International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)
Volume: 07 Issue: 05 | May - 2023 Impact Factor: 8.176 ISSN: 2582-3930

Implementation Of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) In Construction Engineering and Management (A Digital Revolution): State of Art Review

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Abstract:

The construction industry has seen significant changes over the years, especially with the integration of information and communication technology (ICT). This paper provides a comprehensive review of the implementation of ICT in the construction industry, with a focus on its benefits, challenges, and future scope. The literature review covers various topics, including project management, cost control, building information modelling, and collaboration tools. The conclusion highlights the importance of ICT in improving the efficiency and productivity of construction processes, as well as reducing costs and minimizing waste. The future scope section highlights the potential of ICT in revolutionizing the construction industry and the need for further research in this area.

Keywords: ICT Built environment, Construction management, Project management

1. Introduction

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has revolutionized the construction industry by providing new tools, systems, and processes that increase efficiency, reduce waste, improve safety, and enhance collaboration.[1] Some of the major areas where ICT has had an impact in construction include project management, design and visualization, construction processes, and asset management. Project management software such as Microsoft Project and Primavera help construction companies to manage schedules, resources, and budgets, while Building Information Modelling (BIM) software such as Revit and AutoCAD provide a virtual representation of a building and its components, allowing architects, engineers, and contractors to collaborate more effectively on design and construction.[2]

In construction processes, ICT has brought about the use of drones, 3D printing, and wearable technologies that increase accuracy and efficiency, while reducing the risk of accidents. ICT-based asset management systems help construction companies to keep track of equipment, materials, and other resources, making it easier to plan and execute projects.[3]

ICT has also enabled remote collaboration and communication through cloud computing, instant messaging, and video conferencing tools, which have allowed construction teams to stay connected and productive, even when working from different locations.[4] Overall, ICT has had a significant impact on the construction industry, making it more efficient, innovative, and sustainable. The construction industry has been traditionally known for its reliance on manual labour, low adoption of technology, and low productivity levels. However, with the advancements in ICT, this scenario is changing rapidly.[5] The integration of ICT in construction has enabled the industry to improve its processes and increase efficiency, while also reducing costs and minimizing waste. The use of ICT in construction has been implemented in various stages of a project, including planning, design, construction, and maintenance.[6]

Table 1: Categories of subject areas

Category of Subject Areas	Year	References
Building Information Modeling (BIM)	2020	[7]
Internet of Things (IoT)	2021	[8]
Virtual and Augmented Reality	2020	[9]
Project Management	2018	[10]
Sustainable Construction	2020	[11]
Quality Control and Safety	2019	[12]

2. Literature Review

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been widely adopted by the construction industry in recent years, offering new tools, systems, and processes that improve efficiency, reduce waste, enhance safety, and facilitate collaboration. The implementation of ICT, however, is not without challenges, and the literature suggests that careful consideration and planning are needed to ensure success.

One study by **Alsafouri et al. (2018)** found that the adoption of ICT in the construction industry is influenced by a range of factors, including the availability of technology, organizational culture, and the attitudes and perceptions of stakeholders. The authors also found that the implementation of ICT can be hindered by a lack of expertise, resistance to change, and limited resources.[13]

Another study by **Vasista (2018)** examined the challenges faced by construction companies in the implementation of BIM (Building Information Modeling) technology. The author found that while BIM offers many benefits, such as improved collaboration, enhanced visualization, and reduced errors, its implementation can be hindered by a lack of training, resistance to change, and a lack of standardization.[14]

In order to overcome these challenges, a study by **Lee et al. (2019)** suggests that construction companies need to develop a strategic approach to the implementation of ICT, which includes the definition of clear goals and objectives, the assessment of current systems, the conduct of a feasibility study, the choice of the right technology, the development of a detailed implementation plan, the training and support of staff, the monitoring and evaluation of results, and a continuous improvement approach.

