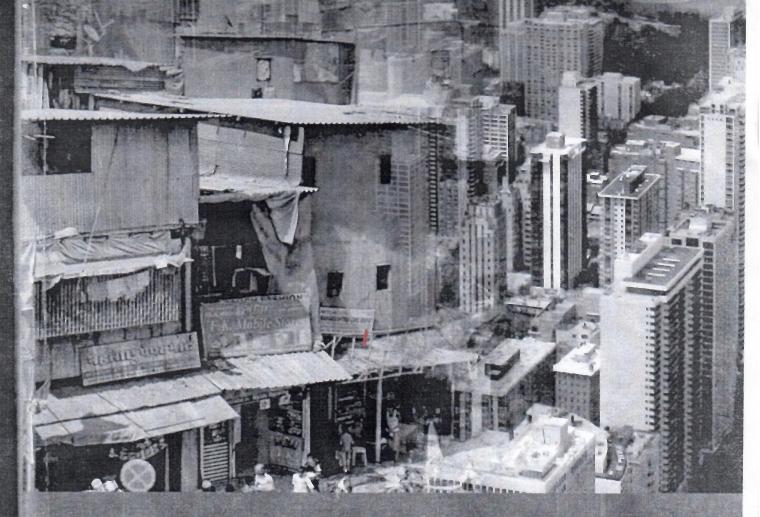




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OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY ILE-IFE, NIGERIA

- 77 Community Driven Approach for Financing Infrastructure in Emerging Communities: Exploring the Reality of Collective Action Theory

 Job Taiwo Gbadegesin, Daramola Thompson Olapade, Robert Ereola Shiyanbola and Olutayo Isaac Ayorinde
- 94 Assessment of Claims on Delivery of Building Projects Victor Adetunji Arowoiya and Taiwo Fadeke Adegbembo

SECTION 2:

CONSTRUCTION ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT [107 - 264]

- Assessment of Local Construction Firms' Common Building Items of work Unit Rates in Nigeria

 Olubimbola Oladimeji
- Assessment of Time Loss on Tertiary Educational Construction Projects in Ondo State

 Adedokun Deborah Oluwafunke and Ijieh Oriabure Treasure
- An Appraisal of Lean Construction Methods Implementation by Construction Firms in Kaduna State, Nigeria
 paul Ada Christiana, Yahaya Saminu Nazifi, Zaki Michael Yakubu and Jatau, Tchad Sharon
- Assessment of Health and Safety Information on Construction Sites in Nigeria

 Ranti Taibat Adebiyi, Olubola Babalola, Ganiyu Amuda-Yusuf and Shehu Abdulkadir Rasheed
- 149 Factors Influencing Construction Supply Chain Management Practice in Nigerian Construction Firms

 Abiola Akolade Adegoke and Joshua Oluwasuji Dada
- Risk Associated with Women Involvement in Construction Projects in Lagos State, Nigeria Grace Kehinde Ojo and Esther Ilori Ebunoluwa
- 172 Barriers to the Proliferation of Green Building Projects in South Africa
 Olusegun Aanuoluwapo Oguntona, dineo Ramorwalo, Clinton Aigbavboa, and Wellington Thwala
- 179 Construction Project Claim Management Process in Nigeria: Status, Barriers and Impact Akeem Adunfe Ajayi, Olubola Babalola and Bamidele Masimidiwo
- 191 Aspiration of Small and Medium Enterprise Construction Firms on Procurement Routes in South Africa

 Abimbola Olukemi Windapo and Sunday Julius Odediran
- 202 Relationship Between Procurement Strategies and the Development of Small and Medium Enterprise Construction Firms in South Africa

