

Assessing Causative Characteristics of Abandoned Completed Urban Market Projects in Ghana

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Abstract: This article assesses the causative characteristics of abandoned completed urban market projects in the Bono Region, Ghana and their associated effect. The study used the mixed methodology research approach. Eight abandoned completed urban market projects were visited within the region. A total of 16 consultant and contractor teams were selected using the purposive sampling technique while 32 questionnaires were administered and received from would-be users, consultants and contractors of the eight selected projects. Bad location, non-provision of auxiliary facilities, high rent charges, a long distance from the communities, small size of sheds and stalls and non-user consultation were the highest causative characteristics. The effects of abandoned markets were resource wastage, unemployment and a decrease in revenue accruable to the state. Markets are a source of product delivery that promotes sustainable economic development, jobs and communication, and enhances the identity of the communities. Wastage of resources occurs if an urban market project is abandoned. Improvement of would-be user satisfaction is imperative to reduce non-usage leading to the abandonment of the market project. Therefore, auxiliary utilities such as electricity, water, sanitation and access roads must be included in the project during the planning phases. The article affirms the relevance of user satisfaction with urban market projects to avoid the wastage of public resources.

Keywords: Abandonment, Building projects, Causative characteristics, Urban markets, Abandoned markets

INTRODUCTION

Infrastructure development is one of the major agenda items of every nation, including Ghana, for the betterment of both individuals and society at large (Atamewan, 2020). It involves a huge capital investment, materials, human and technical resources to realise infrastructural development. These developments are funded by the government, donors and taxpayers (Panayides, Parola and Lam, 2015). Infrastructure development such as roads, railways, electricity, gas, water, sanitation, schools, hospitals and markets advance national economic growth and development. Markets are built for economic growth, reduction of poverty and unemployment rate, which are major problems for developing countries.

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According to Ghana Statistical Service, the unemployment and poverty rate is especially high among women and youth, coupled with a housing deficit of 1.7 million (*Daily Graphic*, 2018). It is, therefore, imperative to consider market projects as part of the means to fight the reduction of poverty and unemployment rate.

Surprisingly some of the completed urban market projects are being abandoned without attending to or being utilised by the would-be users across the regions of Ghana. These include:

1. Kyirenkwanta, Esuehyia and Ankamu Market in the Central Region (*Ghana Graphic*, 2018),
2. Dome Market in Ga East Assembly, Great Accra Region (Happy FM, 2017),
3. Gomoa Market (Andoh, 2014),
4. Abaase Market in the Eastern Region (Kelly and Jakupa, 2016) and
5. Nalerigu Market in East Mamprusi District – Northern Region (*Peace FM.online.com*, 2014).

Therefore, the need to identify the abandoned completed urban market projects and examine the causative characteristics and their effect cannot be over-emphasised. This study aims to identify lasting solutions to help the fight against poverty and reduce the unemployment rate in Ghana as part of the effort to achieve the sustainable development goals of the world.

Various studies have covered the abandonment of public building projects (Ewa, 2013; Amade et al., 2015; Doraisamy, Akasah and Yunus, 2015; Amoah-Abban, 2017; Ariffin et al., 2018; Mac-Barango, 2017; Okereke, 2017; Damoah and Kumi, 2018). However, little is done on abandoned urban market projects. This article, however, aimed at assessing the root causative factors and effects of abandoned completed market projects in Ghana and suggest appropriate measures to mitigate future occurrences.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Definition of Building Projects Abandonment and White Elephant

There is a theoretical difference between projects that are entirely abandoned and the ones suspended or delayed due to the fault of the stakeholders or natural occurrences. Mac-Barango (2017) describes an “abandoned project” as a project which has been totally abandoned or indefinitely delayed compared to the project timelines. According to the *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (2009), “abandonment” is to stop doing something because there are too many problems and it is impossible to continue. Abdul-Rahman et al. (2013) opined that a building project is considered to be abandoned when the construction and development of the project are not completed and ready for inhabiting by the owner as scheduled. Similarly, Mac-Barango (2017), added that abandoned building projects in the United Kingdom and the United States refer to unoccupied buildings showing visible signs of distress. Also, in Malaysia, a building project is declared abandoned when the construction of the housing units is not completed

or ready for occupation (Abdul-Rahman, Wang and Ariffin, 2015). Further, Mac-Barango (2017), added that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHLG), has four conditions set to declare projects abandoned, including:

