

# Regimented construction: A way out to combat Covid-19

S.M.K. Alam

*Dienco Ltd., Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh*

## 1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Regimented Construction site fundamentally means an isolated construction work place for the construction workers where they will be provided with all possible safety measures to fight against COVID-19 and continue their construction works. Due to SARS-CoV-2 necessary roads, bridges, culverts etc. construction works are getting complex day by day. Therefore, the transportation system is getting hindered.

In both urban and rural places, the usual construction site is basically the intensive population area of most to low income group people with low educational background and less health care facilities and below average income. The chances of construction workers to get affected and spread COVID-19 are pretty high if they continue their works in regular manner in this pandemic situation. Their incomes will not be enough to get proper treatment of COVID-19 because they do not have any insurance coverage. To fight this pandemic situation and continue construction works, the term Regimented Construction site comes. On this special construction site, the workers will be chosen through SARS-CoV-2 medical examination. They will receive a primary training/brief about the regimented site. A special team will surveillance the worker's day to day life and aware them about the rules and regulations given by WHO. The workers will get healthy food to boost their immunity, individual places to sleep and maintain safe distances.

1. What will be the impact of regimented construction site on transportation system?
2. Will the Country's economy be saved/improved by the policy of regimented construction?
3. How the Regimented construction site shall ensure the urban-rural dwellers health and hygiene from spreading of Covid-19?
4. What will be the impact of regimented site on construction worker's income and health during SARS-CoV-2 pandemic?

Why the Government Funding agency will inspire for regimented Construction as a way out to mitigate the Covid-19 problem.

## 2 PROJECT PURPOSE

Main purpose and objective of the regimented construction is to provide COVID-19 risk free construction work environment for the workers to continue their work and upheld the economy of the country in the transportation sector. To mitigate the risk of COVID-19 the regimented construction is thought to be implemented to achieve the goal of zero spreading of virus among the construction work forces.

This aim of regimented construction has the direct linkage with sustainable development, Goal-3 Good health and wellbeing, Goal – 8 Decent works and Economic growth, Goal-9 Industry, innovation & infrastructure etc, Goal-11 sustainable cities & communities.

## 3 APPROACH AND METHODS

Normally, the construction activities in developing country like Bangladesh forwarded with an assessment to exploit the profit. That flouts mostly the sustainable development goals, in most cases the project management

consultants supervise the construction site and compelled the construction management to follow the construction conditions those are spelled out the contract document. Those are mostly the engineering quality aspects. In recent days with the engineering quality achievement the environmental maintenance is also govern priority with the occupational health & safety.

Thus, technically model activities with aim to zero occurrence of COVID-19 among construction work force there are some proposed methods to follow. They are

- The full construction site shall be brought under a single fenced area.
- The materials, plant yard, and accommodation campus of the work forces shall be earmarked and fenced.
- In all the above cases the fencing shall be done giving due consideration to the natural air flow and no air cooler is allowable in the accommodation/office spaces.
- A proper registration to be maintained for all workers including the supervising engineers with respect to their health & physical records.
- The food for workers to be assured periodically and proper food with respect to vitamin & calorie to be provided as suggested by dietician.
- A health centre to be established on the campus and regular inspection to the work force.
- Accommodation to be arranged and properly maintained with respect to health and hygiene to be established.
- All workers are to be brought under a regular health & safety drill.
- Sufficient arrangement of recreation to be ensured in the accommodation in leisure time.
- Dedicated isolation unit to be maintained at accommodation area.
- Regular at certain interval of days health check-up and health briefing to be addressed.
- During leave and emergency, the individual worker is to be released for certain period with sufficient briefing and on return his/her history to be recorded and decision to be taken.

The maximum attention to be given on the issues:

1. Having natural and green local foods and available protein and physical exercise to develop enough immunity.
2. Personal health and safety at work site and accommodation to be under full surveillance with the help of special supervising team.
3. History and daily register shall be recorded for all the work forces shall be recorded from individual statement.

In spite of all above stated, approaches and methodology, few instant necessities may arise and shall be wisely mitigated by the project management authority.

To ensure success of the piloting of this project, it is imperative to identify construction agencies that would be interested in trial testing and future implementation of the Regimented Construction concept. For that, a questionnaire will be made to bring out the necessary insightful information regarding the project. Several pilot surveys will be conducted in the particular chosen locations. After the data collection is over, data analysis team will bring out the plausible inference regarding the regimented construction concept.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

The next few years might be the time of co-existing with the COVID-19 and the proposed methods of regimented construction can bring out a new era of safely construction work environment in the time of pandemic. That can keep up the low volume transportation system in the rural area up and running and also fulfill the SDG goals in the sector of environment, health, infrastructure growth and transportation system.

Technical engagement of stakeholders throughout the research process is important to ensure stakeholders understand and are involved in the research process and research is relevant to in-country needs and priorities in this pandemic situation.