 Abimbola Olukemi Windapo, Oluseye Olugboyega and Sunday Julius Odediran

ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION ON CONSTRUCTION SITES IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study identified and assessed health and safety information used on construction sites in Land State, Nigeria, with a view to enhancing effective communication among the site-operatives. Data leads the study were collected from the site-supervisors and operatives working on construction sites study area. The sites of construction firms registered with Lagos State Public Procurement Agence under categories D and E were visited. Pilot survey revealed that there were 55 active construct firms that have on-going projects. The study therefore, adopted purposive sampling technique identify these 55 active firms. On each site visited, a supervisor and 3 site-operatives were random selected from bricklayers, carpenters, iron benders, electricians, and plumbers working on identified sites, depending on the stage of the work. This resulted into sample of 220. This constraints 55 supervisors and 165 site-operatives. The use of questionnaire was adopted for data collection. total number of copies of questionnaire retrieved was 161, representing 73.1% response rate consistent of 22% from the supervisors and 78% from the site operatives. Information on health and safety on construction sites were collected. Mean score (MS), standard deviation (SD) and analysis variance technique were the analytical tools used. The results revealed that the most used health and the most used healt safety information were first aid procedures with MS of 3.92, safety sign and symbols (MS 3.85) of protective equipment (MS = 3.75) and procedures for safe operation (MS = 3.69). There significant difference between the ranking of these information from both supervisors and operation This implied that the respondents concurred in their independent opinion regarding the health and safety information. The study concluded that safety of construction site-open depended on health and safety information made available by the contracting firms.

Keywords: Construction sites, Health and safety, Information, Operatives, Supervisors.

INTRODUCTION

Accidents and ill health are common problems on construction sites. These are of grave conceptoth practitioners and researchers all over the world. Construction site has been regarded as the hazardous place to work with high level of health and safety risks (Phoya, 2012; Vitharana, De and De Silva, 2014). Occupational health and safety statistics presented by different researcher revealed that, the injury and fatality rate on construction sites is very high in comparison with industries in the majority of countries (Okolie and Okoye, 2014; Umeokafor, Isaac, Jone Umeadi 2014; Okoye, Ezeokonkwo and Ezeokoli 2016). In Nigeria, information made available construction industry is responsible for about 7.5% of all occupational accidents. Limited information about accidents on construction sites in Nigeria was confirmed by Okolie and Okoye (2014) on the fact that majorities of the accidents were not reported.

occurrence of accidents on construction sites usually leads to site closure for investigation, loss of machine hours, loss of output, loss of corporate reputation, payment of burial empenses/compensation/insurance claims for the dead (Kumar and Bansal 2013; Kolo, 2015). Findings from studies carried out to assess the causes of these accidents have pointed to poor and Safety (Kwofie, 2015; Akunyumu, 2016). Ulang (2012) and Adebiyi (2018) arributed causes of accidents on construction sites to limited knowledge of health and safety aformation such as regulatory requirement, nature of hazards, safe working practices and accident eventive measures. Inadequate provision of health and safety information is cited as being prevalent emong project participants resulting in considerable amount of accidents and injuries on construction (Ahadzie and Amoa-Mensa, 2010; Ibem, Anosike and Azuh, 2011). Provision of health and effectly information for the parties involved in construction activities has been argued to be a focal point for reducing accidents and ill-health problems on construction sites (Phoya, 2012). Garcia, Arditi and Le (2014) also confirmed the importance of information on health and safety on construction sites. According to Bandulahewa (2015), communication of health and safety information has not been en the needed attention by contractors on construction sites which has often result to accidents. According to Landin and Kindahl (2013), information on health and safety on construction sites are sensitive and needs more attention. This study therefore aims at examining health and safety formation available on construction sites with a view to enhancing effective communication among

LITERATURE REVIEW

Health and Safety Information

the modern construction environment, information on health and safety is a very sensitive management responsibility (Neale, 2013). Agwu and Olele (2014) noted that information on health and safety is a performance-oriented approach to construction by establishing a safe working convironment that is consistent with peak performance and continuous improvement. Adeogun and Okafor (2013) reported that the perspectives of most industries and organizations show that the stage of health and safety is still at infancy in Nigeria due to management attitudinal behaviour, lack of health and safety policies. In addition, only big multinationals recognize health and safety and run the policies as constituted in their parent countries of origin (Adeogun and Okafor 2013).

Preece and Stocking (1999) pointed out that management should by law make available a large amount of information on health and safety to employees, site visitors and the general public. To avoid information overload and confusion, it is recommended that the four R's of rules, regulations, responsibilities and risks make up health and safety information. According to Preece and Stocking (1999), health and safety information contains company's policy, rules, regulations, responsibilities and risks. Safety rules outline the organization's philosophy and commitment to safety and all employees, site visitors and general public should understand that it is high priority issue. Adebiyi, only required regulations are communicated in a clear, concise and correct manner if health and safety objectives are to be achieved. All employees should be fully aware of their responsibilities and should also provide information, instruction and training so employees can carry out their responsibilities, fully aware of risks to health and safety, measures to prevent them and emergency procedures in event of risks being realized (Preece and Stocking, 1999).

