolds. Scaffolds play its role by providing passageway, support the structure and as a working platform. They are commonly used for working at heights and where there is the potential risk for workers to fall from height during job done on scaffolding. Falls are the largest cause of accidental death in the construction industry. Therefore, a study has been carried out to investigate and to emphasize on scaffolding hazards and strategies to prevent the hazards. The main objective is to measure the level of safety factor by using scaffolding awareness among employers and construction workers through case study observations in medium sized housing projects and high-rise projects at construction sites in Penang. Questionnaires have been distributed among the employers and unstructured interviews have been conducted with safety officers and officer from the Department of Safety and Health. The results show that scaffolding safety management at the high-rise projects is in compliance with the act and regulation requirements in India compared to the medium sized housing projects. The study also shows that all employers are well aware of the safety and health regulations in construction sites including scaffolding safety and their responsibilities to reduce fatalities and injuries in the construction industry.*

Keywords: scaffolding in construction industries.

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