

Identification of Reason for Time and Cost overrun of Construction Project: Case studies of two construction Projects in India



Dr. Parul Patel, Professor and Head of the Civil Engineering Department at Nirma University

Case Study 1

The primary reason for time and cost overruns in the project was the failure to identify risks during the planning stage. The study focuses on regularly monitoring the Gauge Conversion of Railway Line project, which includes activities such as cutting and dismantling tracks, earthwork, and structures. Progress was tracked every 30 days by collecting data on Budgeted Cost of Work Performed (BCWP), Budgeted Cost of Work Scheduled (BCWS), and Actual Cost of Work Performed (ACWP). Using Earned Value Management (EVM), the researchers calculated Time Variance, Cost Variance, Schedule Performance Index (SPI), and Cost Performance Index (CPI). After 240 days of observation, optimistic, realistic, and pessimistic estimates for Estimated Cost at Completion (EAC) and Estimate to Complete (ETC) were calculated. Each month, the authors and the Project Management Consultant (PMC) identified risk factors causing time and cost variances, determined the responsible agencies, and proposed mitigation strategies. The study's findings aim to help stakeholders manage similar projects more effectively.

Case Study 2

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), delays in Indian infrastructure projects in 2023 totaled about ₹13.7 trillion, with an average cost overrun of 18.5%. This study examines five bridge construction projects in western India to identify and evaluate risks affecting project budget and schedule. The results show that risks mainly impact project schedules rather than costs, and despite time overruns, projects are often completed within the estimated budget. Each project was thoroughly analyzed, and experts involved in the projects were interviewed to determine optimistic and pessimistic durations for major activities. The study uses Monte Carlo Simulation to identify and quantify risks and improve project scheduling. It also estimates opportunity costs for the bridge projects. During budgeting, contingency funds were allocated to cover unknown costs, but due to engineer inexperience and limited time during budgeting, these contingency estimates may have been inaccurate. Estimating opportunity costs can help project owners better predict costs for future bridge projects.

Dr. P. R. Patel is working as a Professor and Head, Civil Engineering Department, Nirma University, Ahmedabad. She has obtained Bachelor and Master of Civil Engineering from Birla Vishvakarma Mahavidyalaya, S.P. University, India in 1990 and 2000 respectively. She has completed Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, in 2009. She has more than 35 years of professional experience in the area of Construction Technology and Management and Geomatics Applications. She has published more than 80 papers at National and International conferences and journals. Her areas of interest are Construction Technology and Management and Applications of Geomatics in Civil Engineering. She is BoS and an academic council member at Nirma University, Ganpat University, Parul University, etc. She was the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) coordinator of the Institute of Technology, Nirma University. She is a reviewer of reputed journals like Springer and Elsevier. He has conducted many Short-Term Training Programme, conferences, workshops etc. She is guiding M.Tech and Ph.D. students. She has completed 6 research projects mainly funded by SAC, ISRO, and the European Space Agency. She is actively involved in consultancy work, revamping the curriculum of the University. She is a member of many professional bodies like ISTE, GRSS IEEE, IGS, ISG, ISRS, GICEA, etc. She is a senior IEEE member. She has worked as a secretary for professional bodies like ISG and GRSS IEEE Gujarat Chapter and editorial member for the magazine Signature published by the Indian Society of Remote Sensing. Recently, she received the prestigious award from the Indian Society Technical Education Charutar Vidya Mandal, Gujarat Award for the Best Engineering College Teacher of Gujarat state for 2023.

Date

03/27/2026

Location

Virtual via Zoom
(See email for link)

Time

11:30AM -12:20PM