Contents of Health and Safety Information

Okoye et al., (2016) highlighted some of health and safety information as: company's health and safety policy; risk associated with the current job, the potential risks to the health and safety of the workers; location and nature of hazard in the workplace and emergency and first aid procedures. Kayumba, (2013) also identified health and safety information such as: preventive and protective measures for the risks and hazards on site; procedures for the safe operation, use, maintenance and replacement of protective equipment; site rules and best practice in the company. Other health and safety information are injury and incident reporting procedures; accident investigation; procedures for resolving health and safety issues; disciplinary policy; accident statistics; learning from accidents; the identities of those who have a role within the organization's health and safety management system (Adebiyi et al., 2017).

Effectiveness of Health and Safety Information

For health and safety information to be effective it has to be understood, which is governed by kind of information to be communicated, the target audience and the strategy used for information transmission. According to Adebiyi (2018), during post-project assessments, project team members have always listed provision of health and safety information as one of the integral areas which required improvement. In addition, project team members regarded troubled projects to have run smoother had adequate information on health and safety been provided.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research was conducted within the scope of construction firms that registered with Lagos State Public Procurement Agency (LSPPA), Nigeria. LSPPA maintains the database of registered contractors and described their classifications and categorizations based on contract value. Construction firms under categories D and E were considered because of their involvement in projects with huge contract sums and also have records of health and safety policies. The supervisors and site-operatives working for the identified construction firms on public projects were identified participate in the study in line with studies carried out by Kolo (2015) and Adebiyi (2018).

Pilot survey revealed that there were 55 active construction firms that had on-going projects. The study therefore, adopted purposive sampling technique to select one construction site from the identified firms similar to study carried out by Akunyumu (2016). On each site visited, a supervisor and 3 site-operatives were randomly selected from bricklayers, carpenters, iron benders, electricians and plumbers working for the identified firms. This resulted into sample of 220. This consists of 55 supervisors and 165 site-operatives. The use of questionnaire was adopted for data collection. The total number of copies of questionnaire retrieved was 161, representing 73.1% response rate consisting of 35 copies from the supervisors and 126 from the site operatives. The high response rate was achieved through the engagement of Research Assistants who were actively involved in the distribution and retrieval of the questionnaire. Information collected involved usage of health and safety information. Mean score (MS), standard deviation (SD) and analysis of variance technique were the analytical tools used.

The questionnaire was divided into two categories. The first category was designed to get information about personal data of the respondents such as education, profession, roles and year of experience in construction industry. The second set of questions was designed with the purpose of establishing usage of health and safety information. Respondents were therefore requested to rate their agreement with each of the 23 variables identified from literature review on a five point Likert scale from I = 100

to 5 = very often used. Respondents were also requested to state and rate other health and safety formation not included in the questionnaire that can be used on construction sites in the study area.

ESULTS AND DISCUSSION

spondents were given ample time to answer the questions to express their professional opinion out usage of health and safety information.

sponse Rate

total number of copies of questionnaire retrieved was 161 representing 73.1% response rate assisting of 22% from the supervisors and 78% from the site operatives as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Response rate of questionnaire administered

Respondents	Questionnaire Distributed	Questionnaire Retrieved	Over All Response Rate (%)
Site-Supervisors	55	35 (64%)	22
Site-operatives	165	126 (76%)	78
Total	220	161 (73%)	100

spondents' Background Information

e reliability of any research is partly dependent on the source of data and the rigorousness of the dysis employed. To provide reliability and impose confidence of the findings, questions posed in questionnaire were therefore aimed at gathering information about the background of the pondents.

alysis of Supervisors' Profile

wernment under Lagos State Public Procurement Agency (LSPPA). Majority of the companies stered under category D (60%) while others are in category E (40%). This finding indicated that ority of the contracting organizations surveyed are high caliber, well-structured and also noted for cuting projects with huge contract sums. The type of contracting organization gives the reflection he type of projects they have handled. From Table 2, it is clear that the supervisors surveyed cut are cerned. To further provide reliability and credibility to the data collected, Table 2 indicated that ority of the supervisors have obtained at least a first degree. The spread of educational lification of the supervisors surveyed can be said to be enough to provide the information required a them and that the information provided was borne out of their understanding of the issues ed. The results from Table 2 show that the respondents have experience in construction activities in be seen from the demographic variables collected (Table 2) that the respondents have expertise experience in the construction industry. It is therefore plausible to conclude that the data provided credible.

