



Success of Dam Engineering Industry Projects in Australia: Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Pouya Amirsayafi, Xiaohua Jin, Sepani Senaratne

School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics, Western Sydney University, Sydney, Australia

Contact: p.amirsayafi@westernsydney.edu.au

Abstract

This research paper shows that despite huge amount of research outputs and diversity of the project management topics, it lacks a well-established research on success of projects suggesting working on project success models and improving project performance for specific fields. Performance of dam engineering projects over the life-cycle including strategic planning, design, construction and operation has not been studied even though these structures have significant economic, social and environmental impacts. Improving dam engineering projects performance is the area that is unknown to researchers and project managers and hence, the unique aspect of this paper is that it establishes the theoretical framework and discusses Success Criteria and Critical Success Factors as main components for success of dam engineering projects.

Keywords: project management, project success, success criteria, critical success factors, dam engineering

1 Introduction

Project management discipline has been developing in the past decades and has become well-established with accepted theories, methodologies and standards. Research background on multi-disciplinary area of project management consists of a significant body of literature including books, national and international peer-reviewed journals and conference papers covering a variety aspect of project management. Despite huge amount of research outputs and diversity of the project management topics, it lacks a well-established research on success of projects suggesting working on project success models and improving project performance for specific fields. Dam engineering industry is a field rarely investigated by project management researchers creating an

opportunity to undertake research that both academics and professional project managers could benefit from the results. A fresh and comprehensive look at the life-cycle performance of dam engineering projects in Australia is needed, as limited studies has been undertaken to explore success of such projects based on traditional and modern project success criteria and critical success factors (CSFs). Improving dam engineering projects performance in Australia is the area that is unknown to researchers and project managers and hence, will be investigated in the PhD research.

2 Cross-country project success

One of the most important aspects of research in the area of project success is to determine whether project success framework differs in project environment such as different countries,