



Influence of Project Triple Constraint on Residential Building Project among Kuantan Malaysian Construction Industry

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Abstract

The main goal was to examine a series of hindrances that are related to the construction projects, most of which were caused by delay in time, cost overrun and poor quality of the projects. Aside from these, the lack of proper planning regarding cost estimation may sometimes lead to overestimation or underestimation, thus resulting in the delay of construction projects or incompleteness of the task. To address these issues above, this research paper aims to: 1) To investigate the significant relationship between time and construction project among Kuantan, Malaysia construction industry; 2) To investigate the significant relationship between cost and construction project among Kuantan, Malaysia construction industry; and 3) To investigate the significant relationship between quality and construction project among Kuantan, Malaysia construction industry. The data were collected from 89 respondents among Kuantan construction companies. In this research, PLS-SEM technique was used to assess both the measurement and structural models. The result shows that there is a significant relationship between the quality and construction projects of residential building in Kuantan, Malaysia. The relationship of quality in triple constraints and the residential buildings was also found to be positively correlated in this study.

Keywords: *Construction industry, time, cost, quality, residual building project.*

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1. Introduction

Construction projects had clearly become a central activity in most organizations and companies and they are rapidly increasing their investment resources in projects especially on housing projects. The construction industry is vital to the economic growth of Malaysia and still remains one of the major contributors to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Malaysia despite the financial recession (Egerer,

Langmantel, and Zimmer 2016). The construction industry had been consistently contributing an average of 3.8% to the Malaysian GDP for over three decades (CIDB, 2006). Therefore, the economy of a country has a close relationship with the construction outputs (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2015).

According to Wang (1994) and Abanda et al. (2013), as construction activities are becoming more complex, a more sophisticated approach is necessary to deal with initiating, planning, financing, designing, approving, implementing and completing a project. Therefore, the main aim of this research is to see how the triple constraints (time, cost and quality) affect the housing construction project in Kuantan, Malaysia (Hassan & Adeleke, 2019; Bamgbade et al., 2019).

The main aim of this study is to address problems been faced by project managers concerning the elements of the triple constraint (time, cost and quality) in the construction projects activities (Michael, 2004). In order to achieve this and successful completion of any project, the project team must understand the importance of the constraint quality (Pretorius, 2012).

Besides, projects have a strategy and clear objectives for easier completion based on project management (Adeleke et al., 2019; Fred, 2015). Previous studies have given a list of the requirements needed by the project management in order to have successful completion of building projects. There must be a proper schedule which must be well suited to stakeholders' expectation, management of project activities, task-related works, and ability of project manager to meet the objectives of the projects.

Also, the quality of performance in project management will help in identifying and overcoming challenges during the project execution. Building risk may result from unsuitable timing, budget, and quality. In addition, improper cost of material sometimes occurs during project management which may affect the completion of the project (Abulhakim & Adeleke, 2019; Darrel, 2010).

2. Literature Review

2.1. Overview of the Malaysian Construction Industry

According to (Department Of Statistics Malaysia 2018), the total population of Malaysia is 31.62 million populaces in the final quarter of 2017 consists of 13 states and three federal territories, separated by the South China Sea into two similarly sized regions, Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia (Malaysian Borneo). The country is multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. About half the population is ethnically Malay, with large minorities of Malaysian Chinese, Malaysian Indians, and indigenous peoples (Azman & Adeleke, 2018; Taofeeq et al., 2019; Bamgbade et al., 2019).

The government of Malaysia has drawn a roadmap to transform the economy of the country in order to be recognized as a developed nation. Since its independence, the Malaysian economy has observed strategic plans with five-year thrusts. The strategic thrusts are in line with the goal to become a high-income nation by 2020. Looking towards the 2020 target, the challenge is to sustain the impetus of healthy growth which requires an average and consistent growth of 6.0 % in GDP per annum during the Eleventh Plan Period. To achieve this target, the economic sectors are to play significant roles in which the construction industry is active and features prominently in terms of policy formulation and implementations.

The construction industry is an economic investment and its relationship with economic development is well theorized. Many studies have emphasized the important contribution of the construction industry to national economic development (Myers 2013). Nation-building necessitates participation in and contribution to the efficiency, productivity, cost competitiveness, and environment in the construction industry in order to develop the industry and make use of its resources more efficiently (Adeleke et al., 2019; Badawi, 2007).

