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# Motivational Factors Affecting Construction Labor Productivity: A Review

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**Abstract:** Research on motivational factors affecting construction labor productivity (CLP) has attracted numerous researchers worldwide many years so far. This study aims to review studies on motivational factors affecting CLP from the outcomes of previous studies. Based on a comprehensive review, publications on this domain were analyzed in terms of geographical distribution, adopted research methods, common motivational factors, and knowledge gaps. The findings indicated that the majority of studies were carried out in the Asia continent, followed by Europe, Africa, and America. Also, almost studies adopted methods of empirical research for identifying and evaluating of motivational factors with a prevalent procedure that includes five stages, namely, identifying motivational factors based on a review of existing literature; pilot study; data collection; data analysis; and concluding critical motivational factors. Additionally, the results also revealed that the mostly identified motivational factors contain rewards; good relationship; promotion opportunities; job security; good supervision; the amount of salary; and a good work environment. It is recommended that engineering managers, project managers, employers should use the findings of this study to make policies or decisions to ensure effective management and improve construction workforce productivity.

**Keywords:** Motivational Factor; Labor Productivity; Construction Industry; Literature Review

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## 1. Introduction

The construction industry is one of the largest and most resource-consuming industries in the world, accounting for 50% of raw materials and 40% of global energy consumption (Corporation, 2018; Hazeltine, 1976). Besides, the construction sector value contributes from 6% to 9% of an economy's gross domestic product (GDP) (Arditi & Mochtar, 2000; Chitkara, 1998). However, in comparison with other industries, the construction industry seems to lag in the using and adoption the technology advances and employs numerous unskilled construction workers, hence, productivity in the construction primarily depends on the workforce's effort and performance (Haas *et al.*, 2008; Jarkas, 2010; Ng *et al.*, 2004). Consequently, in many countries, however, the construction sector is facing one of the most problems that low-level labor productivity (Ayele & Fayek, 2019; Egan, 1998; Jarkas & Bitar, 2012; Lim & Alum, 1995; Segerstedt *et al.*, 2010; Timmer *et al.*, 2010; Tookey, 2011). This is a primary cause sequence that decreases GDP, increases inflationary pressure, social conflicts, and mutual suspicion to the countries' economy (Dixit *et al.*, 2017; Drucker, 1993; Hamza *et al.*, 2019; Shoar & Banaitis, 2019). Laborers' motivation as a

determinant may lead to stimulating construction productivity enhancement (Barg *et al.*, 2014; Borchering, 1976; Hewage & Ruwanpura, 2006; Laufer & Borchering, 1981; Maloney & McFillen, 1987; Schrader, 1972). The workforce in construction projects is one of the difficult factors to supervise, manage, and control. Therefore, it is critically important to determine the motivational factors influencing CLP (Hamza *et al.*, 2019; Kazaz & Acikara, 2015). Understanding the motivational factors influencing CLP may lead to the development of strategies to reduce inefficiencies and improve construction project performance through more effective construction workforce management (Ailabouni *et al.*, 2009; Hamza *et al.*, 2019; Robles *et al.*, 2014). Therefore, a comprehensive and in-depth review of motivational factors impacting CLP should be conducted in order to provide an extensive picture to help researchers can focus further studies, thereby maximizing the chance for enhancement CLP.

The goal of the present study is to comprehensively review of previous studies have been conducted to identify and address motivational factors affecting labor productivity in the construction industry. To achieve this, specific objectives are as follows:

- (1) To identify a list of motivational factors influencing CLP through a review of different studies were carried out so far by using available scientific databases.
- (2) To ascertain the geographical distribution of motivational factors affecting CLP.
- (3) To determine research methodology to be adopted in studies on motivational factors affecting CLP.
- (4) To identify the most common motivational factors affecting CLP from previous studies.
- (5) To determine knowledge gaps related to studies on motivational factors affecting CLP in order to recommend suggestions or directions for further researches.

The results of this study could be referred by not only scientific researchers, who are interested in motivational factors affecting CLP but also key stakeholders of the construction projects (i.e., project managers, contractors, owners) to help them develop a deeper and wider understanding of the motivational factors influencing the productivity of the construction workforce. As a result, they can focus, acting upon, and controlling the primary motivational factors affecting CLP towards improving construction project performance and maximizing project profit.

## 2. Past studies

Motivation has been defined as “providing a drive to act to satisfy needs or desires” (Cox *et al.*, 2005). According to (Funso, 2016), it is a positive charge that produces motivation current that moves an individual to expend the effort that will lead to the attainment of organizational goals and meet personal needs; whereas, (Jenkins *et al.*, 1982) stated that motivation is intangible, a hypothetical construct that is used to explain human behavior. Another perspective, (Schmid & Adams, 2008) explained that motivation is commonly sourced from intrinsic or extrinsic motives. Extrinsic motivation reflects an instrumentality between the activity and some separable consequences such as tangible or verbal rewards; hence, satisfaction comes not from the activity itself but rather from the extrinsic consequences to which the activity leads. In contrast, intrinsic motivation reflects individuals doing an activity because they find it interesting and derive spontaneous satisfaction from the activity itself (Gagné & Deci, 2005).