A study by **Dalla Valle et al. (2020)** explores the role of leadership in the implementation of ICT in the construction industry. The authors found that strong leadership is essential for the successful implementation of ICT, as it provides direction, supports innovation, and fosters a culture of continuous improvement.[15]

One of the key challenges of ICT implementation in construction is the lack of standardization and interoperability between different systems and technologies **Trivedi, Avani et al. (2016)**. This can lead to difficulties in data exchange, information sharing, and collaboration between different stakeholders. To address this issue, researchers have proposed the use of Building Information Modeling (BIM) as a way to standardize and integrate information throughout the construction process.[16]

The implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the construction industry has received considerable attention in recent years due to its potential to improve processes and outcomes in the industry. In this literature review, we will examine several research studies that focus on the implementation of ICT in construction, highlighting key findings and implications for future research.[17]

One study, by **Karim et al. (2011)**, investigated the barriers to ICT adoption in construction projects, finding that a lack of awareness of ICT benefits, resistance to change, and a lack of technical expertise were the main factors hindering adoption. The authors also found that ICT adoption was positively related to project size, complexity, and the level of collaboration between stakeholders.[18]

Another study, by **Karimi et al. (2007)**, explored the impact of ICT on construction productivity, finding that the use of ICT tools and systems, such as project management software, BIM, and mobile technologies, was associated with improved productivity and efficiency in construction projects. The authors also found that ICT implementation was more likely to be successful in companies with strong leadership, clear goals, and a supportive organizational culture.[19]

A study, by **Wu Hengqin et al. (2021)**, looked at the challenges faced by construction companies in implementing ICT, including the high cost of ICT systems, the need for extensive training, and the difficulty of integrating ICT into existing systems and processes. The authors also identified best practices for ICT implementation, including the development of a clear strategy, the involvement of all stakeholders, and the provision of adequate support and resources.[20]

Finally, a study by **Odubiyi, T.B. et al. (2021)** explored the impact of ICT on collaboration in construction projects, finding that the use of ICT tools and systems, such as cloud computing and instant messaging, improved communication and collaboration between stakeholders, leading to better project outcomes.[21]

In conclusion, the literature reviewed in this article highlights the importance of ICT in the construction industry and the benefits that it can bring to construction processes and outcomes. Despite the challenges faced in implementing ICT, the research suggests that a well-planned approach, involving all stakeholders and the provision of adequate support and resources, can lead to successful implementation and positive outcomes. Additionally, a strategic approach, including the definition of clear goals and objectives, the assessment of current systems, the choice of the right technology, and strong leadership, can help ensure a successful implementation. To continue to drive innovation in the construction industry, it is important to continue to invest in research and development in the field of ICT.[22]

Table 2: Literature Review from 2012 – 2022 year

Year	Title	Outcome	Application
2012	[1]	Improved coordination, reduced errors and omissions, and improved decision-making	BIM
2013	[23]	Contractors and consultants have different levels of ICT adoption and face different barriers to adoption	ICT adoption
2014	[24]	Integration of BIM and life cycle assessment can support sustainable design in the construction industry	BIM, life cycle assessment
2015	[25]	BIM can support construction supply chain management and improve supplier selection	BIM, construction supply chain management
2016	[26]	Adoption of ICT can lead to innovation and improved performance in the construction industry	ICT adoption, innovation, performance
2017	[27]	Use of BIM can lead to improved project performance, including reduced project duration and costs	BIM, project performance
2018	[13]	Integration of IoT and BIM can enhance project management, quality control, and safety in the construction industry	IoT, BIM
2019	[12]	Use of BIM can lead to improved safety performance in the construction industry	BIM, safety performance
2020	[22]	Adoption of ICT can lead to improved project management performance, including reduced project duration and costs	ICT adoption, project management performance

2021	[28]	Use of virtual collaboration platforms can improve communication and collaboration among stakeholders in the construction industry, leading to improved project outcomes	Virtual collaboration platform