The construction industry has assumed a vital role in creating wealth and improving the standard of living of citizenry through government's socio-economic policies and infrastructural development; it further creates a multiplier effect on other industries, in manufacturing, financial services, and professional services (Robby, 2015).

Quality in the construction industry will have to involve more than contractors alone. Architects and engineers will need to be involved as well using the three contributing factors (material, construction and design faults). About 50% of the failures of construction projects can be attributed to design faults while 40% are due to construction faults and 10% are as a result of material faults (CIDM, 2015). The strategies and the action plans implemented by CIMP covered 10 years (2006 to 2015). This has been adopted for the growth of the construction industry in Malaysia (Jamil and Adeleke et al., 2018; Najib, 2015).

2.2. Conceptual Framework

This research is conducted using the specified model with clearly defined independent and dependent variables. Based on the conceptual framework, the independent variables in this research project triple constraints (time, cost and quality), and the dependent variable is building construction project (residential building project) delivery. Thus, the framework shows the relationships between these variables, which the findings will indicate whether they are significant or not (Hassan et al., 2019; Adeleke et al., 2015).

Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework for project triple constraints for residential building projects.

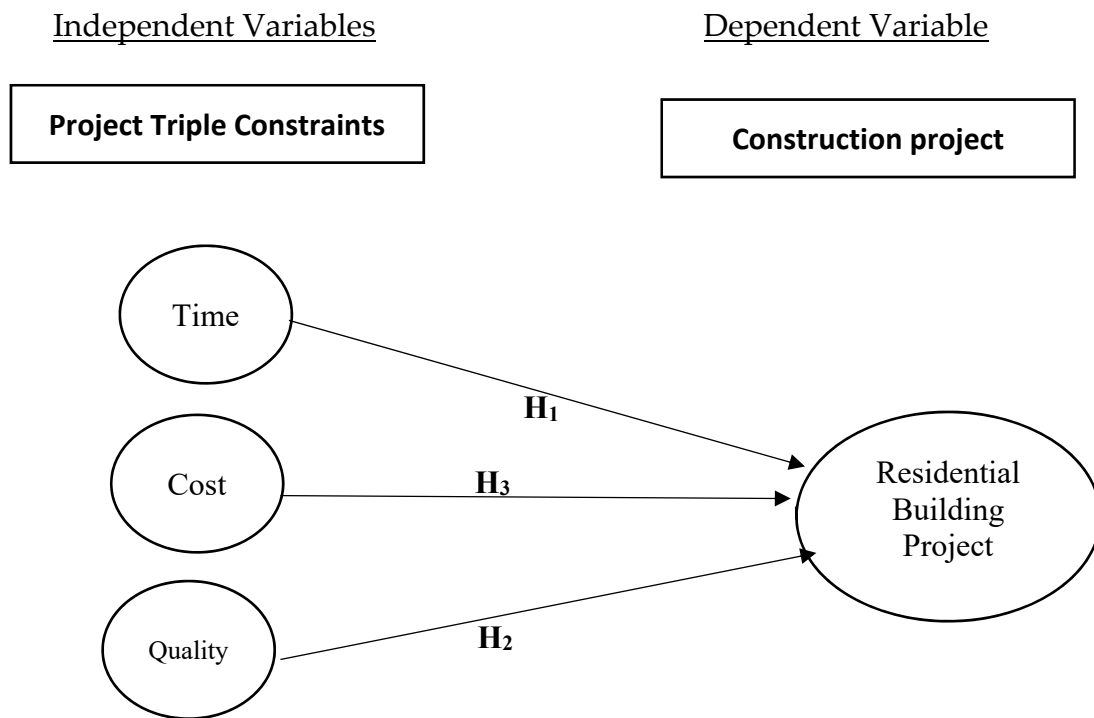


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

2.2. Relationship between Triple Constraints and Construction Projects (Residential Building Projects)

It has been given many names, the project management triangle, the iron triangle, and the project triangle, the project triple constraint is a model that measures the project success in project management. It indicates the best way of assessing projects during construction. Cost, time and quality of the building projects were considered in the construction companies in this study as shown in Figure 1 as emphasized by Leon, (2011). This model is related to carrying out projects with substantial change; however, project managers always overlook this case in the construction industry.

