# ASSESSMENT OF SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT (SFM) PRACTICE IN HEALTH CARE (HC) ORGANISATIONS IN SRI LANKA

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Philosophy

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Further, I acknowledge the intellectual contribution of my research supervisors Dr. Sachie Gunatilake and Dr. Thanuja Ramachandra for the successful completion of this research thesis. I affirm that I will not make any publication from this research without the names of my research supervisors as contributing authors unless otherwise I have obtained written consent from my research supervisors.

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Health Care is one of the most polluting industries and recognised as the second energy-intensive sector, emitting 8% out of total 40% of total carbon emissions. Integrating sustainability into Facilities Management (FM) is imperative and could significantly contribute to reduce energy consumption, waste and day-to-day operational costs. The integration of sustainability into FM practices is challenging as it depends on many varied factors such as facility type, organisational scale, characteristics, and business sector. Therefore, this research aims to develop a framework to assess the performance of sustainable FM practice with a specific focus on HC organisations.

A Delphi survey and a questionnaire survey were administered. Delphi survey conducted among 10 experts in 3 rounds, who are specialised in FM and sustainable practices in HC organisations. Whereas, questionnaire survey was conducted among 57 FM practitioners in the same HC context. Data gathered from the Delphi survey was analysed using the consensus of participants whilst descriptive method namely; mean, Relative Importance Index (RII) and a mathematical framework were used to analyse the questionnaire survey. The study found 9 FM services and 50 sustainable practices as significant. Amongst, FM services namely "building services (BS)", "project planning (PP)" and "quality management (QM)" and sustainable practices "identify applications for energy-saving", "renewable energy sources", "treat infectious wastes" and "execute HC waste management plan", were the topmost significant. Furthermore, the relevancy of the sustainable practices in achieving the principles of sustainability matched with the "concentric approach" of triple bottom line concept. Finally, the research aim was accomplished with the development of a web-based application to assess SFM practice.

There is a dearth of literature that integrates sustainable FM practices in HC organisation and this study fulfils this research gap. The study is novel in offering a framework to integrate sustainability and assess the SFM practice in HC organisations.

**Keywords:** Facilities Management (FM), Sustainable FM practice (SFM), Health Care (HC) organisations

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#### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- AHA American Hospital Association
- BPO Business Process Outsourcing
- BREEAM Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method
- BS **B**uilding **S**ervices
- CAFM Computer-Aided Facility Management
- CHFM Certified Healthcare Facilities Manager
- CSS Cascading Style Sheets
- FDA Food and Drug Administration
- FM Facilities Management
- FS Finance Services
- GDP Gross Domestic Product
- HC Health Care
- HR Human Resources
- IEQ Indoor Environment Quality
- ISO International Organization for Standardisation
- IT Information Technology
- JC Joint Commission
- LCC Life Cycle Costing
- LEED Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
- M Mean-weight
- MM Marketing Management
- OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- OM Operations Management
- OPW Overall Performance Weightage

OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Administration

PE - Performance Evaluation

PFI - Public Finance Initiatives

PP - Project Planning

PPP - Public-Private Partnerships

QM - Quality Management

RE - Real Estate Management

RII - Relative Importance Index

RM - Risk Management

SD - Standard Deviation

SDG - Sustainable Development Goals

SFM - Sustainable Facilities Management

SFP - Strategic Facility Planning

SL - Sri Lankan

SP - Space Planning

UHC - Universal Health Coverage

UN - United Nations

US - United States

VOCs - Volatile Organic Compounds

W - Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance

WCED - World Commission on Environment and Development

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