1. If construction activities stopped for six months or more on the site.
2. If the developer or the contractor winds up without completing the work.
3. If the developer or the contractor is declared unable to complete the work.
4. If the project is declared abandoned according to the Housing Development Act (118) by the MHLG.

Mac-Barango (2017) stated that the criterion for the abandoned project is "if the project is not completed within or later than the delivery date stated in the contract agreement and no significant activity is noticed at the construction site for six continuous months". Ariffin et al. (2018) also defined abandoned buildings as "construction work that has been held up continuously for six months or more, during the project completion period or delayed the scheduled date of completion". There is no widely accepted definition for completed but not used building projects in literature.

However, Atamewan (2020) defined abandoned building projects as uncompleted, uninhabitable, unusable or non-functional buildings. Therefore, abandonment of a completed project is uncompleted, not prematurely terminated, not delayed or unoccupied because of visible signs of physical distress. The project is completed but the would-be users, who are the direct beneficiaries of the project or the end users have declined to take occupancy of the facilities due to some factors that this article seeks to determine.

The working definition of this article is the abandonment of completed projects is considered as completed building projects without occupied or indefinitely delayed occupancy continuously after six months of handing over. This definition cannot fit into definitions of "white elephant" projects, because white elephant projects are extremely expensive projects with little or no output or unwanted and burdensome projects that turn out to be of limited value and are expensive to maintain or retire. A white elephant can be defined as a burdensome possession creating more trouble than it is worth (*The Phrase Finder*, n.d.). It is used usually to refer to valuable but burdensome possession of which its owner cannot dispose of and whose cost (particularly cost of upkeep) is out of proportion to its usefulness or worth. *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* (2000) defines a white elephant as "a rare, expensive possession that is a financial burden to maintain". Consequently, Doraisamy, Akasah and Yunus (2015) concluded, after reviewing several studies on project abandonment, that for a long period building project abandonment has not been given adequate attention.

The Causes of Completed Project Abandonment

Building project abandonment in developing countries is influenced by several factors (Olalusi and Otunola, 2012; Twumasi-Ampofo et al., 2014; Ewa, 2013; Mac-Barango, 2017; Atamewan, 2020). These studies found that the causes of project abandonment include poor and faulty designs, non-user engagement, change of

priority and lack of adequate planning for the project at the inception phase. Also, changes in government and inconsistencies in government policies contribute to lots of project abandonment (Aluko, 2008; Efenudu, 2010; Marks, Komives and Davis, 2014; Damoah and Kumi, 2018; Atamewan, 2020). For example, in most developing countries like Ghana, the successive government usually embarks on new projects without completing outstanding projects left by the previous government. Moreover, community interference and interruptions in demanding compensation and re-settlement influence project abandonment (Efenudu, 2010; Ayodela and Alabi, 2011; Ihuah and Eaton, 2013). Besides, studies have opined that factors that influence project abandonment include poor risk management, communication gap among stakeholders, poor quality control, lack of adequate and efficient utility service such as the provision of electricity, water, access road and security and misunderstanding of work requirements (Ewa, 2013; Twumasi-Ampofo et al. 2014; Doraisamy, Akasah and Yunus, 2015; Mac-Barango, 2017; Alao and Jagboro, 2017). Further, Ewa (2013) added that the causes of project abandonment in Nigeria include a lack of proper vision/objective for the projects, inadequate planning, lack of municipal service, and poor coordination between the project stakeholders. Moreover, Ayodela and Alabi (2011) in their quantitative approach affirmed that the causes of the project abandonment include inadequate planning, death of the client, change of priority, unresolved disputes, faulty designs and variation of the project scope. Mac-Barango (2017) observed poor detailed and comprehensive design, unclear mission and objectives of the project, poor stakeholders' management and a communication gap among stakeholders as common reasons for project abandonment. According to Twumasi-Ampofo et al. (2014), Ewa (2013) and Mac-Barango (2017), the classic reasons for building project abandonment are lack of adequate design and planning for the project at the inception phase, non-users' engagement and non-provision of auxiliary utilities.

