

1. SUMMARY

The aim of the paper is, firstly, to show the pivotal role that human factors play in improving construction site productivity, secondly, to highlight by detailed studies how the areas of Supervision and Motivation, Method Selection and Productivity (Cost) Control can improve construction project productivity or maintain it at a desirable level and, thirdly, to present a practical guide for construction personnel - foremen, engineers and project managers - to monitor and improve construction efficiency.

The paper is developed by reviewing and selecting appropriate definitions and measurement concepts for productivity, looking at the role of the foreman in supervision and motivation of workers to improve productive efficiency, economic models in the selection of falsework and scaffolding systems and concrete site production, as well as the establishment of a construction productivity data base to guide work efficiency.

The author has emphasised the viewpoint throughout the paper that the building block for improving productivity is a 'positive' work attitude by workers and management. It is this attitude that will allow the Project Manager, through human resources, to integrate and co-ordinate the use of existing non-human resources cost effectively by improving productive efficiency on site. The paper concludes by asserting that the real test of management's effectiveness is its ability to operate as productively as possible and reap the resulting benefits.