

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

DEPARTMENT OF QUANTITY SURVEYING

**AN INVESTIGATION OF THE IMPACT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY
PRACTICES ON LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY IN ZIMBABWE
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

BY

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ABSTRACT

Despite the hazardous nature of the construction industry world over, the need for effective health and safety practices which aims at improving labour productivity and forestalling hazards inherent on-site has been reiterated by recent studies and applicable laws. Regardless of the measures taken by contractors to implement safety practices on projects, studies from the world over indicate that construction projects are faced with low levels of labour productivity. The aim of this research is to investigate the impact of health and safety practices on labour productivity in Zimbabwe Construction Industry with a view of contributing measures to enhance labour productivity towards successful project delivery. Personal protective clothing and safety policy were the most commonly used practices in construction projects whereas safety training and penalties came out as the most prevalent strategies of enhancing labour productivity. The research used pragmatic approach with both qualitative and quantitative approaches incorporated thus making the research both descriptive and analytical. Building contractors from the Construction Federation of Zimbabwe were targeted using stratified sampling. Self-administered questionnaires were distributed to construction professionals and six selected case studies were used to validate data. Health and safety practices were analysed using frequency index, the influence of health and safety practices on labour productivity was analysed using content analysis and Pearson correlation analysis. Lastly the health and safety strategies that can be used to enhance labour productivity were analysed using relative importance index. It was concluded that health and safety practices have a strong positive correlation impact on labour productivity hence need to be implemented properly. The study recommends the necessity of building contractors to massively invest in health and safety in order to create a health and safety culture where workers will work safely with maximum effort thus successful completion of projects.