

**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

FACULTY OF COMMERCE, HUMAN SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGES

COURSE CODE: EAP511S	COURSE NAME: ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES
DATE: NOVEMBER 2023	MODE: FM, PM, DI
DURATION: 3 HOURS	MARKS: 100

FIRST OPPORTUNITY EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER	
EXAMINER(S):	Mr B. Kamwi Ms T. Kanime Mr C. Gwasira Ms Y. Lyamine Dr S. Ithindi
MODERATOR:	Prof. N. Mlambo

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Answer all questions. 2. Write clearly and neatly. 3. Number the answers clearly.

PERMISSIBLE MATERIALS

1. Examination paper
2. Examination script

THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF 11 PAGES (Including this front page)

Read the following research article and answer the questions that follow. The original article has been adapted for assessment purposes.

Effects of Increase in the Cost of Building Materials on the Delivery of Affordable Housing in South Africa
Bimpe Alabi * and Julius Fapohunda

Abstract

A ¹Adequate provision of affordable human settlements is a huge challenge in South Africa since its independence. ² This paper investigates the effects of the cost increase of building materials on affordable housing **(to deliver) a)** _____ in South Africa. ³ With potential solutions for cost minimisation of building materials, with the aim of achieving affordable housing delivery in South Africa are provided. ⁴ This study uses a sequential mixed methods approach, wherein surveys were **(to conduct) b)** _____ among the construction professionals (project managers, site managers architects, site engineers, quantity surveyors, contractors, building materials suppliers, and government workers) in the construction industry within Cape Town, South Africa, who were considered as the research participants. ⁵ The qualitative data obtained from the survey exercise were analysed using content analysis, while the quantitative data were analysed using a descriptive statistical technique on SPSS. ⁶ The findings attained show fluctuation in construction cost and a rise in maintenance cost (caused by poor workmanship) as **(significant/significantly)** effects in the cost increase of building materials for affordable housing delivery. ⁷ Adequate application of the recommendations given in this study will minimise the effects of high cost of building materials and enhance affordable housing delivery. ⁸ Appropriate **(to handle) c)** _____ of the findings given in this study will reduce the effects of the high cost of building materials and augment timely delivery of affordable housing and stakeholders' satisfaction.

Introduction

B Housing construction has developed in a remarkable way over the years. The desire for the welfare of the future generations is important [1]. With the purpose of easing pressure of improving housing provision across the globe, the integration of both sustainability and affordability was therefore considered as the potential approach towards housing provision [2]. This approach is referred to as sustainable affordable housing. Sustainable affordable housing is described as housing which satisfies the demand and needs of the present generation without compromising future generations' ability to meet their housing demands [3–5]. Durability, accessibility, sustainability and affordability are indispensable characters of sustainable affordable housing. Sustainable housing is a basic need to the people. Thus, it needs to be available, affordable and durable continuously in the built environment [8]. Notwithstanding, to sustain the provision of affordable housing across South Africa, the housing construction industry should be more concerned about the economical handling of building materials cost.

C Building material or construction material is any material that can be used for the construction housing projects. It commonly includes steel, copper, cement, bitumen, lumber, masonry bricks/blocks, and sand among many others. The housing construction industry is one of the most important industries that underpins the economic development of a nation [9]. The construction sector impacts socio-economic expansion development in the developing countries by contributing substantially to their gross domestic product (GDP) [10,11]. As a result of this, it is crucial for the sector to understand the impact of the building materials cost in completing housing projects as scheduled. Building materials cost can actually comprise half (50%) of the total cost of all projects executed by a construction industry [12]. Moreover, building materials cost depends on supply and demand, as well being affected by quality, quantity, time, place, buyer, and seller during a construction production [13]. Other factors are currency exchange, material specification, inflation pressure, and availability of new materials in the country [14]. Generally, total cost of executing a housing project is hugely affected by improper material handling on the construction site, and all this impacts the quality and time scheduled for a project to be completed [15]. Durdyev and Hosseini [16] conducted a survey and systematically reviewed studies on construction project delay; this revealed that the ten most common causes of this are climatic conditions, ineffective communication, deficiency in coordination and conflicts between stakeholders, improper planning, material shortages, financial problems, payment delays, equipment/plant shortage, lack required experience among project stakeholders, labour shortages, and poor site management.