Table 2 Site Supervisor's Profile

Profile	Site Supervisor's Profile		
Categories of Company's Registration wit	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulativ
	in Lagos State		
Category D			
Category E	21	60.0	60
Total	14	40.0	60
	35	40.0	100
Type of Contracting Organization			
Dullding Engineering			
Civil Engineering	15	42.9	42.9
Industrial Engineering	13	37.1	80.0
Service Engineering	5	14.3	
Total	2	5.7	94.3
Total	35	3.7	100.0
Highest Educational O 1:5			
Highest Educational Qualification of Respo	ondents		
Billion I radional Dilliona (HNII)	10	28.6	
Bachelor's Degree (BSc./B.Tech)	16		28.8
Masters Degree (MSc./M.Tech)	9	45.7	74.3
Total	35	25.7	100.0
	33		
Length of Service with the Company			
0-5 years	8		
5-10 years		22.9	22.9
11-15 years	11	31.4	54.3
16-20 years	7	20.0	74.3
Above 20 years	6	17.1	91.4
Total	3	8.5	100
	35		100
Tears of Experience on Construction sites.			
5-5 years	10		
-10 years	12	34.3	34.3
1-15 years	8	22.9	57.2
6-20 years	8 5 2	22.9	80.1
bove 20 years	5	14.3	
otal	2	5.7	94.4
1	35	5.7	100
umber of Projects Und			
umber of Projects Undertaken in the last 10 5 projects	years		
10 projects	2	5.7	
-15 projects	9		5.7
20 music st	9	25.7	31.4
i-20 projects	11	25.7	57.1
pove 20 projects		31.4	88.5
otal	4	11.4	100
	35		

Table 3: Site-operatives' Profile

	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cum %
f Trade of Site-operatives		Tomas	
er/Plasterer	30	23.8	23.8
er/Joiner	28	22.2	46
	10	7.9	53.9
ian	3	2.4	56.3
r	3	2.4	58.7
	12	9.5	68.2
'decorator	.5	3.9	72.1
decorator	12	9.5	81.6
	11	8.7	90.3
er	12		100
		9.5	100
	126		
Employers in Organization			
ontractor	40	31.7	31.7
itractor	80	63.5	95.2
	6	4.8	100
	126		
	1200		
of Engagement		20.4	20.6
ne	26	20.6	20.6
ne	92	73.0	93.6
rary (daily)	8	6.4	100
	126		
t Education Qualification			
CE	15	11.9	11.9
ary education with vocational	17	13.5	25.4
ary cadeanon with vocationar	31	24.6	50.0
ary education	13	10.3	60.3
y education with vocational skills	40	31.7	92
	4	3.2	95.2
y education			
rest	6	4.8	100
	126		
of Experience on Construction site		25.4	25.4
rs	32	25.4	25.4
ears	47	37.3	62.7
rears	27	21.4	84.1
15 years	20	15.9	100
	126		

sis of Site-Operatives' Profile

3 revealed the type of trades of each operative surveyed. The result shows that 24% of the ives were bricklayers/plasterers, 22% carpenters/joiners, 8% roofers, 2% electricians and also umbers. Other operatives were 10% glazers, 4% painters/decorators, 10% welders and 9% ers. Other 10% operatives were none of the trades stated in the questionnaire.

Table 3 presents the type of employers that engage the operatives and the results indicated that majority of the workers (64%) were employed by sub-contractors while 32% were employed by the main contractors. Others (4%) were neither employed by the domestic sub-contractors. The site employed on full time. These results show that implementation of health and safety standards on site operatives. This result revealed that the majority of workers have a very low level of education, which can be a challenge to the way they understood health and safety information.

Respondents were asked to indicate their experience on construction sites in Lagos State. The results show that although the majority of workers have little education, their levels of experience on construction sites are commendable as indicated in Table 3.

