A STUDY OF CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES ON THE EFFECTIVE USE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE (PMS) IN INGO/NGO MANAGED PROJECTS IN SRI LANKA

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Department of Building Economics

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Thesis/Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Project Management

Department of Building Economics

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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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(M.T. M Faslan)

The above candidate has carried out research for the M.Sc. Dissertation under my supervision.

Signature of the supervisor: ……………………… Date ………………….

(Mr. L.D.I.P. Seneviratne)
ABSTRACT

This study describes the effective use of project management software in INGO/NGO managed projects in Sri Lanka. The research findings explain the main factors affecting the effective use of project management software by the project managers.

The findings point out that PMS skills, PMS limitation, trainings on PMS, organizational motivation for practicing of PMS and project overloaded are the main factors contributing to the usage levels of PMS. The results also show that PMS skills and PMS limitation and user satisfaction have a significant effect on usage of PMS. However it was established that the project overload on the project managers does not significantly affects the usage of PMS.

The results also indicate a strong relationship between usage of the PMS and project managers’ PMS skills. The participants confirmed that the PMS enhances their quality of decision making and increases the likelihood of successful completion of the projects. The PMS functions monitoring the progress; preparing progress report and manage better budget control are the acceptable to the users. The results also show only 35 % PMS packages were used by INGO and NGOs. Among this MS Office Project is more popular software tool in INGO/NGOs.

Keywords: Project management software, INGO, NGO, Project Management Tools, Software Tools
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<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PMS</td>
<td>Project Management Software</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Project Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMI</td>
<td>Project Management Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPMA</td>
<td>International Project Management Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFW</td>
<td>Logical Frame Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBS</td>
<td>Work Breakdown Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERT</td>
<td>Program Evaluation and Review Technique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPM</td>
<td>Critical Path Method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LF</td>
<td>Log Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United State Agency for International Development</td>
</tr>
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<td>GB</td>
<td>Great Britain</td>
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<td>LFP</td>
<td>Logical Framework Planning</td>
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<td>Project Planning Matrix</td>
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<td>Enterprise Resource Planning</td>
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<td>MS</td>
<td>Micro Soft</td>
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<tr>
<td>P3</td>
<td>Primavera Project Planner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVM</td>
<td>Earned value management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICS</td>
<td>Information Communication System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PMIS</td>
<td>Project management information systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPSS</td>
<td>Statistical Package for the Social Sciences</td>
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<td>Post Graduate</td>
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