BARRIERS AND PRACTICES IN MONITORING SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS IN CATANDUANES

Alfredo Z. Bagadiong Jr.
Catanduanes Colleges
PHILIPPINES

Pedrito Jose V. Bermudo
Catanduanes Colleges
PHILIPPINES

ABSTRACT

This study examined the barriers and practices in monitoring school building construction projects by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Catanduanes, using a descriptive-correlational research design. It aimed to identify the administrative, technical, financial, and logistical barriers encountered by DPWH personnel, assess the effectiveness of monitoring practices such as project planning, quality control, stakeholder engagement, and evaluation strategies, and determine the relationship between these barriers and monitoring effectiveness. Data were collected from selected DPWH stakeholders to provide insights into operational challenges and inform the development of strategic interventions to improve school infrastructure monitoring. The findings revealed that monitoring school construction projects is generally challenging, with an overall weighted mean of 2.67. Logistical barriers were identified as the most significant (2.84), followed by administrative (2.64), financial (2.62), and technical barriers (2.56), indicating that site accessibility, coordination, funding, and adherence to technical standards hinder efficient project oversight. Despite these challenges, the DPWH employs highly effective monitoring practices, reflected by an overall weighted mean of 3.39. Quality control and compliance were ranked highest (3.44), followed by monitoring and evaluation strategies (3.40), project planning and implementation (3.36), and stakeholder engagement and coordination (3.34), demonstrating robust adherence to standards, systematic tracking, careful planning, and collaboration. Notably, the study found no significant relationship between the identified barriers and monitoring practices ($r = 0.079 < 0.254$, $p > 0.05$), indicating that the DPWH's oversight remains resilient and effective regardless of the challenges encountered. Based on these findings, a Strategic Intervention Plan was proposed, emphasizing digital monitoring, stakeholder engagement, technical capacity building, and disaster risk integration, with clear objectives, activities, responsible personnel, time frames, resources, and expected outcomes to ensure at least 90% effectiveness in project oversight. The study concluded that logistical, administrative, and financial challenges are the primary barriers affecting monitoring efficiency, while quality control and structured project planning are central to the DPWH's effective practices. Furthermore, the resilience of DPWH monitoring practices underscores the importance of maintaining high standards and implementing structured interventions to enhance efficiency, accountability, and technical proficiency, ensuring that school construction projects in Catanduanes are completed successfully, safely, and sustainably.

Keywords: School Building Construction, Monitoring Practices, DPWH, Project Implementation Barriers, Strategic Intervention