ABSTRACT

Wastage of materials can be seen everywhere on the construction site in the form of broken bricks being thrown away haphazardly, moulded harden concrete or rusty and distorted steel bars left exposed in the open sun. Most of these materials need not be wasted if proper planning and supervision have been carried out.

The objective of this study is to highlight the economic impact of wastage on the contractors’ bottom line as well as the negative effects on the environment; and to generate more concern in this issue. Concrete waste is specifically chosen for discussion in this study as most of the construction works carried out in Singapore use concrete as the primary building material.

Causes of concrete waste ie. waste within contractor’s control and waste that are unavoidable are explored to find out what results in concrete being wasted. Three concrete reducing measures concrete management plan, Just-In-Time(JIT) and recycling are discussed on their merits and limitations in their success to minimize waste. In depth interviews are conducted among personal on construction sites in Singapore to be used as case studies and the findings are discussed.

The main finding shows that some contractors in Singapore adopt at least one of the concrete reducing measures discussed in this work. Some recommendations and suggestions like to set up an internet base for contractors to share concrete waste information on the net are then made to the relevant parties for further improvements.

Key words: Construction Waste, Recycling