The Effects of Completed Project Abandonment

Effects are inevitable when a project is abandoned (Doraisamy, Akasah and Yunus, 2015). Irrespective of the causes that contributed to the abandonment, there are often consequences for the construction industry, environment, society and economy of the state (Atamewan, 2020). Moreover, these effects can be categorised into economic, social and environmental-related factors (Mac-Barango, 2017). The "economic recession" of some developing countries is "believed to be one of the main reasons" for building project abandonment (Abdul-Rahman, Wang and Ariffin, 2015; Mac-Barango, 2017). Also, Abdul-Rahman et al. (2013) observed that abandoned building projects have environmental and socio-economic effects. The socioeconomic impacts incorporate unemployment, relocation of the populace, lost jobs and value of the area (Abdul-Rahman, Wang and Ariffin, 2015; Alao and Jagboro, 2017). The environmental effect comprises pollution and visual impact, erosion and landscape modification (Alao and Jagboro, 2017). The impacts of abandoned projects are categorised as implications for stakeholders and end-users, the construction industry, the national economy and the environment (Mac-Barango, 2017; Atamewan, 2020). Abdul-Rahman, Wang and Ariffin (2015) opined that "environmental impact" is "one of the risks" that requires consideration by all parties in the building industry.

Besides, Ayodela and Alabi (2011) noted seven major effects of project abandonment in Nigeria as follows: (1) Disappointment to the project users, (2)

Lowering living standards, (3) Resource wastage, (4) Unemployment, (5) Decline in economic activities, (6) Reduction in the state accruable revenue and (7) Resulting in difficult to obtain foreign grants and loans. Earlier, Aluko (2008) outlined six impacts of project abandonment as follows: (1) Unemployment, (2) Reduction in government revenue, (3) Reduction in economic activities, (4) Lowering the standard of living, (5) Wastage of equipment on site and (6) An increase in the final cost of the project.

The mentioned effects are not different from what the developed states have experienced due to project abandonment. However, Abdul Aziz and Omran (2011) explained that the end-users in Malaysia suffered because they were "unable to reside in the houses on time as stated in the Sales and Purchase Agreement" yet were indebted to pay "monthly instalments with interests to the banks".

Further, wastage of resources including material, equipment and capital resources is a clear effect of project abandonment and a huge amount of money and resources is lost on the part of the client who has invested in the project (Olalusi and Otunola, 2012; Doraisamy, Akasah and Yunus, 2015; Mac-Barango, 2017). Also, an abandoned completed project becomes an eyesore, damaging the aesthetic vision and polluting the environment and structure (Doraisamy, Akasah and Yunus, 2015). Moreover, it is common to find "vandalism of project sites" (Alao and Jagboro, 2017; Atamewan, 2020), carrying illegal activities at these places which affect the "safety and wellbeing of a community" (Twumasi-Ampofo et al. 2014; Ewa, 2013; Mac-Barango, 2017).