In many years so far, research on motivation has been concerned by numerous researchers around the world. For the construction industry, various studies have been researched on motivational factors affecting CLP in order to identify, evaluate these factors, and recommend the measurements to improve labor productivity in the construction sector. To improve construction project performance, motivational factors influencing CLP should be identified and addressed appropriately (Hasan *et al.*, 2018). That is why various motivational factors were identified and assessed by many previous studies. For example, (Aghayeva & Ślusarczyk, 2019) identified 25 motivational factors affecting CLP in Azerbaijan. Accordingly, top factors were assessed impacting CLP such as amount of remuneration; high responsibility job; job security; bonuses and fringe benefits; and challenging task. In Australia, 25 motivational factors influencing CLP were determined by (Doloi, 2007); factors of job security; work appreciation and reward; work

environment; prospect of promotion; and geographical position were found as determinant factors to impact on CLP. In Malaysia, (Ohueroi *et al.*, 2018) stated that effective management and supervision; financial incentives; effective management; viable construction practices; and sufficient reward system were the most motivational factors affecting CLP; whereas, factors of bonus or rewards; amount of salary; friendliness and helpfulness of the coworkers; amount of freedom in your work; and chance for getting a promotion were important factors affecting CLP in Canada. Table 1 indicates the top motivational factors affecting CLP which were ranked by different researchers.

### 3. Method

To comprehensively review and analyze and the findings of previous studies in a research area or a particular topic, the methodological analysis of publications in scientific journals is very important (Tsai & Lydia Wen, 2005). The present study carries out a review related papers based on an examination literature on the identification of motivational factors influencing CLP. It synthesizes and assesses the current state of existing papers to identify patterns and trends in the existing research body and recommends new future studies (Hasan *et al.*, 2018).

To begin with, academic journals are sought with publications on motivational factors impacting CLP. The list of previous studies was identified by the use of a powerful “Scopus” search engine for a comprehensive on the specific area (Osei-Kyei & Chan, 2015; Van & Quoc, 2021). This is because “Scopus” covers most article databases in numerous different scientific areas such as management, engineering, accounting, and business (Hong & Chan, 2014). Besides, “Scopus” was considered in terms of its accuracy and coverage better than other search engines such as Google Scholar, PubMed, or Web of Science (Falagas *et al.*, 2008). In addition, the Scopus search engine has been employed in similar research of literature review in the field of construction management (Hong & Chan, 2014; Van Tam, 2021; Yuan & Shen, 2011).

In order to critically analyze and facilitate a clear representation of the trend of motivational factors affecting CLP research, a comprehensive search was conducted under the “title/abstract/keyword” fields of the search engine “Scopus”. The search keywords involved “motivational factors”, and “motivational factors affecting”, which were limited to the area of the CLP by the use of keyword “labor productivity”, “construction labor productivity”, and “construction productivity”. Studies include these specific terms in the title, abstract, or keywords that were considered to meet the requirements of this study. The full search code is as follows:

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TITLE-ABS-KEY (“motivational factors” OR “motivational factors affecting” AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (“labor productivity” OR “construction labor productivity” OR “construction productivity”) AND DOCTYPE (ar OR re) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, “English”)) AND (LIMIT-TO (SRCTYPE, “j”)).
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In this regard, all journals adopted are prominent “construction research” journals. In these scientific journals, this study carefully researched through the titles of all the articles appearing in each issue of all the volumes looking for any papers which were to be concerned with “motivational factors” and “construction labor productivity”. Next, all publications in journals, which were published under the broad groups of “editorial”, “book review”, “articles in press”, “letter to the editor”, “closures and discussion”, “introduction”, and “briefing sheet”, were removed from the analysis (Ke *et al.*, 2009; Osei-Kyei & Chan, 2015). In addition, the abstracts of publications that had some relevance to “motivational factors” were examined closely and the ones which had the keyword “construction labor productivity” in the abstract were considered for this study (Hamza *et al.*, 2019). Consequently, a total of 27 publications on this domain were considered for further analysis. Figure 1 illustrates the research framework for this study.

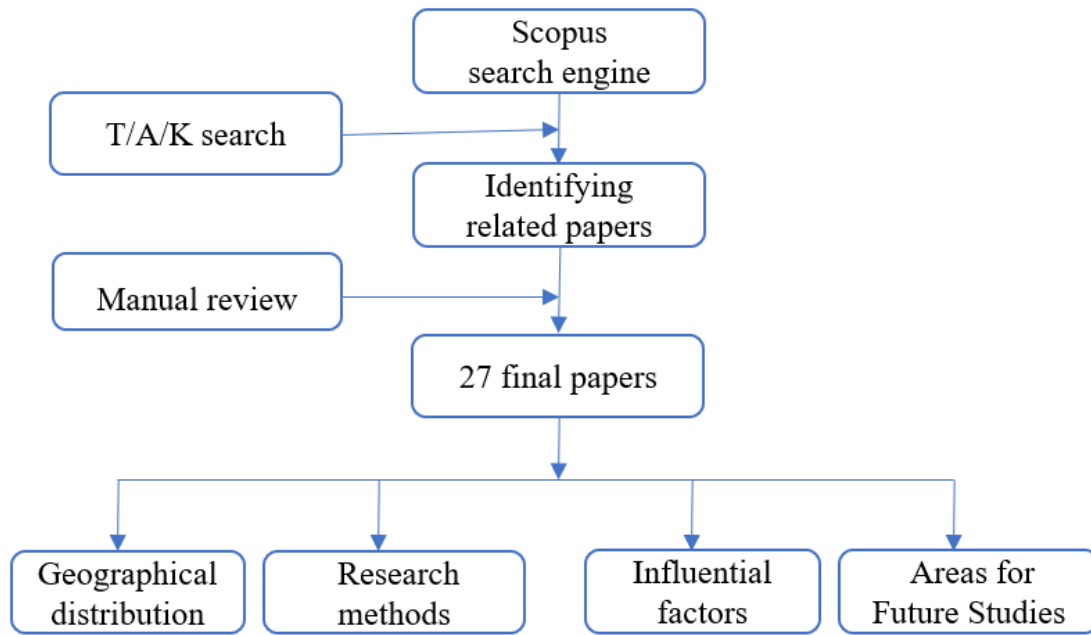
Following the compilation of selected papers, this study analyzed the data in order to identify: Geographical distribution of motivational factors affecting CLP; research methodologies to be adopted in studies on motivational factors affecting CLP; the most common motivational factors affecting CLP and recommendations for further studies.

