

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN UGANDA

Gumisiriza Gideon, Bsc. (Civil Eng), Makerere University, Dip. Building and Construction, Kyambogo University

ABSTRACT

The construction industry in Uganda and other developing countries faces a wide range of challenges, one of which is the frequent occurrence of accidents in the workplace. This paper presents results of a research that concentrated on investigating causes of accidents on construction projects in Uganda.

During the last few years, several accidents have occurred on various construction sites all over the country, some of which have been fatal. This has made the construction industry one of the high-risk industries in Uganda regarding the safety of workers as well as property, yet there is increasing construction activity countrywide. In view of this spate of events, the need to develop strategies to abate accidents on such construction projects and hence minimize re-occurrences was warranted.

This research was conducted in five selected districts in Uganda, and the findings reflect views expressed by several people directly or indirectly involved in the construction process.

Major causes of accidents identified in this research and associated with construction projects include; inadequate supervision, use of incompetent personnel lack of safety gear and use of inappropriate construction techniques. Among the recommendations made for minimizing and/or avoid re-occurrence of accidents are review of the existing regulations, enforcement, sensitization and training.

Keywords: Accidents, Construction Industry, Enforcement, Safety, and Training