Analysis of Usage of Health and Safety Information on Construction Sites

From literature, twenty-three (23) health and safety information were identified. Table 4 shows that safety signs and symbols is the most frequently used health and safety information on construction deviation of 0.887. The use of protective equipment, maintenance and replacement was ranked second with mean value of 3.97 and standard deviation of 0.707. Procedures for safe operation on site was ranked third; obtaining the same mean score of 3.97 with the use, maintenance and replacement of protective equipment, but a higher standard deviation of 0.806.

First aid procedure is another important information that was ranked fourth, with a mean score of 3.94 and standard deviation of 0.802. Site-supervisors also ranked preventive and protective measures for the risks and hazards on site as the fifth frequently used strategy with mean score and standard deviation of 3.91 and 0.818 respectively. These were the most significant health and safety information used on construction sites from the site supervisors' point of view. From the site safety on construction sites. It was ranked first with a mean of 3.89 and a standard deviation on health and Safety signs and symbols was ranked second with a mean value of 3.69 and a standard deviation of 0.896. 0.834. The use of protective equipment maintenance and replacement was also ranked third; was ranked forth, with a mean score of 3.53 with a standard deviation of 0.838. Procedure for safe operation on site ranked site regulations as the fifth frequently used strategy with mean score and standard deviation of 0.706. Site-operatives also 3.38 and 0.924 respectively.

				0.000	0.00	1	1.070	.) . () .)	A condent statistics and records
711	23	293	21	0.830	7 83	22	1 000	2 02	INTITION OF SUPERIOR ACCOUNTS.
.255	22	3.00	23	0.789	2.68	22	0.932	3.31*	Minutes of safety review meetings
.255	21	3.08	22	0.809	2.78	20	0.808	3.37	Accident investigation
.002*	20	3.14	17	0.785	2.96	21	0.867	3.31*	Safety inspection reports
.423	19	3.13	18	0.844	2.65	15	1.117	3.60	Disciplinary policy
.656	18	3.23	16	0.929	2.97	19	0.853	3.49	Nature of hazard in the workplace
.001*	17	3.27	20	0.867	2.91	14	0.808	3.63*	Injury and incident reporting procedures
.001*	16	3.29	19	0.850	2.92	12	0.906	3.66*	Location of hazard
.547	15	3.35	15	0.804	3.16	18	0.817	3.54*	The potential risk to the health and safety of the workers
			;			ò	0.010	0.07	The identities of those who have a role within the organization's
145	14	3 39	1,2	0 915	3 71	16	0 815	2 57	ETOCCHILOS TOT ICOOTATIG TECHNIC MINE CONTROL TO THE CONTROL OF TH
.253	13	3.40	14	0.840	3.17	13	0.770	3.63*	Drocedures for resolving health and safety issues
.000*	12	3.43	8	0.853	3.31	17	0.780	3.54*	Best practices in the company
.863	11	3.45	12	0.939	3.23	11	0.838	3.66*	Company's philosophy
.564	10	3.51	7	0.736	3.33	10	0.832	3.69	Company's health and safety policy
.767	9	3.55	11	0.837	3.26	9	0.822	3.83*	Vnowledge of emergency procedures
.066	00	3.56	10	0.882	3.28	8	0.747	3.83*	Site rules
.243	7	3.60	9	0.916	3.29	6	0.981	3.91*	Safety performance
.087	6	3.62	5	0.924	3.38	7	0.772	3.86	site Site regulations
.162	5	3.63	6	0.861	3.35	S	0.818	3.91*	Preventive and protective measures for the risks and hazards on
.088	4	3.69	4	0.706	3.40	3	0.806	3.97*	Procedures for safe operation on site
.899	3	3.75	ω	0.838	3.53	2	0.707	3.97*	Use, maintenance and replacement of protective equipment
.307	2	3.89	2	0.834	3.69	_	0.887	4.09	Safety signs and symbols
907	_	3.92	_	0.896	3.89	4	0.802	3.94	First aid procedures
				Deviation			Deviation		

^{*} Same mean score, standard deviation was used to rank

^{**:} T-test is significant at 5%

From the Table 4, the overall means scores indicated first aid procedures was the most frequently used health and safety information on construction sites. It was ranked first with a mean score of 3.92. The use of safety signs and symbols was ranked second with the overall mean score shows 3.89. The use of protective equipment, maintenance and replacement was the third ranked health and safety information with overall mean score of 3.75. The overall fourth ranked health and safety information is procedures for safe operation on site with a mean score of 3.69. All these health and safety information are very important to prevent injuries and ill-health on construction sites.