**Table 1.** Summary of previous studies on motivational factors affecting construction labor productivity

Study	Region	Total factors identified	Top motivational factors affecting construction labor productivity
Hewage (2007)	Canada	23	(1) Bonus or rewards; (2) Amount of salary; (3) Friendliness and helpfulness of the coworkers; (4) Amount of freedom in your work; (5) Chance for getting a promotion
Doloi (2007)	Australia	25	(1) Job security; (2) Work appreciation and reward; (3) Work environment; (4) Prospect of promotion; (5) Geographical position
Dwivedula and Bredillet (2010)	Multi-nation	18	(1) Employee development; (2) Work climate; (3) Perceived equity; (4) Work objectivity; (5) job security
Funso <i>et al.</i> (2016b; 2016a)	Nigeria	16	(1) Job security; (2) Good salary; (3) Compliance with safety; (4) Appreciation of effort; (5) Bonus
Jarkas <i>et al.</i> (2014)	Qatar	38	(1) Lack of financial incentive schemes; (3) Slow decision-making process by owners; (3) Remuneration scale; (4) Delay in responding to requests for information; (5) Shortage of skilled labor force
Al-Abbadi and Agyekum-Mensah (2019)	Jordan	16	(1) Personal growth/career improvement; (2) Pay on time; (3) Decision-making ability; (4) Decent and respectful job; (5) Rewards
Olomolaiye (1990)	UK	28	(1) Good relations with mates; (2) Good safety program; (3) The work itself; (4) Overtime; (5) Level of pay
Shin <i>et al.</i> (2013)	Korea	25	(1) Economical factors; (2) Social factors; (3) Psychological factors
Ng <i>et al.</i> (2004)	Hong Kong	7	(1) Rework; (2) Overcrowded work areas; (3) Crew interfacing; (4) Tool availability; (5) Inspection delays
Khan <i>et al.</i> (2011)	Pakistan	20	(1) Free lunch; (2) Amount of pay/wages (3) Bonus on Eid; (4) On-time payment; (5) Incentive payments and financial rewards
Kazaz <i>et al.</i> (2008)	Turkey	37	(1) Quality of site management; (2) Material management; (3) On-time payment; (4) Systematic flow of work; (5) Supervision
Parkin <i>et al.</i> (2009)	Turkey	18	(1) Money; (2) Relationships; (3) Enjoyment; (4) Home life; (5) Getting a poor quality meal
Zakeri <i>et al.</i> (1997)	Iran	20	(1) Weather temperature; (2) Lack of working area; (3) Skillfulness; (4) Average workweek (hour); (5) Project management efficiency
Ghoddousi <i>et al.</i> (2015)	Iran	12	(1) Fairness of pay; (2) Incentives and financial rewards; (3) On-time payment; (4) Good working facilities; (5) Safety and health at work
Nasirzadeh and Nojedehe (2013)	Iran	6	(1) Empowerment; (2) Delay in salary payment; (3) Job security; (4) The proportion of labor's salary and responsibility; (5) interpersonal interaction
Momade and Hainin (2019)	Qatar	10	(1) Achievement; (2) Proper recognition and rewards, (3) Poor work conditions; (4) Poor administration policy; (5) Poor work relationship

**Table 1.** Summary of previous studies on motivational factors affecting construction labor productivity (continued)

Study	Region	Total factors identified	Top motivational factors affecting construction labor productivity
Gunduz and Abdi (2020)	Qatar	19	(1) Sharing specific design solutions with partners when needed; (2) Sharing technical solutions in work implementation; (3) Share experience in defining the scope of works and specifications to subcontractors; (4) Having better utilization of construction equipment and machinery; (5) Enhance health, security, safety and environmental control
Ohueri <i>et al.</i> (2018)	Malaysia	23	(1) Effective management and supervision; (2) Financial incentives; (3) Effective management; (4) Viable construction practices; (5) Sufficient reward system
Jarkas and Radosavljevic (2013)	Kuwait	23	(1) Payment delay; (2) Rework; (3) Lack of financial incentive scheme; (4) The extent of change orders during execution; (5) Incompetent Supervisors
Shroff and Sridhar (2011)	India	19	(1) Job training; (2) Good salary; (3) Recognition from peers, (3) Growth; (4) Challenging task; (5) Monetary benefits
Ugulu <i>et al.</i> (2016)	South Africa	25	(1) Days off; (2) Financial Incentives; (3) Skills enhancement; (4) Salaries paid on time; (5) Job enlargement
Enshassi <i>et al.</i> (2007)	Palestine	6	(1) Payment delay; (2) Lack of financial motivation system; (3) Lack of labor recognition programs, (4) Non-provision of transport means; (5) Lack of places for eating and relaxation
Rivas <i>et al.</i> (2011)	Chile	41	(1) Materials; (2) Rework; (3) Equipment and trucks; (4) Tools; (5) Interference
McFillen and Maloney (1988)	USA	5	(1) Feeling of accomplishment; (2) Opportunities; (3) Peer rewards; (5) Feedback; (5) Supervisor rewards
Ruthankoon and Ogunlana (2003)	Thailand	18	(1) Achievement; (2) Recognition; (3) Work if self; (4) Responsibility; (5) Advancement
Aghayeva and Ślusarczyk (2019)	Azerbaijan	25	(1) Amount of remuneration; (2) High responsibility job; (3) Job security; (4) Bonuses and fringe benefits; (5) Challenging task