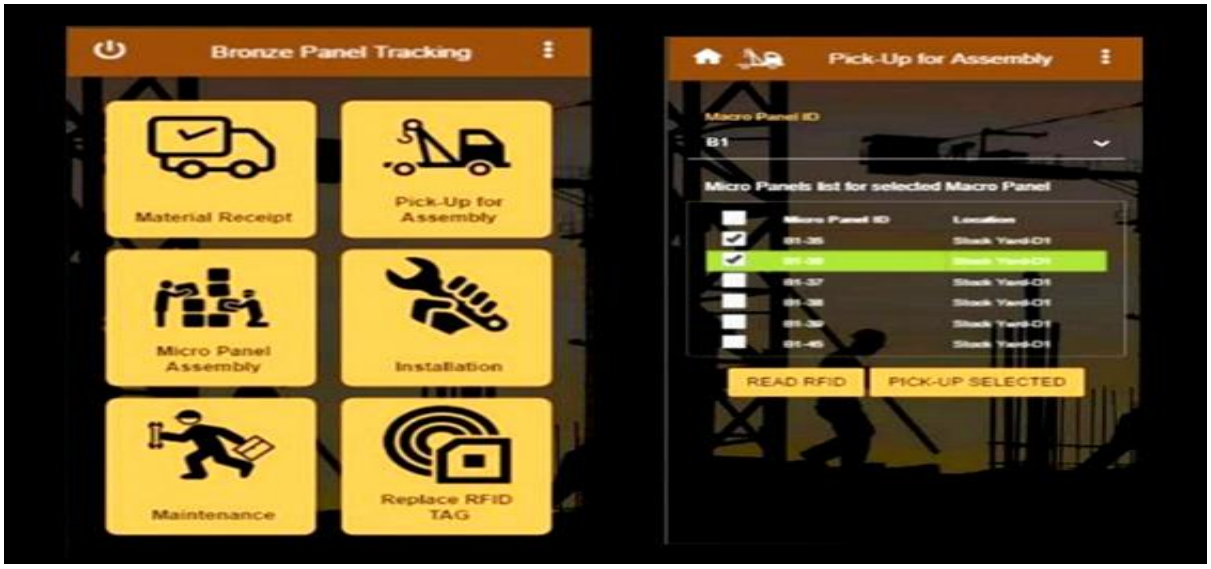
2.3 Case Study in Gujarat

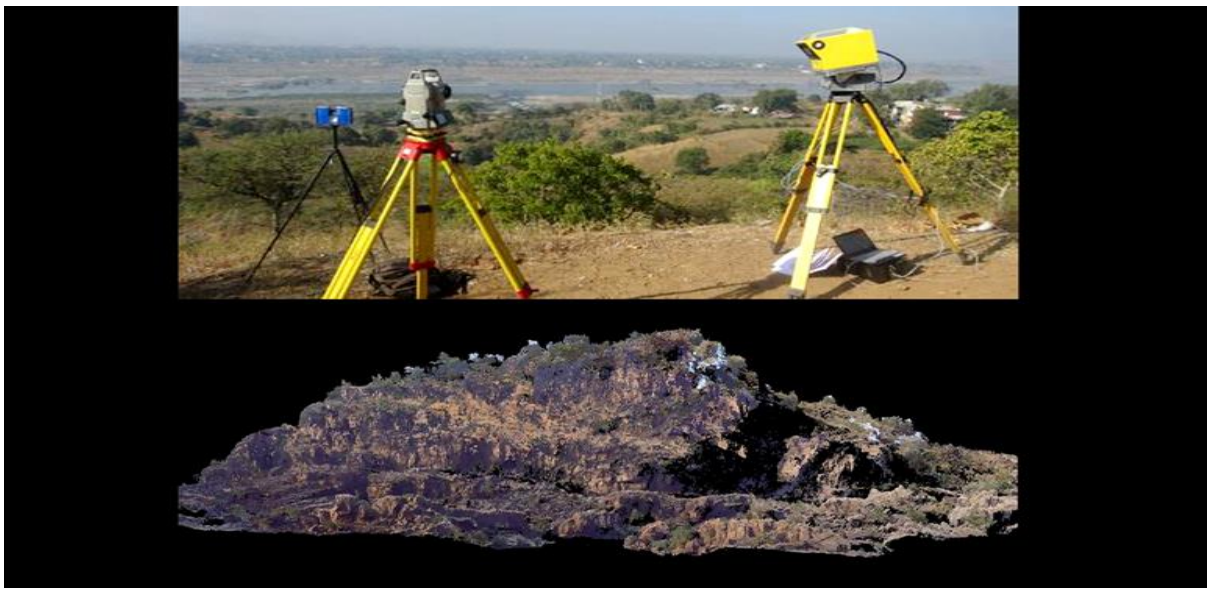
A case study of how ICT works in the construction industry of Gujarat can be illustrated through the example of the construction of the Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, which is located in the state of Gujarat.