D According to some researchers, building materials play a (a) _____ role in building as a substantial input in the project development [17]. In South Africa, the incessant rising in price of building materials is a huge challenge towards the performance of the construction industry in delivering projects with quality and within the time scheduled [18]. The (b) _____ (always changing) market value for building materials tends to cause high project risk to all stakeholders (suppliers, contractors, and clients) involved in the construction production [19–21]. The demand for housing of all types, coupled with inflation and tight (c) _____ supply, has caused a big challenge to the cost of building materials in the construction industry [22]. Therefore, an improved sustainable housing delivery within the budgeted time, cost, and expected quality, as well taking into consideration the stakeholders' satisfaction and cost of building materials, is absolutely essential. Sustainability is generally elaborated as a development that satisfies the needs of the current generation, without (d) _____ future generations [2]. Therefore, to achieve the UN Sustainable Development goal, there is the need for a significant reduction in the cost of construction. As building materials contribute up to 50% of the cost of construction, there is a need to consider the factors which will minimize the excess cost of building materials Table 1 revealed variation in the construction material price index in South Africa between 2010 to 2018. These percentage increases are in line with overall inflation, as measured by the price index. Additionally, the survey of [18] revealed a diverse trend in the cost of building materials over the past two decades in South Africa (2001–2011). It appeared that the cost of building materials increased (e) _____ yearly without any fail. Considering this, it is necessary to evaluate the effects of upsurge in the price of building materials on the delivery of affordable housing in South Africa.

Research Methodology

E To achieve the objective of this study, the sequential mixed methods approach posited by Teddie and Tashakkori [45] and Östlund et al. [46] were used. The cluster sampling method was used for data collection to redistribute the target population (with a high concentration of construction companies and experienced professionals) into smaller groups (clusters). These samples are randomly selected for data collection and result generalization. As such, construction managers, project managers, sales consultants, contractors, quantity surveyors, site managers, architects, and site engineers were involved. Questionnaires for the quantitative data were self-administered to guide and obtain opinions of the selected respondents. After distributing the questionnaires, interviews were scheduled with construction industry professionals. The basic purpose of the interviews was to consolidate the questionnaire in acquiring relevant data for the purpose of the study. A total of 137 questionnaires were administered in person to construction stakeholders (architects, site engineers, project managers, quantity surveyors, contractors, building materials suppliers, site managers, and government workers) in the Western Cape Province. A total of 69 questionnaires were recovered and used for analysis. Quantitative data were analysed with the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). A four-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (not at all) to 4 (to a very large extent) was adopted to capture the effects of the increase in the cost of building materials on housing delivery.

Discussion

F The findings on the effect on housing delivery are discussed. Tables 3 and 4 provided numerical results of respondents' perceptions on the effects of increase in the cost of building materials on housing delivery. The findings reveal that the increase in the cost of building materials frustrates the progress of the construction industry in South Africa due to many affected factors, such as fluctuation in cost of construction, high maintenance cost due to poor workmanship, increase in the cost of repair due to inferior materials used, poor workmanship, and many others, as arrayed in Table 6. From the tabularised results, it is observed that "fluctuation in cost of construction" with a MV of 3.26 is the most affected. The client and project contractors have been facing serious issues to maintain steady cost projection on construction projects [17]. Therefore, cost control during the construction process is very important to ensure the success of a project [49]. To add, findings indicated that high maintenance cost due to poor workmanship, increase in the cost of repair due to inferior materials used, poor workmanship, client expectation's on quality project delivery, and building collapses due to the use of less quality materials are all affected by increase in cost of building materials on housing delivery. Iwaro and Mwasha [36] highlighted that workmanship plays an important role in project's quality. One of the characteristics of a developed construction industry is in the output of quality buildings and structures [50]. However, Oyedele and Tham [51] posited that a lack of significant consideration for design constructability may cause building collapse during the construction process. Therefore, stakeholders' satisfaction and timely project completion has been a yardstick for measuring project success in relation to time, quality, scope and cost [52,53].