METHODOLOGY

This study adopts the qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) technique. A combination of project site observations, interviews and closed-ended scale questionnaires was used for data collection (Abdul-Rahman, Wang and Ariffin, 2015; Atamewan et al., 2020). QCA combines the strength of "qualitative and quantitative methods" and the "principles of logical comparison across a limited number of cases" usually, between 8 to 25 cases (Kunz et al., 2015; Gerrits and Verweij, 2018). The cases represent a combination of causal conditions which are "possible to identify one or more pathways" to explain a "particular outcome" (Rihoux, 2013). This strategy is an in-depth study, aimed at exploring "specific cause and effect relationships" within a specific "geographic or socio-culture" context. QCA, as a research method, has been employed in a variety of fields of study which include construction engineering and political economy (Marks, Komives and Davis, 2014; Gerrits and Verweij, 2018), economic and sociology (Jordan et al., 2011). Moreover, QCA is increasingly applied in infrastructure project studies (Kaminsky and Javerrick, 2014; Kunz et al., 2015; Pattyn, Molenveld and Befani, 2017; Gerrits and Verweij, 2018).

The QCA method was adopted in this study due to the exploratory nature of the article and also because little or no studies have identified and compared the factors that contribute to the abandonment of completed urban markets. However, the previous researchers employed analytical strategies in their investigation into the causes and impacts of infrastructure abandonment (Efenudu, 2010; Ayodele and Alabi, 2011; Ihuah and Eaton, 2013; Ewa, 2013). These studies used multivariate statistical modelling, in which the contribution of a hypothesised causal factor or interaction terms on the outcome is estimated and held all else constant. This

variable-driven approach relies on large sample sizes and prioritises quantities (Pattyn, Gerrits and Verweij, 2015). However, this study adopts a case-based method to explore the causes and effects of completed building abandonment.

Both qualitative and quantitative data were obtained using purpose sampling in three stages. Firstly, site observations of eight completed abandoned urban market projects were identified and conducted. Secondly, two members from the consultant and contractor teams of the identified completed abandoned urban market projects were selected and interviewed using semi-structured questions. This was to limit the number of interviews to an acceptable number of 8 to 20 (Catallo et al., 2013). Finally, closed-ended questionnaires were administered to four respondents (would-be users, consultants and contractors) from each of the eight market projects selected within the region. Purposive sampling was adopted due to the uniqueness of every market project, different project stakeholders and different project objectives.

The analysis of data employed qualitative and quantitative methods. The responses to the interviews on the causes and effects of abandonment of completed urban market projects adopted a qualitative approach, with the aid of the QCA (that is transcribed, coding, compared and categorised emerging themes). The 5-point Likert scale formed the basis for the quantitative analysis. This involved the adoption of the statistical technique of central tendencies (the mean score values) of the causative factors and effects of abandonment.

Decision Rule

The criteria for interpretations of the outcome of the research question were adopted as follows: (1) Responses to statements which established mean score values of 3.0 and above were considered significant and (2) Responses to statements which established mean score values below 3.0 were considered insignificant. The mean value score value is statistically expressed as:

$$x = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$
, where x = Mean value, \sum = Summation sign, X = Observation scores, N = Number of respondents.

PRESENTATION OF THE RESULTS

Respondents' Characteristics

Eight completed abandoned projects within the region were identified, visited and observed. Some of the observed projects are presented in Figure 1. A total of 16 consultants and contractors were interviewed and 32 questionnaires were administered to the would-be users, consultants and contractors of the eight urban market projects identified within the region, as indicated in Table 1.

Abandoned Completed Urban Market Projects



Kobedi Market Sheds



New Dormaa Market Sheds



Tanoso Market Stalls



Susuanso Market Stalls

Figure 1. Photographs of some of the observed abandoned completed urban market projects

Table 1. Response rate

Projects	Assembly	Location	Interview Respondents	Questionnaire Respondents
Tainso Market shed	Sunyani West Municipal	Taino	2	4
Susuanso Market sheds and stalls	Tano North Municipal	Susuanso	2	4
New Dormaa Market sheds and stalls	Sunyani Municipal	New Dormaa	2	4
Kobedi market shed	Sunyani West Municipal	Kobadi	2	4
Techire Market sheds	Tano North Municipal	Teachire	2	4
Tanoso Market sheds and stalls	Tano North Municipal	Tanoso	2	4
Kwabenakrom Market sheds	Sunyani West Municipal	Kwabeakrom	2	4
Asen Market sheds and stalls	Tano North Municipal	Asen	2	4
Total			16	32

