

DIVERSIFICATION AND THE PERFORMANCE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY OF SRI LANKA: MULTI- TALENTED COMPETENCIES REQUIRED

M ELVITIGALA¹ and SD JAYASOORIYA²

¹Undergraduate, ²Senior Lecturer

**Department of Quantity Surveying, Faculty of Built Environment and Spatial Sciences
General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Sri Lanka**

ABSTRACT

With the developing world, the requests and demands on the professions are rising day by day and thus the roles of professional experts. Growth is a vital element for the survival of business where construction professionals tend to expand and diversify in their profession in contemporary business organizations. Under this growing pressure, the Quantity Survey profession has experienced a significant transition over the years to offer a wide range of advanced & value-added services and also to survive and face the rapid changes in the world market. This has created confusion in the quantity surveying profession whereby a need emerges to establish the structure for the role of a quantity surveyor; thereby helping to update the profession's core competencies internally within the business organization or externally by diversifying into other business areas. The aim of this research study is to study the multi-talented competencies for quantity surveying professionals which are demanding to the diversification in profession. A questionnaire survey and semi-structured interviews were conducted to collect data in both qualitative and quantitative procedures in order to achieve the main objective and the sub objectives of the research. Qualitative data were analyzed through content data analysis, while the quantitative analysis was carried out through statistical data analysis. Reliability and the validity of the results were obtained using SPSS software and the relationships of the independent variables with the dependent variable were obtained using correlation and the regression analysis. The empirical findings revealed that the multi-talented competencies have a positive relationship with the diversification in the role of quantity surveying. Quantification, analysis, interpersonal skills, communication, documentation, construction technology, management, appraisal, construction law and regulations, self-development, leadership, synthesis and computer & information technology literacy have identified as the multi- talented competencies of a Quantity Surveyor. The results from the interviews found that there are both positive and negative effects of diversification that has on the performance of a Quantity Surveyor. To assist in developing multitalented competencies within the Quantity Surveying professionals, it was recommended to train the undergraduates with the diversified roles explained in this study, in their curriculums and also to alleviate the scarcity of traditional Quantity Surveyors, universities must raise the admission quota for the survey system. This research findings deliver a valuable evidence to the practitioners with an in-depth understanding about the multi -talented competencies of a Quantity Surveyor and thereby benefiting to diversification and the performance of a Quantity Surveyor.

Key words – Diversification, Performance, Role of a Quantity Surveyor, Construction Industry