Conclusions and recommendations

G Based on the findings from the study, it was understood that fluctuation in the cost of construction is a huge influence caused by increase in the cost of building materials on the delivery of affordable housing in Western Cape. The findings also revealed high maintenance cost due to poor workmanship and an increase in the cost of repair due to inferior materials used as other huge influences caused by the increase in the cost of building materials on housing delivery in Western Cape Province of South Africa. With the purpose of guiding against excessive fluctuation in the cost of construction, stakeholders should have a well-developed plan for materials in advance to avoid the effect of the increase in building material prices in the market. Thus, proper planning and scheduling at the initial stages of construction are very essential, which includes the early purchase of building materials within the budgeted cost and suitable storage of building materials is to be adopted to avoid cost overrun, disputes, and inflation. If this could be the effect, it will enhance the timely delivery of housing at the budgeted cost specified and meeting client expectations. Affordable housing programs should also consider the economic sustainability of developers (e.g., the cost effectiveness of the projects) to ensure that these programs can be developed on a continuous basis, while developers can adopt cost reduction strategies (such as the use of regionally available materials and techniques), providing stable financial incentives is needed for **them** to secure financial viability [54].

Part 1: Comprehension questions

[20 Marks]

1. Who wrote this article? (2)
2. Why was the integration of sustainability and affordability considered as a potential approach towards housing provision? (2)
3. What is sustainable affordable housing? (1)
4. Name four crucial characters of sustainable affordable housing. (2)
5. The following questions test your ability to use inferencing as a strategy to comprehend academic reading texts. Say whether each of the following sentences is a **Correct** or **Wrong** conclusion based on the information provided in paragraph D.
 - a) A country with a strong construction industry is likely to have GDP. (1)
 - b) It is not significant for the construction industry to understand the effects of building material costs on its ability to complete housing projects on time. (1)
 - c) A building company that has employers who handle building materials with care at the construction site has a better chance of completing high-quality projects within the scheduled time. (1)
6. Study the five words below. Each word belongs in a blank space in paragraph D.

Fluctuating monetary pivotal consistently compromising

Using contextual clues, fill each blank with the correct word. Just write down the letter of the blank and the correct word. (5)

7. Study paragraph F and identify cohesive devices that are performing each of the following functions.

- a) One cohesive device that is adding extra information. (1)
- b) One cohesive device that is showing consequences. (1)
- c) One cohesive device that is contrasting previous information. (1)

8. To what does each of the following pronouns refer?

- a) **it** in paragraph B (1)
- b) **them** in paragraph G (1)

Part 2: Language usage

[10 Marks]

The following questions are based on the article in part one. Read the abstract and respond to the questions. The sentences are numbered for your convenience.

- 1. What is the meaning of the prefix in the word *independence* in sentence 1? (1)
- 2. Analyse the word *settlements* in sentence 1 according to its morpheme structure. (1)
- 3. Create a word opposite in meaning to each word below by adding an affix. (2)
 - a) affordable (Paragraph A, sentence 1)
 - b) adequate (Paragraph A, sentence 1)
- 4. Provide the correct form of the following words in brackets. (3)
 - a) to deliver (Paragraph A, sentence 2)
 - b) to conduct (Paragraph A, sentence 4)
 - c) to handle (Paragraph A, sentence 8)
- 5. Choose the correct option from the words in brackets in sentence 6. (1)
- 6. Are the underlined affixes in the words below derivational or inflectional in the context in which they are used? (2)
 - building (Paragraph A, sentence 2)
 - housing (Paragraph A, sentence 3)

Part 3: Research writing

[10 Marks]

- 1. Read the title and do the following. (2)
 - a) Formulate a research question from the title.
 - b) Create a research objective from the research question created for a) above.
- 2. Identify the a) research method and b) research design adopted in this study. (2)
- 3. What is the characteristic of the research method identified in 2a) above? (1)

- a) focuses on numerical/statistical data.
 - b) uses non-numeric information to explore cultures and people.
 - c) combines quantitative and qualitative approaches in a single study.
 - d) It specifies the nature of your research.
4. Where (geographical context) was the research conducted? (2)
 5. How was quantitative data collected in this study? (1)
 6. Which statistical software was used to analyse quantitative data? (1)
 7. In which section of their research proposal did the authors most probably explain the sampling method used in the study. (1)

SECTION B: ACADEMIC WRITING **[60]**

Part 1: Report writing questions **[15 marks]**

Read the newspaper report below.

