



## **BII 07 Safety practices among construction workers and contractors in Sri Lanka**

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Construction workers play a prominent role in construction sites, although safety practices among them are paid less attention. Construction site is a place occurring accidents than other industries. Safety of workers in construction sites becomes most important, as the negligence of safety may cause accidents, injuries, health problems and even loss of life. However, in developing countries like Sri Lanka, fewer attempts have been made to improve safety of workers. The objective of this study was to investigate current safety practices among construction workers and identify methods to improve site safety. In addition, the attitude of contractors towards the site safety was studied. A questionnaire form was prepared for workers of construction sites, considering ten risk factors in construction sites, which were identified using a literature survey. The questionnaire survey was conducted among workers and contractors in building construction sites in Matara and Galle regions. Number of workers and contractors participated in the survey was 100 and 5, respectively. The study reveals that contractors encourage the site safety. It was found that workers have limited understanding on possible risk factors and have less awareness on the importance of site safety. Awareness programs consisting of an easily understandable media like posters, films and articles should be conducted for developing the knowledge about safety practices and their importance, in order to prevent accidents and health issues, among construction workers. Safety plans and regular safety meetings must be designed and implemented in construction industry. Increase of safety practices among workers in construction sites will help to enhance productivity, prevent accidents and health problems among the workers.

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