NOTE: T/A/K-title/ abstract/ keywords

Figure 1. Research framework for the study

## 4. Findings

### 4.1 Regional distribution of motivational factors affecting construction labor productivity studies

Table 2 provides the geographical spread of the previous studies over different continents. It can be noted that the majority of studies were carried out in the Asian nations (59%) followed by European nations (19%), Africa (11%), America (7%), and Australia Pacific (4%). Besides, the analysis results indicated that Qatar (3), Iran (3), Turkey (2), and Nigeria (2) have a higher number of publications to contribute to studying motivational factors influencing CLP.

Concerning the geographical areas, the majority of the researchers in Africa have revealed that: Job security (Funso, 2016; Funso *et al.*, 2016a, 2016b); Days off (Ugulu *et al.*, 2016); Good salary (Funso *et al.*, 2016b); Financial Incentives (Funso, 2016; Ugulu *et al.*, 2016); Compliance with safety (Funso *et al.*, 2016a) and Skills enhancement (Ugulu *et al.*, 2016) are the critical motivational factors impacting labor productivity in the construction sector, whereas, (Doloi, 2007) stated that top five motivational factors influencing CLP in Australia Pacific that are: Job security; Work appreciation and reward; Work environment, employer’s recognition; Prospect of promotion; Geographical position.

In North America countries, the findings from studies indicated that top motivational factors influencing CLP as follows: Bonus or rewards (Kasun Naranja Hewage, 2007; Hewage & Ruwanpura, 2006; McFillen & Maloney, 1988); Working conditions (Hewage, 2007; Hewage & Ruwanpura, 2006); Amount of salary (Hewage, 2007); Feeling of accomplishment (McFillen & Maloney, 1988); Management and supervision (Hewage, 2007; McFillen & Maloney, 1988). However, in Europe, the numerous researchers explained that Good relations (Aghayeva & Ślusarczyk, 2019; Olomolaiye, 1990; Parkin *et al.*, 2009); Material management (Kazaz *et al.*, 2008; Rivas *et al.*, 2011); Quality of site management (Kazaz *et al.*, 2008; Rivas *et al.*, 2011); Level of payment (Aghayeva & Ślusarczyk, 2019; Kazaz *et al.*, 2008; Olomolaiye, 1990; Parkin *et al.*, 2009) are the main motivational factors impacting CLP.

In the Asia continent, numerous researchers stated that the primary motivational factors affecting CLP include: Good salary (Al-Abbadi & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019; Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2015; Jarkas & Radosavljevic, 2013; Jarkas *et al.*, 2014; Khan *et al.*, 2011; Nasirzadeh & Nojedehi, 2013; Ohueri *et al.*, 2018; Shroff & Sridhar, 2011); Achievement (Al-Abbadi & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019; Hai & Van Tam, 2019; Momade & Hainin, 2019; Nasirzadeh & Nojedehi, 2013; Ruthankoon & Ogunlana, 2003; Shroff & Sridhar, 2011); Rewards (Al-Abbadi & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019);

**Table 2.** Identification of the motivational factors related to CLP in different regions

Number of studies	Regions	Continent	Percentage
3/27	Qatar	Asia	59%
1/27	Jordan		
1/27	Korea		
1/27	Hong Kong		
1/27	Pakistan		
3/27	Iran		
1/27	Malaysia		
1/27	Kuwait		
1/27	India		
1/27	Vietnam		
1/27	Palestine		
1/27	Thailand		
1/27	Canada		
1/27	USA	Australia Pacific	4%
1/27	Australia		
1/27	Chile	Europe	19%
2/27	Turkey		
1/27	UK		
1/27	Azerbaijan		
1/27	South Africa	Africa	11%

Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2015; Jarkas & Radosavljevic, 2013; Khan *et al.*, 2011; Momade & Hainin, 2019; Ohueri *et al.*, 2018; Shin, Kim *et al.*, 2013; Van Tam, *et al.*, 2018); Recognition (Al-Abbadi & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019; Enshassi *et al.*, 2007; Momade & Hainin, 2019; Nasirzadeh & Nojedehi, 2013; Ruthankoon & Ogunlana, 2003; Shroff & Sridhar, 2011); Supervision (Jarkas & Radosavljevic, 2013; Ng *et al.*, 2004; Ohueri *et al.*, 2018).

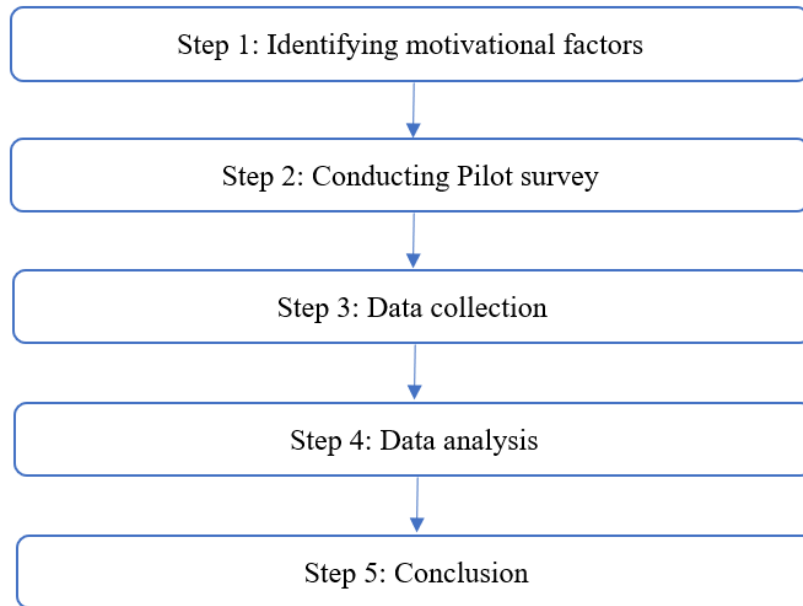
*4.2 Research methodology adopted in studies on motivational factors affecting construction labor productivity*