Presentation of the Interview Results

Causative characteristics of abandoned completed urban projects

A thematic and descriptive approach was used after transcribing and coding for comparing the results of the data. The following codes, categories and emerging themes were identified as causes of abandoned completed urban market projects in the Bono Region as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Identified causes and emerging themes from the interviews

Projects	Identified Causes	Emerging Themes
Tainso, Susuanso, New Dormaa, Kobedi, Tanoso, Teachire, Kwabenakrum and Asen	The small size of the sheds and stalls, poor location of the sheds and stalls, poor landscape, poor planning, non-commission of the project after completion and long distance to the market	Design and planning factors
Tainso, Susuanso, New Dormaa, Kobedi, Tanoso, Teachire, Kwabenakrum and Asen	Non-provision of access roads, water, electricity, security and sanitation	Auxiliary utility factors
Tainso, Susuanso, New Dormaa, Kobedi, Tanoso, Teachire, Kwabenakrum and Asen	Communication gap among stakeholders, the high price of sheds or stalls, high rental charges, lack of users' consultations	User-engagement factors

Effects of completed abandoned urban market projects

Data from the interviews were transcribed, coded and themed and the descriptive approach was used to compare the data. The following categories and emerging themes were identified as effects of abandoned completed urban markets in the Bono Region as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Identified effects and emerging themes from the interviews

Projects	Identified Effects	Emerging Themes
Tainso, Susuanso, New Dormaa, Kobedi, Tanoso, Teachire, Kwabenakrum and Asen	The project site has been taken over by weeds, reptiles and wide animals; Environmental pollution	Environmental effect
Tainso, Susuanso, New Dormaa, Kobedi, Tanoso, Teachire, Kwabenakrum and Asen	Reduction in employment opportunities, waste of resources and decrease in revenue accruable to the state	Economic effect
Tainso, Susuanso, New Dormaa, Kobedi, Tanoso, Teachire, Kwabenakrum and Asen	The relocation of the populace, loss of identity and value of the area	Social effect

From the findings, bad location of the projects, non-provision of utilities, non-access to the projects site, high rent charges, improper security, a long distance from the communities to the markets, small size of sheds and stalls, non-user consultation or engagement, non-provision of sanitation, non-provision of water and non-provision of electricity were identified as the causative characteristics of abandonment of completed urban market projects. These findings were further classified as design and planning factors, auxiliary utility factors and end-users' engagement factors. Also, resource wastage, unemployment and a decrease in revenue accruable to the state were revealed as the effects of completed abandoned urban markets and were classified as environmental, social and economic factors. these findings were used in a questionnaire for quantitative data

and the respondents were asked to rate their agreement or otherwise for further analysis using a 5-point Likert scale as follows; "Strongly Disagree" = 1, "Disagree" = 2, "Moderate" = 3, "Agree" = 4 and "Strongly Agree" = 5.

Presentation of the Questionnaire Results

Tables 4 to 6 present the results of the analysis of the identified causative characteristics of abandoned completed urban market projects.

Causes of completed abandoned urban market projects

Lack of proper design and planning

In Table 4, findings indicated an average mean of 3.78. Therefore, by the decision rule, the "Lack of proper design and planning" contributes significantly to the completed abandoned urban market project. The detailed results in descending order of mean values were "Lack of ventilation and inadequate space" (4.00), "Poorly developed client brief and working drawings" (3.75) and "Bad location and poor landscape" (3.59). This confirmed the interview findings that size, location, landscape, planning and distance to the market were factors that influence the completed abandoned urban market projects. Moreover, studies conducted by Ayodela and Alabi (2011) and Mac-Barango (2017) iterated that poor design of a project contributes to abandonment in Nigeria. Besides, Ayodela and Alabi (2011) and Ewa (2013) opined in their various studies that inadequate planning contributes to project abandonment. Therefore, the causative characteristics of the completed abandoned urban market align with the literature.

