ABSTRACT

Singapore's construction industry had been experiencing low productivity over the past years. Despite steps taken to tackle it, it has yet show signs of improvements. There is a need to raise the labour productivity since construction industry is labour-intensive. This could be achieved through measuring and benchmarking the labour productivity of trades that are dependent on labour. Bricklaying had been chosen for this study.

The aim of this research study was to measure and benchmark the labour productivity of the bricklaying trade. The working state of the bricklayers was studied and a good practice to achieve high efficiency was proposed. The various factors that would affect the labour productivity were also investigated.

Data on 60 samples of bricklaying were collected on site in Singapore from 12 July 2000 to 3 October 2000. Based on the data, the mean labour productivity of the bricklayers was 0.32 WH/m². The factors affecting their efficiency were the work type, work situation, the work condition and the experience of the crews, where the efficiency between works carried off and on working platform resulted the most significant difference of 31.03%.

Suggestions were proposed on how to improve the efficiency under various conditions. One of it was to use large piece of planks instead of strips of planks to help improve the labour productivity of work carried out on working platform.