The findings of the study was conducted by (Fellows & Liu, 2015) revealed that there are 5 research approaches including case study, survey, experiment, action research, and ethnographic research. The finding also explained that studies in the construction industry were adopted by case study, survey, and experiment methods. Of which, the experiment method on critical factors influencing CLP would take a long time to give meaningful outcomes and thereby, would be higher costs (Hasan *et al.*, 2018). In addition, the study of (Alinaitwe *et al.*, 2007) indicated that the approach of case study only provides results for a specific project, it would not provide generalizable outcomes as different projects face different issues. Therefore, the survey approach through a structured questionnaire is mainly used in CLP studies as the most preferred data collection tool.

By considering the research approaches of previous studies, the author realized that almost studies adopted the methods of empirical research for identifying and evaluating of motivational factors impacting CLP with a prevalent procedure includes steps as follows (Hamza *et al.*, 2019) identifying motivational factors affecting CLP based on a review of existing literature; pilot study; data collection; data analysis; and concluding critical motivational factors influencing CLP. This process is illustrated in Figure 2, and is explained in the following steps.

*Step 1:* Identifying motivational factors – The list of motivational factors affecting labor productivity in the construction industry was identified by a comprehensive review previous studies related on the topic area. These factors were categorized into different groups such as motivators or demotivators factors.

*Step 2:* Pilot study – After motivational factors were listed and grouped by researchers, a questionnaire survey was designed. Before distributing the questionnaire, a pilot study was required to verify the questionnaire and ensure that the information returned by respondents was relevant to the study's objectives (Dwivedula & Bredillet, 2010; Hewage & Ruwanpura, 2006; Jarkas *et al.*,



**Figure 2.** The common process of research method in this domain

2014; Shroff & Sridhar, 2011; Van Tam *et al.*, 2021). This stage was completed by distributing the questionnaire to experts with many years of experience and in-depth knowledge of the subject. They evaluated the validity of the questionnaire content, commented on the readability of the linguistics, and added additional factors to make the questionnaires more comprehensive (Van Tam *et al.*, 2021).

*Step 3:* Data collection – in order to collect the needed data, a real questionnaire was conducted by researchers after the pilot test step was completed. In this stage, a structured questionnaire was distributed to construction practitioners (e.g., project managers, contractors, site supervisors, consultants, craftsmen).

*Step 4:* Data analysis – the collected data were analyzed, evaluated and ranked by several methods such as simple proportion (Doloi, 2007; Hewage & Ruwanpura, 2006; Kazaz *et al.*, 2008; Ng *et al.*, 2004; Parkin *et al.*, 2009; Rivas *et al.*, 2011; Ugulu *et al.*, 2016), mean score and standard deviation (Al-Abbadi & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019; Funso *et al.*, 2016a, 2016b; Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2015; Hewage & Ruwanpura, 2006; Jarkas & Radosavljevic, 2013; Jarkas *et al.*, 2014; McFillen & Maloney, 1988; Shin *et al.*, 2013; Shroff & Sridhar, 2011; Zakeri *et al.*, 1996), reliability (Doloi, 2007; Jarkas *et al.*, 2014; Ohueri *et al.*, 2018), factor analysis (Doloi, 2007; Dwivedula & Bredillet, 2010; Funso *et al.*, 2016a), relative importance index (Al-Abbadi & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019; Hemanta Doloi, 2007; Enshassi *et al.*, 2007; Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2015; Gunduz & Abdi, 2020; Jarkas & Radosavljevic, 2013; Jarkas *et al.*, 2014; Kazaz *et al.*, 2008; Khan *et al.*, 2011; Momade & Hainin, 2019; Ohueri *et al.*, 2018; Van Tam *et al.*, 2018), regression analysis (Hemanta Doloi, 2007; Gunduz & Abdi, 2020; Hai & Van Tam, 2019; Olomolaiye, 1990), structural equation modeling (Dwivedula & Bredillet, 2010; Ng *et al.*, 2004; Olomolaiye, 1990), dynamic modeling (Nasirzadeh & Nojedehi, 2013), analytic hierarchy process (Aghayeva & Ślusarczyk, 2019).

*Step 5:* Concluding critical motivational factors – in the final stage, important motivational factors affecting CLP were discovered on the basis of the data analysis results in the previous stage. Also, discussions were undertaken on the ranked within each group and overall ranking.

#### 4.3 Most common motivational factors affecting construction labor productivity

Through a comprehensive review of the 27 publications related to this topic that were analyzed in the present study, the motivational factors influencing CLP for each paper are represented in Table 3. The total number of motivational factors affecting labor productivity in the construction



industry that were identified from the 27 selected papers is 35. Nevertheless, the findings provided in Table 3 are factors that were identified in at least two publications.