The high failure rate has devastating consequences on the economy – Analyst

Eagle FM, 2023-01-10 *Adapted*

[\(https://www.eaglefm.com.na/news/high-failure-rate-has-devastating-consequences-on-economy-analyst/\)](https://www.eaglefm.com.na/news/high-failure-rate-has-devastating-consequences-on-economy-analyst/)

By: Justicia Shipena

Political analyst Ndumba Kamwanyah says that the high failure for the class of 2022 external examinations has serious consequences on society and the economy. The education ministry last month announced that out of 38 019 full-time candidates who sat for the Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate (NSSCO) grade 11 students examinations, only 5 812 scored 25 points and above to qualify for entry to tertiary institutions. The outcome of the results has seen many coming out to criticise the education system while expressing their disappointment in the 2022 exam results. “It has very serious consequences and impacts both for the individual students, their families, society, and the economy,” Kamwanyah said. He stated that this could be a setback for access to education. “Where you have such a high number of learners that did not qualify to universities then there is a problem in terms of achieving the goal of access to education,” the analyst opined.

Namibia recently reformed its basic education curriculum to address inclusivity in education. The curriculum reforms were created by the Cabinet Directives based on the outcomes of the National Conference on Education held in 2011. In the reformed curriculum, learners have the first exit point

in Grade 11 with a Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary (NSSCO) qualification equivalent to Cambridge's International General Certificate for Secondary Education (IGCSE). Mathematics is compulsory since 2012 and many learners will have the opportunity for further studies in vocational institutions. With the higher rate of failure, Kamwanyah said, this could also be a setback for creating a productive workforce, adding that many could be left stranded in the streets and may not gain gainful employment to contribute to the economy. "This could also further grow inequality in Namibia, with those facing poverty unable to escape," he said. "When you have this higher number of failures then the education is not equalising. What it is doing is creating more inequality. The impact is mostly on the people already in a poverty situation and their chances to escape inequality is very slim."

Meanwhile, higher education minister Itah Kandji-Murangi says that she has yet to engage stakeholders. "Let me come back and engage the different teams at universities and higher education institutions and for us to think how best we can address this national challenge together," the minister said. In an interview with The Villager, Kandji-Murangi stated that when Namibian universities decided to shake off certificates years back, it was because there was a need for them to focus on specific things such as developing new degree programmes that were to be focused, expanding agricultural and medical schools. "We will have to sit and collectively look into how best we can address the national challenge that we have. It is not only universities that we need to look at but also our technical and vocational institutions in terms of diversification of trades that they offer," she said.

As a NUST intern at the Ministry of Basic Education, you have to write a recommendation report to brief your supervisor on the effects of high failure rate of matriculants, because the Ministry is concerned about the failure rate. The Ministry was requested to devise measures to remedy the situation, and your report will aid in this endeavor. You have decided to focus your report content on 1. How, in general, the high failure rate affects the country, 2. The current state of affairs regarding the matriculants' high failure rate, and 3. Solutions suggested and required to address the situation.

Write your **report Title and Conclusion section ONLY**, paying attention to correct format, paragraph structure, and the content required for the Conclusion section of a report.

Part 2: Academic writing

[20 marks]

Observe the following paragraph to answer the questions that follow.