Nevertheless, supervisors ranked other health and safety information that were also been used on site albeit not frequently. They include: safety performance, site rules and regulations, knowledge of emergency procedure and company's health and safety policy. It can also be seen from Table 4 that site-operatives ranked safety performance, site rules and regulations, knowledge of emergency procedures and company's health and safety policy as information used on site albeit not frequently. The least used information as far as supervisors were concern were: accident statistics and records, minutes of safety review meetings, safety inspection reports, accident investigation and nature of hazard in the workplace. While the least frequently used information from the site-operatives includes; minutes of safety review meetings, accident investigation, accident statistics and records, injury and incident reporting procedures and location of hazard.

An independent sample t-test was conducted to show how the two groups of respondents (supervisors and site-operatives) rated the health and safety information on construction sites. The results in Table 4 show that significant differences exist among the two groups of respondents on only four (4) items out of the twenty-three (23) considered in the study. These include; location of hazard (p<0.05), injury and incident reporting procedures (p<0.05), best practices in the company (p<0.05) and safety inspection reports (p<0.05). What this means in essence is that the respondents (supervisors and site operatives) vary in their opinion with respect to rating of these health and safety information. For example, the opinion of the supervisors on "location of hazard" as health and safety information as shown by mean score in Table 4 is 3.66 compared to 2.92 for site operatives. This suggests that the supervisors moderately adopt the information, while site operatives seldom do. Likewise, injury and incident reporting procedures, best practices in the company and safety inspection reports were moderately adopted. For the rest of the items, no significant differences exist between the supervisors and site operatives, which is an indication that their opinion (rating or mean score) is not at 0.05 level of significance. In other words, the respondents concur in their opinion regarding these health and safety information.

Discussion of Findings

Supervisors ranked safety signs and symbols as the most frequently used health and safety information on construction sites in line with the studies carried out by Kolo (2015) and Phoya, (2012). The two studies confirmed the importance of safety signs and symbols that they deliver important information, warning of hazard to watch out for and requirements to obey. Information on the use of protective equipment, maintenance and replacement was ranked second. According to Kolo (2015), required personal protection equipment must be worn at all times when working on construction sites. The study emphasized on the importance of inspecting person equipment for any breaks, tears and visible signs of stress or damage before use.

Other important information that was ranked high by the supervisors was the procedures for safe operation on site, which was described by Preece and Stocking (1999) as series of important steps that guide workers on tasks to be carried out on sites. First aid procedure and preventive and protective

and hazards on site were also ranked high. From the recommendation on the again and Olele (2014), the contracting firms need to make sure there are enough trainers on construction sites. Phoya, (2012) also emphasized the need to construction sites. Phoya, (2012) further analyzed the preventive and control from risk assessment.

coperatives ranked first aid procedures as the most frequently used information frequently used but as against the survey carried out by Muiruri and Mulinge and that most construction sites had first aid boxes but were ill equipped with cotton wool. Safety signs and symbols were also ranked very high in line with (2014), that safety signs and signals are one of the main means of and safety information which includes the use of illuminated signs, hand and fire alarms. Site operatives also ranked the use of protective equipment, cement, procedure for safe operation on site and site regulations as important formation on sites. These information were also considered important on Akunyumu (2016) and Al-Kinani (2011).

t-test was conducted to see how the two groups of respondents (supervisors med the use of health and safety information on construction sites. The results differences exist on only four (4) items out of the twenty-three (23) items. The items are: location of hazard, injury and incident reporting procedures, company and safety inspection reports. This is in line with the study carried out [17]. In other words, the respondents concur in their opinion regarding the use of information.

of the analysis, the study was able to find out that the most important health and construction sites is safety signs and symbols. This is because this information odd by everyone on sites. Other information equally important are: the use of equipment, its maintenance and replacement; procedures for safe operation on the study also found out that the supervisors and site operatives agreed on their supervisors and site operatives agreed on their supervisors and site operatives agreed on their supervisors sites. The study is limited to supervisors and site-operatives working for registered with Lagos State Public Procurement Agency (LSPPA), Nigeria under

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