The number of times a motivational factor was identified by the author is accumulated and presented in Table 3. Numerous studies have been undertaken to identify motivational factors influencing CLP. It is argued that identifying a set of global motivational factors is a critical strategy, this statement usually concludes with the question of labor productivity's reliance on a diverse set of motivational factors (Ghoddousi & Hosseini, 2012; Jarkas & Bitar, 2012; Soekiman *et al.*, 2011).

From the results analysis in Table 3, that several common motivational factors impacting CLP, but the top motivational factors that are: Rewards; Good relationship; Promotion opportunities; Job security; Good supervision; Amount of salary; and good work environment. Each of these motivational factors was identified 21; 20; 20; 17; 16; 15; and 14 times by the 27 publications considered in this study respectively. This evidence indicates how important ten of these motivational factors that have the most effect on CLP.

*4.3.1 Rewards.* The factor of rewards is one of the motivational factors influencing CLP, so it is not surprising that the factor was identified by 21 different publications as a determinant impacting labor productivity in the construction industry. The finding shows that being rewarded, while not being financially exclusive is key motivational factors that improved the construction workforce's productivity (Al-Abbadi & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019), which was further supported by the results from previous studies (Aghayeva & Ślusarczyk, 2019; Al-Abbadi & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019; Doloï, 2007; Funso *et al.*, 2016b; Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2015; Hai & Van Tam, 2019; Hewage, 2007; Jarkas & Radosavljevic, 2013; Jarkas *et al.*, 2014; Khan *et al.*, 2011; McFillen & Maloney, 1988; Momade & Hainin, 2019; Shroff & Sridhar, 2011). In this regard, the study was conducted by (Zakeri *et al.*, 1997) explained that it is important to promote and reward employees as a means of increasing their motivation and job satisfaction in order to enhance productivity in the workplace. Furthermore, it is recognized the significance of being recognized for their abilities by being rewarded. As a result, managers should provide rewards as a means of demonstrating appreciation for their employees, demonstrating that the managers valued their tasks. Consequently, they tend to devote their entire attention to their organizations, which is the best way to increase their productivity.

*4.3.2 Good relationship.* A good work environment where have a good relationship between workmates is a key factor for the success of any task (Al-Abbadi & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019). That is why the factor of the good relationship was identified by 20 publications as a critical motivational factor impacting CLP. Numerous researchers stated that good relationship factor has a significant effect on labor productivity in the construction sector (Aghayeva & Ślusarczyk, 2019; Doloï, 2008). Possessing good communication is important for work crews and it leads to improved motivation degrees. In contrast, however, a bad relationship will lead to laborers doing tasks alone, which can lead to conflict within the crew that may influence their work motivation and performance levels. Also, the study of (Lingard & Francis, 2006) revealed that a good relationship between project managers and construction workers is generally believed to effects the performance of construction projects by providing a better working environment for the workforce.

*4.3.3 Promotion opportunities.* The promotion opportunities factor was identified in 20 different papers on motivating factors affecting CLP. It is obvious that a move up the career ladder impact organizational justice and work satisfaction of any employee (García-Izquierdo *et al.*, 2012). The evidence in the line with the results of previous studies (Doloï, 2007; Dwivedula & Bredillet, 2010; Hewage, 2007; Ohueri *et al.*, 2018; Olomolaiye, 1990; Parkin *et al.*, 2009; Shin *et al.*, 2013; Shroff & Sridhar, 2011; Ugulu *et al.*, 2016; Van Tam *et al.*, 2018; Zakeri *et al.*, 1997), which indicated that promotion opportunities have a high effect on labor productivity in the construction industry. Koch (2012) stated that the opportunity of promotion is desirable for any individual, only because employees work harder to compensate for incompetence. Consequently, a promotion at regular intervals of time has an optimistic approach behind and they are generally given to satisfy the psychological needs of laborers in their workplace (Koch & Nafziger, 2012). Likewise the

**Table 3.** Motivational factors affecting construction labor productivity

No .	Motivational factors	Publications																											Total	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
1	Rewards	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x		21	
2	Good relationship	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x				x		x	x	20	
3	Promotion opportunities	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x	x				x	x	x	x	20	
4	Job security	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x			x		x	x						x	x	17	
5	Good supervision	x			x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x					x	x		x	x		x		x	x	16	
6	Amount of salary	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x						x						x	x	15	
7	Good work environment		x			x		x	x	x	x		x	x		x			x	x					x		x		14	
8	Recognition programs		x	x		x	x		x					x						x	x	x	x		x	x		x	13	
9	Participation in decision making	x		x	x		x	x	x		x		x			x												x	11	
10	On-time payments			x					x	x	x		x		x			x		x			x	x	x			x	11	
11	Work satisfaction					x		x		x	x		x		x		x		x								x		x	10
12	Giving responsibility							x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x											x	x	10	
13	Challenging work opportunities	x	x		x	x		x	x					x								x						x	9	
14	Opportunities to develop skills and abilities	x		x	x	x		x		x							x						x					x	9	
15	Work appreciation and feedback	x	x	x		x	x	x									x										x		x	9
16	Working overtime					x	x		x		x		x								x	x							x	8
17	Freedom in work	x		x	x	x					x	x									x									7
18	Job training										x	x					x			x		x		x	x					7
19	Tools and equipment quality	x			x			x												x	x					x				6
20	Team cooperation	x			x			x						x					x							x				6