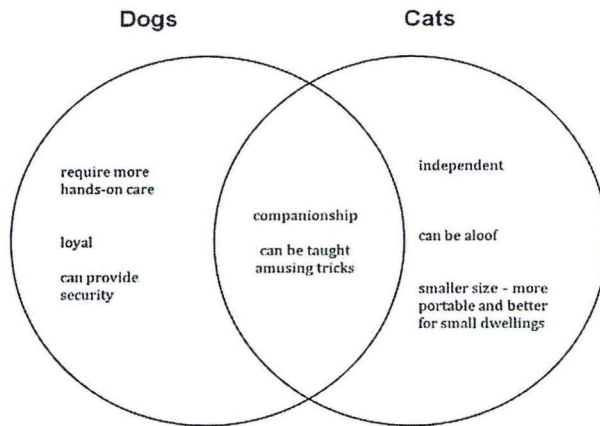
¹The finding on the effect on housing delivery are discussed. ²Tables 3 and 4 provided numerical results of respondents' perceptions on the effects of increase in the cost of building materials on housing delivery. ³The findings reveal that the increase in the cost of building materials frustrates the progress of the construction industry in South Africa due to many affected factors, such as fluctuation in cost of construction, high maintenance cost due to poor workmanship, increase in the cost of repair due to inferior materials used, poor workmanship, and many others, as arrayed in Table 6. ⁴From the tabularised results, it is observed that "fluctuation in cost of construction" with a MV of 3.26 is the most affected. ⁵The client and project contractors has been facing serious issues to mantan steady cost projection on construction projects (Akanni, et al., 2014). ⁶Therefore, "cost control during the construction process is very important to ensure the success of a project" (Nega, 2008, p.12). ⁷To add, findings indicated that high maintenance cost due to poor workmanship, increase in the cost of repair due to inferior materials used, poor workmanship, client expectation's on quality project delivery, and building collapses due to the use of less quality materials are all affected by increase in cost of building materials on housing delivery. ⁸Iwaro and Mwashia (2012) highlighted that workmanship plays an important role in project's quality. ⁹One of the characteristics of a developed construction industry are in the output of quality buildings and structures (Lam et al., 2007). ¹⁰However, Oyedele and Tham (2006) posited that a lack of significant consideration for design constructability may cause building collapse during the construction process. ¹¹Therefore, stakeholders' satisfaction and timely project completion has been a yardstick for measuring proycet success in relation to time, quality, scope and cost (Takim, 2009; Aggor, 2017).

1. Identify three spelling errors in the paragraph. Write the misspelt word and the correct one next to it. Do not rewrite the whole sentence. (6)
2. Three sentences in the paragraph have wrong subject-verb agreement. Correct them so that they can be grammatically correct. **Underline the correct part you corrected.** (6)
3. Write three methods used in the paragraph for incorporating the ideas of other scholars into one's own scholarly work. Write the sentence number and the method used. (6)
4. Name the type of method of incorporating the scholars' ideas used in the following sentences. (2)
 - (a) Sentence 5
 - (b) Sentence 8

Part 3: Text structure

[10 marks]

Use the notes below to construct a paragraph of not more than eight sentences.



Your paragraph should consist of the following.

- 1) Topic sentence (1)
- 2) Supporting sentences (4)
- 3) At least four text structure-specific cohesive devices/signal words (4)
- 4) Closing sentence (1)

Part 4: Citation and reference

[15 marks]

1. State whether each of the following statements is **True** or **False**.
The following are the elements of in-text citation:
 - 1.1 Always use the author's surname only, first names and initials are omitted. (1)
 - 1.2 When two authors' surnames are cited in brackets, the word 'and' must be written to separate them. (1)
 - 1.3 When presenting three or more authors, cite the surname of the first named author only, followed by 'et al'. (1)
 - 1.4 If the word 'Anonymous' is used in place of the author's name in an article, present in-text-citation by leaving a blank space in brackets. (1)
 - 1.5 Add the year of publication to an in-text citation. (1)

2. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow.
 - 2.1 Recent studies on social media (Thurlow, 2003; Ling, 2005; Elvis, 2009; Deumert, 2008) agree that SMS has been researched upon broadly and scholars have documented the trends in language use and other characteristics.

Question: Which technique has been used to incorporate an external source in the extract above? Choose one:

A. Quoting B. Paraphrasing C. Summarising D. Synthesising. (2)

2.2 In the definition of mother tongue, the writer presents the following statement from UNESCO (2003,15)

Definitions of the term 'mother tongue' often include the following two elements: the language that one has learnt first and the language one identifies with as a native speaker.

Question: Which technique has been used to incorporate an external source in the extract above? Choose one:

A. Quoting B. Paraphrasing C. Summarising D. Synthesising. (2)

3. Each of the following Reference List entries has one error. Identify the error and explain how it can be corrected. Do not copy the entry itself.

3.1 Book with three editors:

Peters, M., Swartz, L., & Richards, P. (2010). *Research in applied linguistics*. HSRC Press. (2)

3.2 Journal item:

Kooper, G. Perspectives on English education. *Annual Review of Education in Africa*, IV, 27 – 54. (2)

3.3 Newspaper item:

Dhlamini, M. 2023, September 21 Tourism sector bounces back to pre-pandemic level. *The Namibian*, p.11. (2)