Moreso, when changes occur in the process of operating the project triple constraint, it is necessary to consider constant variables during the construction projects. But sometimes no limitation is incurred in some projects (Malik & Adeleke, 2018; Taofeeq et al., 2019; Dobson, 2004). Project triple constraint is important for decision and evaluation of the building projects. Sometimes it is not enough because it requires other previous project activities for the evaluation (Pretorius, 2011). The constraint of projects varies in terms of cost, time and quality which are called project triple constraint. It is important to identify and balance the variables in order to complete projects so as to enjoy the benefit. (Samaha,

2007). The unsuccessful outcome of projects is mostly due to delay in time, the intended deliverable areas, over cost and inadequate system (Gelbard and Pliskin, 2002). In addition, lack of analysis and design sometimes results in problems as previously suggested (Rahman & Adeleke, 2018; Nienaber, 2003).

The quality of work in the construction industry is mostly related to the improvement of projects based on project triples such as time, cost and quality. Before evaluating the performance of a job, the breakdown of the system should be understood because it depends on the project quality (Stellman, 2012). The time of the project is another constraint. The estimated and intended time of project completion should be evaluated in the construction company. Companies should always engage in following up scheduled projects by systematically planning operations so as to set up projects (Steyn, 2006). Project cost is the last element to consider while establishing a project. Cost should be estimated to cover the whole project. In view of the above, this study, therefore, initiates these relationships by putting the following hypotheses forward:

Hypothesis 1: There is a significant relationship between the time and construction projects of residential building projects in Kuantan, Malaysia.

Hypothesis 2: There is a significant relationship between the cost and construction project of residential building projects in Kuantan, Malaysia.

Hypothesis 3: There is a significant relationship between quality and construction projects of residential building projects in Kuantan, Malaysia.

3. Methodology

The section includes research design, data collection technique, questionnaire sampling, the method that been used, research instrument, statistical technique, hypothesis testing, data analysis and the summary for overall methodology. This research is a cross-sectional research design by using a structured questionnaire, the data was collected at single-point-in-time (Sekaran and Bougie 2013). Proportionate stratified random sampling technique was employed for sample selection in the research. The quantitative research approach was used in this study, as this is mostly adopted in social science researches (Sabodin & Adeleke, 2018; Sekaran 2006) This research was conducted among construction companies in Kuantan. A total number of 89 questionnaires were personally collected from the sampled companies in Kuantan, Malaysia.

3.1. Instrument Design

All the variables that are reviewed on the research framework for this research are needed to be measured, thus, an appropriate survey with five-point Likert scaling was adopted and adapted for the purpose of this study. So, responses from the respondent were measured with the scale as categorized thus: “Strongly disagree=5”, “Disagree=4”, “Neutral=3”, “Agree=2” and “Strongly disagree=1”. (Sekaran and Bougie 2013), The rating scale helps the researcher to compute the standard deviation and the mean feedback on the variables and the mid-point of the scale and likewise to prevent the respondents from selecting an unbiased point which may reduce the quality of the questionnaire. Below is the summary of the indicators that were measured.

Table 1. Summary of the survey instrument in the questionnaire

Section	Description	Variable	No. of item
1	Demographic	-	8
2	Time	IV's	10
3	Cost	IV's	10
4	Quality	IV's	10
5	Building project	DV	10
Total			48

4. Results and Discussions

4.1. Data Collection and Sample

Out of 135 sets of questionnaires that were distributed to the construction companies in Kuantan, Pahang, 89 copies were duly completed and returned which represent 65.93% for the response rate in this study. This is acceptable because the sample size for this research is 89 respondents (Taofeeq & Adeleke, 2019; Bamgbade et al., 2019).