**Table 3.** Motivational factors affecting construction labor productivity (continued)

No	Motivational factors	Publications																											Total	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
21	Organization's reputation		x				x				x	x		x						x										6
22	Relax amenities	x			x																x		x		x				x	6
23	Holidays and free time	x			x						x		x										x							5
24	Good management										x	x									x	x							x	5
25	Status in the organization		x				x			x							x													4
26	Respect receive from others	x			x			x																						3
27	Chances to accomplish something worth	x			x					x																				3
28	Safety procedures in site	x			x	x																								3
29	Inclement weather						x					x										x								3
30	Site location										x	x																	x	3
31	Chances to learn new things	x			x																									2
32	Supervisor's direction and support	x			x																									2
33	Seeing the ultimate results of work	x			x																									2
34	Financial security		x																		x									2
35	Rework						x																				x			2

1=(Hewage, 2007); 2=(Doloi, 2007); 3=(Dwivedula & Bredillet, 2010); 4=(Hewage & Ruwanpura, 2006); 5=(Funso *et al.*, 2016b); 6=(Jarkas *et al.*, 2014); 7=(Al-Abbadi & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019); 8=(Olomolaiye, 1990); 9=(Shin *et al.*, 2013); 10=(Khan *et al.*, 2011); 11=(Kazaz *et al.*, 2008); 12=(Parkin *et al.*, 2009); 13=(Zakeri *et al.*, 1997); 14=(Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2015); 15=(Nasirzadeh & Nojedehe, 2013); 16=(Momade & Hainin, 2019); 17=(Gunduz & Abdi, 2020); 18=(Ohueri *et al.*, 2018); 19=(Jarkas and Radosavljevic, 2013); 20=(Shroff & Sridhar, 2011); 21=(Ugulu *et al.*, 2016); 22=(Van Tam *et al.*, 2018); 23=(Enshassi *et al.*, 2007); 24=(Rivas *et al.*, 2011); 25=(McFillen & Maloney 1988); 26=(Ruthankoon & Ogunlana, 2003); 27=(Aghayeva & Ślusarczyk, 2019)

Engineering managers' recognition and the prospect of promotion are associated with professional development based on employee competency, and predominately show their determination for higher performance (Doloi, 2007). Also, Craftsmen on construction sites will work more productively when they believe there are opportunities for promotion (Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2015).

*4.3.4 Job security.* Job security has been proposed as a hygiene factor in the theory of two factors by (Herzberg *et al.*, 1959) and as an 'existence need' in the theory of ERG (Existence, Relatedness, and Growth) (Alderfer, 1972). The job security factor is ranked 4th among the top important motivational factors identified in the literature and was identified in 17 different articles. It is obvious that job security is the main influential tool of motivation and puts the individuals very far off from mental tension and they give their best to the companies, ultimately it leads to performance maximization (Sekhar *et al.*, 2013). Zhang (2004) demonstrated that working on an organization with job security, employees get confident with their future career and they put most efforts to gain the goals of their companies (Zhang & Wu, 2004). Besides, Yamamoto (2013) stated that laborers perceive they will be getting bonuses or rewards for a good job and their work is a secured one, their productivity will automatically be better. In the context of the construction industry, the finding was further support by different studies (Aghayeva & Ślusarczyk, 2019; Doloi, 2007; Dwivedula & Bredillet, 2010; Funso *et al.*, 2016b; Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2014; Nasirzadeh & Nojedehi, 2013), which revealed that job security is a major motivational factor impacting CLP. The study of (Ali *et al.*, 2012) proved that the primacy of job satisfaction for the construction workforce, and this factor is a determinant for the laborers in Iran construction industry.

*4.3.5 Good supervision.* In this regard, it is controlled based on the inspection of the tasks completed by the workforce. This factor was identified by 16 different publications on motivational factors influencing CLP. The study of (Maloney, 1983) demonstrated the important role of management factor, and to enhance performance, supervisors should positively control and guide workforce. Therefore, occurring an issue about lump laborers cannot be controlled, while companies possessing employed laborers have their effect on employee relations, and subcontractors have no manage or supervise over other subcontractors' workforce (Kazaz *et al.*, 2008). In construction site, supervisors or site engineers, whose major function is to control, supervise, and its numbers are changed depending on the percentage to site area or project characteristics. Hence, the number of construction workers supervised and the responsibility area of each supervisor should be at the optimum level towards performance maximum. The incompetence of supervisors is an issue, workers are highly concerned with the supervision personnel and questions of their competency. Laborers' requirements on their works should be accurately replied by supervisors or inspectors as quickly as possible, in contrast, it is not good for waiting for the answer because it may reduce work productivity and quality (Kazaz *et al.*, 2008; Ng *et al.*, 2004).

*4.3.6 Amount of salary.* As demonstrated in the previous studies, remuneration was not the only motivational factor, but money was an essential basic need for any individual in order to ensure their lives and prosper (Herzberg *et al.*, 1959; McLeod, 2007). The amount of salary factor was identified by 15 publications on motivational factors affecting labor productivity in the construction sector. Numerous researchers stated that the amount of remuneration is seen as the critical factor to motivate construction workforce performance (Aghayeva & Ślusarczyk, 2019; Enshassi *et al.*, 2007; Funso *et al.*, 2016a; Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2014; Hewage, 2007; Khan *et al.*, 2011; Nasirzadeh & Nojedehi, 2013; Ohueri *et al.*, 2018; Olomolaiye, 1990; Shroff & Sridhar, 2011). In many developing countries, construction laborers are facing low-income problems (Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2014; Tabassi & Bakar, 2009), so the appropriate salary level is the vital role motivator encouraging them to higher performance (Kazaz & Ulubeyli, 2007; Zakeri *et al.*, 1997). Remuneration is a powerful motivation, the low salary was a primary demotivating to the construction workforce, so without sufficient incomes, it is unlikely that they will conduct their work well. In addition, paying wages on time is also an important factor of any job contract,

whereas sufficient facilities and a better work climate many leads to reducing the demotivation caused by low income, delaying payment basically do not (Kazaz *et al.*, 2008).

