

ABSTRACT.

Selecting an appropriate construction contractor is a major decision which may influence the progress and decide the success or failure of any construction project. One of the most important phases in the construction industry is the bidding process. In Sri Lanka most of the construction projects were not completed on time and the variation are very high. This study analyses the contractor selection criteria used to evaluate qualification of contractors in Sri Lanka.

In Sri Lanka Contractor selection criteria for all project need to be prepared based on National Procurement Agency (NPA) Guideline , further NPA has defined contractor selection criteria and evaluation procedure but it needs some improvement. Further for Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) NPA expect minimum three members and one should be a subject specialist. Whole decision of TEC depend on one person decision other member having no or less knowledge. It creates an opportunity for corrosion. Therefore it is important to include two or more subject specialist in a TEC; further evaluators' need continuous training and knowledge upliftment. Further for Contractor up grading system is available in Sri Lanka and it handled by CIDA (ICTAD) but there is no any such system for evaluator, it compulsory to introduce evaluators up grading system to evaluate different value of project by considering complexity of the project.

As per NPA qualification of bidder need to check first among them lowest bidder need to be selected. But currently in practice evaluator select lowest bidder first then check their qualification, further selected low coated bidders are Strule to completed project scope.

In final stage of bid evaluation need to check post qualification of bidder before awarding but most of evaluator fails to check post qualification it is also one of the reason project failure. Further Transparency needs to be maintained and awarding decision need to be communicated with unsuccessful bidder it is commonly not followed.

Quality requirement and safety requirement are given less importance during contractor selection in Sri Lanka but these criteria are given top preference in other country like Luthuminiya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabiya and UK.