Table 4. Design and planning factors

Design and Planning Factors	Total ($\sum X$)	Mean (\bar{x})	Remarks
Poorly developed clients brief and working drawings contribute to project abandonment after completion	120	3.75	Significant
Bad location and poor landscaping influence project abandonment after completion	110	3.59	Significant
Lack of ventilation, inadequate space, faulty design and inadequate planning contribute to project abandonment after completion	128	4.00	Significant
Average mean		3.78	Significant

Non-provision of auxiliary utilities

The results of the analysis presented in Table 5 show an average mean value of 3.58, which established that the non-provision of auxiliary utilities was a significant causative factor which reduces the level of satisfaction of the intended users of the markers. The detailed results shown in descending order were "Non-provision of auxiliary utilities such as access to lighting and security" (4.00), "Non-provision

of auxiliary utilities such as road, water and electricity" (3.44) and "Non-provision of sanitation and waste disposal" (3.31). The analysis from the interview shows that a lack of access roads to the project, water, electricity, security and sanitation were the major factors for the abandonment of completed urban market projects. These findings align with Olalusi and Otunola (2012) who asserted that a lack of adequate and efficient utility services such as the provision of electricity, water, access road and security contribute greatly to project abandonment. Ewa (2013) supported that the causes of abandonment in Nigeria include a lack of municipal service. According to Twumasi-Ampofo et al. (2014), Ewa (2013) and Mac-Barango (2017), the classic reason for building project abandonment are non-provision of auxiliary utilities.

Table 5. Non-provision of auxiliary utilities factors

Non-Provision of Auxiliary Utilities Factors	Total ($\sum X$)	Mean (\bar{x})	Remarks
Non-provision of auxiliary utilities such as access roads, water and electricity influence project abandonment after completion	110	3.44	Significant
Non-provision and access to lighting and security contribute to project abandonment after completion	128	4.00	Significant
Non-provision of sanitation and wastage disposal influence project abandonment after completion	106	3.31	Significant
Average mean		3.58	Significant

Non-end-users engagement

Findings indicated in Table 6, that non-end-users engagement at the planning stage of a project can lead to the abandonment of a completed market project. The result shows an average mean of 3.41, which shows a significant outcome on this. Factors under this category established mean score as follows: "Lack of stakeholder engagement" (3.50), "High rent charges and improper end-users' consultation" (3.41) and "Contractor's inability to adhere to specifications, architects' instructions and user requirements" (3.31). The findings from the interview affirmed that the communication gap among stakeholders contributes to the abandonment of completed urban markets. Mac-Barango (2017) confirmed that poor quality control, communication gap among stakeholders and misunderstanding of the work requirements contribute significantly to completed abandoned urban market projects. Moreover, Ewa (2013) added that the causes of abandonment in Nigeria include poor coordination between the project stakeholders.

Table 6. Non-end-users engagement

Non-End-Users Engagement	Total ($\sum X$)	Mean (\bar{x})	Remarks
Non-stakeholder engagement contributes to project abandonment after the completion	112	3.50	Significant
High rent charges and improper end-users' consultation influence project abandonment	109	3.41	Significant
The contractor's inability to adhere to specifications, architects' instructions and user requirements contribute to project abandonment after completion	106	3.31	Significant
Average mean		3.41	Significant

Effects of completed abandoned building projects

Environmental effects

Table 7 results show a mean average value of 3.67, which indicates that completed project abandonment affects the immediate environment significantly. The individual statements under this category obtained a mean score value above 3.0. For instance, "An abandoned project provides accommodation and hide-out for hoodlums, armed robbers' gangs and street boys" (3.69), "Lack maintenance since they are not put into use and as such are always unpleasant in appearance, thus they constitute general eye-sore to the environment" (4.00) and "Promoting the spread of fire from one building to another in case of a fire outbreak can also house rats, scorpions, snakes and other harmful creature thereby endangering the lives of the inhabitants of the environment" (3.31).

