



## Analytical Study of the Causes of Abandoned Construction Projects

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### Abstract

Construction industry is a vital field as it plays a significant role in the economic situation of the country. Many job opportunities will be created to develop and enhance the economy. However, not all projects can be finished on time or ahead of schedule, as the project may be delayed or even abandoned in worst cases at any stage of the project's cycle lifetime. Project abandonment is a serious problem which impedes the construction industry in many countries especially in Middle East. This paper is part of an ongoing research investigation to identify the most significant causes of project abandonments in Iraq. It presents a review of an existing literature on the causes of this problem. Consequently, the outcome of an extensive questionnaire survey of 40 crucial causes including 101 respondents is presented and discussed. Various statistical tools were used in the analysis of data such as descriptive statistics, Cronbach's alpha, and relative important index (RII) with the aid of SPSS and MS Excel. The result illustrates that the most significant and vital causes in Iraq were: Financial corruption, Assignment of work to companies that have no experience in that field, and Incompetent Contractor. The findings of this study will help future researchers looking for solutions for this problem in order to enhance the project success.

*Keywords:* Abandoned Projects; Project Abandonment; Construction Industry; Project Management.

## 1. Introduction

When a project is going well, but for some reasons has been stopped, it is termed as an abandoned project. Therefore, it is a waste of lands and funds [1]. Projects abandonment is believed to be one of the most critical problems obstructing the construction in Iraq. It represents the uncompleted project and it affects not only the consumers but also other project participants (e.g. Contractor, Consultant, Client) and the general public.

In Iraq, abandonment of construction projects is a serious issue and it still increasing with successive years; It needs more attention from the government to mitigate and solve the causes that may lead to this problem. The investigation outcome will increase the understanding of those factors. Hence, it will help avoid failed projects.

This paper introduces literature of the existing researches on abandoned construction projects and related issues, it presents the findings from a wide questionnaire survey involving 101 respondents on possible causes of projects abandonment in Iraq. This is followed by a discussion on the results of the survey and further works.

## 2. Literature Review

It is found from the literature reviews that there is a lack of research and investigation in the field of project abandonment. Carrero et al. (2009) [2] in Spain and Abdul-Rahman et al. (2015) [3] in Malaysia have equally observed that abandoned housing project in Malaysia can cause environmental and socio-economic effects. The socio-economic

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