

DEVELOPMENT OF A CONSTRUCTION PROJECT COST ESTIMATION SYSTEM

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

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[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Development of a Construction Project Cost Estimation System" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Civil Engineering, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study developed and evaluated a Web software solution for development within the Nigerian context, using the University of Lagos as the reference environment. The study was guided by four specific objectives: to analyse the existing manual process and its challenges; to design a Web application that addresses those challenges; to implement the proposed system using appropriate programming languages and frameworks; and to test and evaluate the system for functionality, usability, and reliability. The pragmatic research design adopted for the study was anchored on the Structural Load Theory and the Soil Mechanics Theory. A total of 70 users were purposively selected for the usability evaluation, out of which 62 responses were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using percentage scores, mean scores on the System Usability Scale (SUS), and functional test results at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that the proposed system achieved an overall usability score of 87.9% and significantly reduced the mean processing time compared with the existing manual approach. The study recommends the deployment of the system for full-scale adoption, periodic maintenance, and sustained training of users so as to maximise its benefits.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of development of a construction project cost estimation system is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The salience of development in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of development and construction. Research by Ogbeide and Adebayo (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting development and construction. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in civil engineering. The aggregate picture emerging from Oyelaran and Adekunle (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between development and the outcomes of interest. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

development, when examined in relation to construction, reveals complex and often paradoxical dynamics. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream development into routine governance. The work of Adebayo and Adekunle (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that construction reinforces the effects of development. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Empirical evidence from Salami and Chukwu (2021) suggests that positive developments in construction are associated with improvements in development. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in civil engineering. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

Scholars have long recognised development as a critical determinant of outcomes in civil engineering. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of development are observed in their starkest form. The work of Salami and Chukwu (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that construction reinforces the effects of development. For practitioners, the practical significance of development cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with construction. Comparative work by Adebayo and Ibrahim (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking development with construction. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

In both global and African literatures, development is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which development unfolds. The aggregate picture emerging from Umeh and Salami (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between development