**4.3.7 Good work environment.** A good work climate with sufficient work conditions may lead to enhance individual job satisfaction and commitment of laborers with their organization, it can make individuals effort their best which may improve labor productivity (Jung & Kim, 2012). The factor of the good work environment was identified by 14 studies on motivational factors affecting CLP such as (Al-Abbad & Agyekum-Mensah, 2019; Doloi, 2007; Funso *et al.*, 2016a; Ghoddousi *et al.*, 2014; Kazaz *et al.*, 2008; Khan *et al.*, 2011; Momade & Hainin, 2019; Ohueri *et al.*, 2018; Olomolaiye, 1990; Shin *et al.*, 2013). In this regard, the construction workers' environment is approached from the perspective of work content and context. In particular, job content includes a variety of activities related, the experience or practical skills needed, and the challenge tasks provided, whereas, contextual aspects contain work climate, material resources, supervision or inspection, and compensation practices (Maloney, 1986). Employers should perceive the workforce that is concerned with contextual aspects and hence, would be motivated by elements that enhances the working environment in their companies. Besides, working in a bad condition will only sequence negative results due to construction works are physically and mentally demanding, so construction workforce should be worked in a good work environment in order to increase their performance (Dwivedula & Bredillet, 2010; Sekhar *et al.*, 2013).

## 5. Future research areas

The current study has reviewed the implications of numerous studies on motivational factors affecting labor productivity in the construction industry. As a result, the author has highlighted some knowledge gaps relating to motivational factors toward improving construction workforce productivity which provides a strong platform for further studies as follows:

Depending on the circumstances, the frequency and importance of motivational factors vary from project to project, country to country, and even within the same project (Olomolaiye, Jayawardane, & Harris, 1998). A large number of motivating factors influencing CLP were identified and evaluated in previous studies so far which draw a comprehensive picture in construction work motivation. Therefore, key motivational factors (i.e., rewards; good relationship; promotion opportunities; job security; good supervision; the amount of salary; good work environment; recognition programs; participation in decision making; and on-time payments) should be examined in more depth in future empirical researches.

The findings also reveal that the previous studies have largely ignored the impact of autonomous work motivation of the construction workforce (i.e., identified regulation; integrated regulation; intrinsic regulation). In the context of the construction industry, almost previous studies on motivational factors which focus controlled motivation such as external regulation and introjected regulation (i.e., external regulation is the prototypical form and reflects behavioral engagement reinforced by rewards of punishment, and introjected regulation reflects participating in behaviors out of a sense of externally referenced obligation like the avoidance of guilt or the promotion of contingent self-worth (Gagné & Deci, 2005; Ryan & Deci, 2000)). However, in recently, starting a study focuses on autonomous motivation like study was conducted by (Johari & Jha, 2020) which indicated that various variables impacting work motivation on construction workers to build multistory residential buildings in India such as amotivation; extrinsic regulation (social); extrinsic regulation (material); introjected regulation; identified regulation; intrinsic motivation. A clear gap exists in the literature concerning the identification of variables influencing CLP from the perspective of autonomous work motivation, hence, it is further recommended that future studies should focus to solve this knowledge gap.

## 6. Conclusions and limitations

Work motivation as a catalyzer for the construction workforce to complete the task in a much better way than they usually do which may lead to improve working performance in construction

projects (Sekhar *et al.*, 2013). In this study, the authors analyzed the findings of previous studies on motivational factors affecting labor productivity in the construction industry on the basis of examining a comprehensive literature review. The analysis results indicated that the majority of studies were conducted in Asian countries, followed by Europe, Africa, America, and Australia Pacific; Qatar, Iran, Turkey, and Nigeria have a higher number of publications to contribute to studying motivational factors affecting CLP. However, having a big knowledge gap as no research to the date has been carried out in nations of the South American continent, and several studies were conducted in Australia Pacific, Africa, and Europe. This study indicated that almost previous studies adopted the methods of empirical research for identifying and evaluating of motivational factors with a prevalent procedure includes 5-step is that identifying motivational factors on the basis of a review of existing literature; pilot study; data collection; data analysis; and concluding critical motivational factors.

Utilizing analysis of the 27 publications related to motivational factors impacting CLP. It was found that numerous critical factors impacting labor productivity in the construction sector, but the top comment motivational factors that have the most impact on labor productivity in the construction industry are rewards; good relationship; promotion opportunities; job security; good supervision; the amount of salary; and good work environment. Therefore, it is encouraged that engineering managers, project managers, employers should focus on top influential factors to ensure effective management and improve the productivity of the construction workforce. This study has provided a general overview of the development of motivational factors affecting CLP, hence formed a solid platform for scientists for further studies. Besides, from knowledge gaps were explained, it is recommended that the checklist of motivational factors impacting labor productivity in the construction industry developed in this study would be used for further analysis to allow for comparison to the results identified in this study.

The study's principal weakness is that the use of specific keywords to find papers on this area does not cover all possible possibilities. As a result, the research findings may not fully reflect the total literature on this topic. This study used a Scopus dataset, therefore any limitations in Scopus coverage in publications could have an impact on the quality of the data used. Future studies should be conducted on a regular basis to address the limits of using data from various sources, search algorithms, and strategies.

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