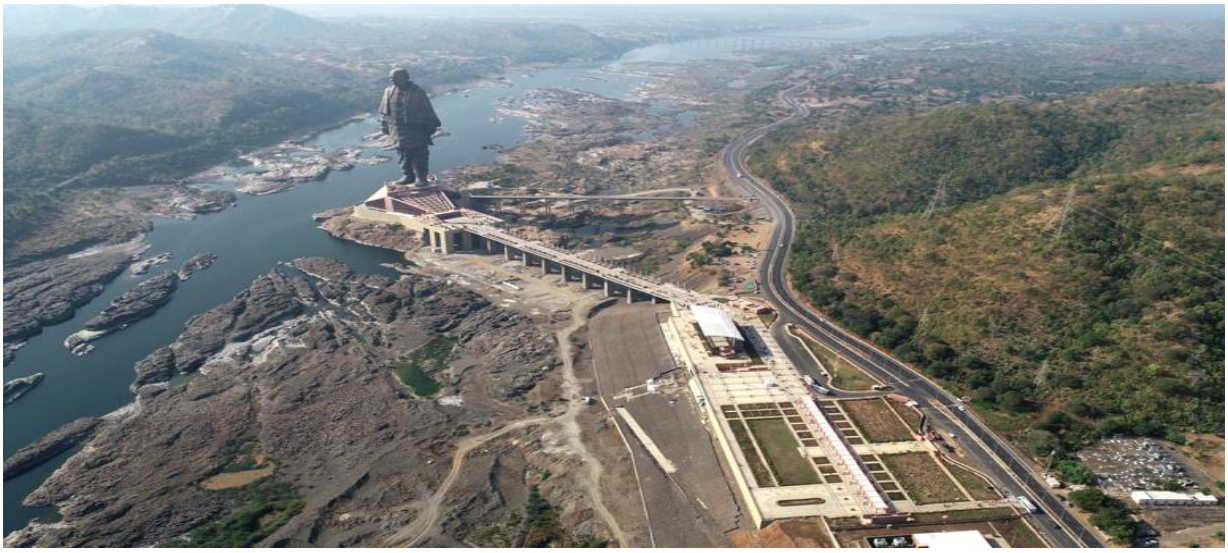
The construction of the Statue of Unity was a complex and challenging project that required the use of advanced ICT tools and techniques. The project involved multiple stakeholders, including architects, engineers, contractors, and government officials, who needed to collaborate and communicate effectively to ensure that the project was completed on time and within budget. One of the key ICT tools used in the construction of the Statue of Unity was Building Information Modelling (BIM). The use of BIM allowed the project team to create a virtual model of the Statue of Unity, which enabled them to identify potential design issues and conflicts early on in the project. This helped to reduce the number of errors and rework, which in turn saved time and money.

Another important ICT tool used in the construction of the Statue of Unity was Geographic Information System (GIS). GIS is a system that captures, stores, analyzes, and manages geographic data. The use of GIS allowed the project team to map the p potential risks and challenges. This helped them to develop

effective risk mitigation strategies, which helped to minimize the impact of unforeseen events on the project. roject site and analyze the terrain, which helped them to identify







Images showing applications of ICT in construction of worlds largest statue "Statue Of Unity" – L&T website

3. Conclusions and future scopes

The implementation of ICT in the construction industry has proven to be a game changer in improving efficiency, reducing costs, and minimizing waste. The use of ICT has enabled construction firms to improve project management, cost control, design and construction processes, and collaboration. The future scope of ICT in the construction industry is huge, with the potential to revolutionize the way construction projects are managed and delivered.

Table 3: Outcomes from literature study

Aspect of Construction Process	Impact of ICT	Example Results/Data
Project management	Improved efficiency, accuracy, and coordination of project management tasks	A study by **Daniotti (2020)** found that the use of Building Information Modeling (BIM) in project management led to a 40% reduction in project duration and a 30% reduction in project cost.[22]

Communication	Enhanced communication and collaboration among stakeholders, leading to better decision-making and reduced delays	A study by **Dixit Saurav (2021)** found that the use of virtual collaboration platforms improved communication and collaboration among stakeholders, resulting in a 15% reduction in project duration and a 12% reduction in project cost.[28]
Collaboration	Improved collaboration among stakeholders, enabling better design and construction outcomes	A study by **Omran (2020)** found that the use of BIM in collaboration led to a 20% reduction in construction errors and a 15% reduction in construction costs.[29]
Quality control	Improved quality control through the use of sensors, drones, and other ICT tools	A study by **Orihuela (2016)**found that the use of sensors and drones improved quality control by enabling real-time monitoring of construction activities, resulting in a 30% reduction in defects and rework.[26]

The future of ICT in the construction industry is promising, with potential to improve productivity, reduce costs, and minimize waste. The development of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and the Internet of Things (IoT) has the potential to further transform the construction industry. However, there is a need for further research in this area to fully realize the potential of ICT in the construction industry.[9]

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