Chapter 4

Data Collection and Checking

4.1 Introduction

Data collection was commenced with questionnaire preparation. The objectives of the questionnaires were clearly identified and the components to be covered in each questionnaire were listed to design questions to suit easy data capture. During data collection it was clearly noted that though most people have been using or knew about the abbreviation ICT, nearly 80-90% personnel were unaware of the full name of the abbreviation .Also a similar percentage of people did not posses a clear idea of what is ICT and what role could ICT play in the road sector development. Therefore the questionnaire data collection was based on face to face interviews and a notable factor was the significant time consumption for each data collection. The time and other difficulties are specially indicated in the following sections.

4.2 Preliminary Field Survey Questionnaire for Individuals –stage 1

First draft of this questionnaire was tested with to three Senior Engineers who are well experienced in road sector activities for trial filling. After getting the feedback, this questionnaire was redesigned. It was then distributed to a sample of 31 officers from different kind of ranks in twelve road sector organizations. Appointments were made an interviewing them over phone was done. Clarifications were made during interviewing. This process took a considerable time, since in certain cases it was very difficult to get an appointment. List of Organizations selected for this sample survey is shown in Appendix E.

4.3 Preliminary Field Survey Questionnaire for Individuals – stage 2

Questionnaire to collect data from individuals in the second stage was finalized to capture qualitative assessment of ICT usage as very high, high, moderate. The questionnaire includes the guide line ranges for each qualitative range. This was done for easy understanding of the members of respective organizations. In this questionnaire, attention was given to an additional question to get the feedback for crucial aspects for the ICT usage, such as Methods, Standards and Manuals, Equipment and Tools, and Human Resources.

As in the previous case, questionnaire testing was done by using a sample of five senior engineers attached to road sector development organizations. The questionnaire was redesigned and was distributed to sample of 73 officers covering different ranks at road sector related organizations, and others who have the back ground knowledge about road sector. All seventy three officers were interviewed personally after getting appointments. By doing this, clarifications were made for unclear questions. List of organizations selected for this survey is shown in Appendix F.

4.4 Organizational Questionnaire

As described in the methodology, the Organizational Questionnaire was designed to cover the ICT status in organizations. The ten paged questionnaire was distributed to fourteen organizations related to road sector infrastructure development. They are leading organizations in the sector. Chief Executive Officers were contacted and informed them to nominate a Senior Executive from each of these organizations for the interview It took considerable time to get appointments for interviewing them. Organization list is given in Appendix G. Since it is a long questionnaire, clarifications were made during the interview and explanations were done.

4. 5 Data Checking

Data verification has been done to check whether the filling has been done in correct manner, or missed any questions. In certain cases, the percentages have not been entered incorrectly, and corrected it later. Most respondents took a keen interest in filling the questionnaire.

Accuracy of data was checked by comparing the answers given by different organizations. Initially certain officers were reluctant to provide information regarding financial components. But after explaining the situation, they agreed to indicate the answers.

4.6 Summary

It was observed that many people do not have a clear understanding of the term "ICT". Similarly, the many officials in road sector organizations do not have a clear idea of what role ICT play in the road sector development could. Preliminary Field Survey Questionnaire –stage 1 was done with a sample of 31 individuals, where as the Questionnaire in stage 2 was done with a sample of 73 individuals. Organizational Questionnaire was completed in fifteen leading road sector organizations.

Data verification was done to check whether the filling has been done in correct manner or missed any questions. Accuracy of data was checked by comparing the answers.