Table 2. Summary of Demographic Scales of Respondents

Type	Items	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Position	Site Engineer	50	56.20
	Project Manager	30	33.70
	General Employee	9	10.10
Working experience	1-5 years	30	33.70
	6-10 years	21	23.60
	11-15years	20	22.50
	>15 years	18	20.20
Gender	Male	50	56.20
	Female	39	43.80
Company Ownership	Local	89	100.00
Type of Project	Residual Building	83	93.30
	Educational Building	4	4.50
	Commercial Building	2	2.20
	Building		
Company Prime Location	Local market areas	48	53.90
	Across Malaysia	27	30.30
	Within few states	14	15.70
Company Existence	1-5 years	1	1.10
	6-10 years	2	2.20
	11-15 years	12	13.50
	>15 years	74	83.10
Number of Employee	0-50	3	3.40
	50-100	22	24.70
	100-150	27	30.30
	>150	37	41.60

4.2. Measurement Model

Before examining the hypothesis, the measurement model and the outer model were tested through the partial least square structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) technique. The figure below shows the model of this research with the structural dimensions below (Adeleke et al., 2018; Taofeeq et al., 2020).

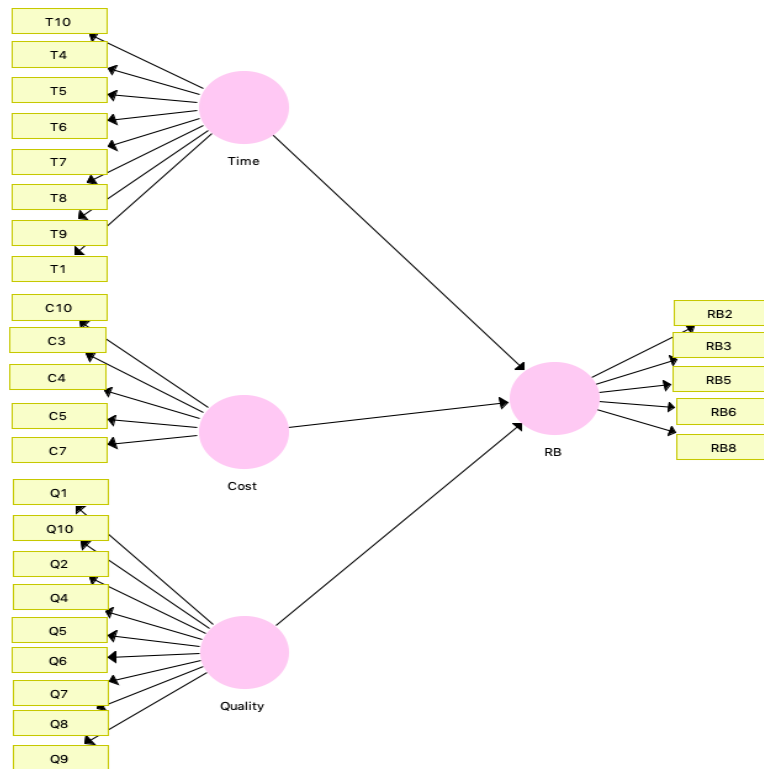


Figure 2. Measurement Model

Table 3 shows the content validity of the measurement model which is explained in two ways. Firstly, there are high loading in the items on their respective constructs when related to other constructs. Secondly is the loading of the items were significantly loading on their respective constructs affirming the content validity of the measure used in this research (Bamgbade et al., 2017; Adeleke et al., 2015; Chow and Chan, 2008).

Table 3. Factor Analysis and Loading of the items (Cross Loading)

	RB	Cost	Quality	Time
RB2	0.617	0.374	0.312	0.251
RB3	0.668	0.186	0.471	0.218
RB5	0.782	0.244	0.409	0.217
RB6	0.733	0.288	0.389	0.092
RB8	0.683	0.223	0.374	0.178
C3	0.254	0.734	0.56	0.621
C5	0.201	0.746	0.423	0.326
C7	0.261	0.748	0.412	0.54
Q1	0.352	0.41	0.617	0.366
Q2	0.382	0.394	0.621	0.313
Q4	0.375	0.395	0.728	0.324
Q5	0.376	0.62	0.785	0.492
Q7	0.294	0.461	0.705	0.35
Q8	0.442	0.369	0.658	0.273
Q9	0.522	0.672	0.786	0.354
T4	0.085	0.545	0.404	0.647
T5	0.084	0.377	0.284	0.643
T6	0.097	0.446	0.126	0.604
T7	0.177	0.56	0.43	0.742
T8	0.311	0.329	0.317	0.747