Table 7. Environmental effects

Environmental effects	Total ($\sum X$)	Mean (\bar{x})	Remarks
Abandoned projects provide accommodation and hide-outs for hoodlums, armed robbers' gangs and street boys.	118	3.69	Significant
Abandoned project lack maintenance, unpleasant in appearance and constitute a general eye sore to the environment	128	4.00	Significant
Abandoned projects promote the spread of fire in case of fire outbreak, house rats, scorpions, snakes and other harmful creature thereby endangering the lives of the inhabitants of the environment	106	3.31	Significant
Average mean		3.67	Significant

These results confirmed the interview reports that completed project abandonment have effects on the environment including the site being taken over by weed, reptiles and wide animals, resulting in pollution of the physical environment.

Mac-Barango (2017) and Alao and Jagboro (2017) supported that the effects of completed project abandonment can be classified as economic, social and environmental-related factors. Also, Abdul-Rahman et al.'s (2013) observations that abandoned building projects have environmental effects such as visual effects, landscape modification, erosion and pollution, and damaging the aesthetic vision of the environment and building itself are consistent with this study's findings.

Socio-Economic Effects

Table 8 shows an average mean value of 3.69, which shows that project abandonment has a significant effect on the national economy. All the mean score values of the three variables were significant, with established mean values that were above 3.0. Abandoned government-owned construction projects usually result in a loss for the national economy because such projects usually involve a huge sum of money. The construction industry contributes a lot to the national economy, receiving about 40% of the National budget therefore abandonment of construction projects results in huge losses including misuse of the funds. Moreover, the effects of abandoned completed market sheds and stalls obtained 3.56 as a mean value. This includes unemployment, waste of resources, reduction in revenue accruable to the state, relocation of the population, and loss of identity and value of the area.

Table 8. Socio-economic effects

Socio-Economic Effects	Total ($\sum X$)	Mean (\bar{x})	Remarks
Abandonment of government-owned construction projects usually results in a loss of the national economy	123	3.84	Significant
The construction industry contributes a lot to the national economy. It receives about 40% of the national budget therefore abandonment of construction projects result in misuse of the funds which could have been used for other more the profitable aspect of the economy	117	3.66	Significant
Abandonment of completed market sheds and stalls results in a reduction of employment opportunities, waste of resources, reduction in revenue to the state, relocation of the populace, loss of identity and value of the area	114	3.56	Significant
Average mean		3.69	Significant

Moreover, the interview findings show a reduction in employment opportunities, waste of resources and decrease in revenue accruable to the state as effects of abandonment, including relocation of the populace and loss of value and identity of the area. It is agreed that the effects of building project abandonment can be classified as economic and social-related factors (Marks, Komives and Davis, 2014; Mac-Barango, 2017). Also, Abdul-Rahman et al. (2013) observed that abandoned building projects have socioeconomic effects. These include unemployment, relocation of the populace and loss of identity in the area.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that the major causative characteristics of abandonment of completed urban market projects, including design and planning related factors, end-users engagement related factors as well as provision of auxiliary utilities related factors. The effects of completed urban market project abandonment were environmental and socio-economic. The infrastructure market is a high priority for the government, citizens and donors on account of its crucial role in achieving social and economic development and growth in terms of resources, employment opportunities and revenue accruable to the state. Finally, markets are a source of product delivery, providing jobs and promoting communication and identity of the communities. It is therefore frustrating and puzzling to see much-needed infrastructure development projects abandoned after completion and hand-over, which in turn leads to the high cost of repairs, damages and national resource wastage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is therefore recommended that strategic and effective consultation with end-users, suitable design and planning in the conception phase of the projects and provision of auxiliary utilities such as security, electricity, water, sanitation and access road to the facilities be undertaken before handing over. The researchers recommend that:

1. To avoid the abandonment of projects by would-be users, all salient auxiliary utilities such as electricity, water, sanitation and access road are provided before the project handing over and
2. The auxiliary utilities that come with the project should be included in the planning and design phases of the main projects.

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