The convergent validity is considered to be the extent to which a group of variables converges to measure a specific concept. To establish the convergent analysis, there are three criteria that were examined, especially the factor loadings, composite reliability (CR) and average variance extracted (AVE). Furthermore, all items of loading were tested which is acceptable for all items then, its values must be more than 0.6 following the literature of the multivariate approach. Besides, the other criterion is the composite reliability (CR) to examine convergent validity. It referred to as the extent to which a set of items regularly indicate the latent construct (Hair et. al, 2010). In Table 4, the values of CR and AVE were tested. The values of CR from 0.870 to 0.940 which is more than expected values of 0.7. These results show the AVE measures the variance that covered by indicators in relation to the variance assigned to the measurement errors. Barclay et. al (1995), stated that the AVE value is at least 0.5, then a set of items have enough convergence to measure the concerned construct. So, the AVE value for this research ranged from 0.520 to 0.590 which can be categorized as a good level of the construct validity of measure employed (Adeleke et al., 2018; Taofeeq et al., 2019).

Table 4. The Convergent Validity Analysis

Construct dimensions	Items	Loading	Composite Reliability	AVE	Cronbach's Alpha
Residual Building	RB2	0.617	0.826	0.488	0.739
	RB3	0.668			
	RB5	0.782			
	RB6	0.733			
Cost	RB8	0.683	0.813	0.468	0.71
	C3	0.734			
	C5	0.746			
	C7	0.748			
Quality	Q1	0.617	0.877	0.448	0.842
	Q2	0.621			
	Q4	0.728			
	Q5	0.785			
	Q7	0.705			
	Q8	0.658			
Time	Q9	0.786	0.841	0.402	0.805
	T4	0.647			
	T5	0.643			
	T6	0.604			
	T7	0.742			
	T8	0.747			

The discriminant validity shown that items used different constructs does not overlap. As illustrated in Table 5, the square root of AVE for all constructs was replaced at the diagonal elements of the correlation matrix. Therefore, the discriminant validity of the outer model for this study was confirmed where the diagonal elements in the table were higher than the other elements of the column and row where they are located. From the testing made above for the construct validity of the outer model, it is believed that the obtained results pertaining to the hypotheses testing should be highly reliable and valid.

Table 5. Discriminant Validity Analysis

	Cost	Quality	RB	Time
Cost	0.684			
Quality	0.695	0.669		
RB	0.362	0.57	0.699	
Time	0.608	0.503	0.272	0.634

According to Table 6 above, the result shows the hypothesis testing for this study. The result showed that the quality variable has a significant positive relationship on residential building ($\beta = 0.604$, $t = 5.569$, $p = 0$). Therefore, the H3 of the effect of quality on the residential buildings was supported. So, only a variable has a significant relationship on residential building projects among Kuantan Malaysian construction industries (Omer & Adeleke, 2019).

Table 6. Result of the Inner Structure Model

Item		Beta	S/E	T Value	P Values	Findings
H1	Time -> RB	0.07	0.113	0.024	0.49	Not significant
H2	Cost -> RB	-0.065	0.149	0.451	0.326	Not significant
H3	Quality -> RB	0.604	0.11	5.569	0	significant

Cohen (1988) suggested that the criteria of effect size is less than 0.02 (0.02 = small, 0.15 = medium, 0.35 = high). From Table 7, there is a medium effect size of the quality on building construction project (Adeleke et al., 2016).

$$\text{Effect size (f)} = \frac{R^2 \text{ incl} - R^2 \text{ excl}}{1 - R^2 \text{ incl}}$$

Table 7. Direct Effect IV-DV

R-squared	Included	Excluded	f-squared	Effect size
Time	0.327	0.327	0	none
Cost	0.327	0.324	0	none
Quality	0.327	0.159	0.285	medium

5. Conclusion

This research is focused on project triple constraints (time, cost and quality) and how they affect the success of residential building projects in Kuantan Malaysian construction industries. Therefore, the future researcher can be explored to investigate the triple constraints on residential building projects and empirically validate the proposed model in this research. Thus, this research does not only benefit the academics world but it also of immense benefits to those in construction industries as well.

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