

## EFFECT OF PEOPLE FACTORS ON PLANNING PERFORMANCE OF SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN SRI LANKA

<sup>1</sup>**Duinda Weeraratne**, PhD  
Scholar of Management and  
Science University (MSU),  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Project Management  
Solutions, **SRI LANKA**.  
duminda@pms.lk

<sup>2</sup>**Prof. Dr. Ali Khatibi**, Dean  
Faculty of Business  
Management & Professional  
Studies (FBMP), Management  
and Science University  
(MSU), **MALAYSIA**  
alikh@msu.edu.my

<sup>3</sup>**Prof. Dato' Dr. Md Gapar Md Johar**  
Vice President Academic &  
Systems, Management and  
Science University (MSU), **MALAYSIA**  
gapar@msu.edu.my

### ABSTRACT

Software Development Industry is a key contributor to the Sri Lankan economy. Hence, effective and efficient functioning of software development companies is a very essential factor for the National Development. Primary management approach used by the industry to produce software is project management methodology. However, it is observed that the software project failure rate in the industry has come to an unacceptable level. Large number of previous studies has examined direct relationship between critical success factors and project outcome. One of the major causes of failure is lack of application of good project management practices. Projects are implemented applying five phased project management lifecycle namely; initiating, planning, executing, monitoring and controlling and closing. This article aims to examine the effect of people factors on planning performance of the projects. Main people factors considered are, project manager experience, team capability, user involvement, and customer involvement. Data was collected from 244 project managers and project leaders from 109 software development companies using a web based tool. The reliability of the data was analyzed using Cronbach's alpha coefficient. The relationship between variables was measured using Pearson correlation test and regression analysis was used to ascertain the effect of variables. The results indicate that project manager experience and Team capability are significant predictors of planning performance of software development project in Sri Lanka.

**Keywords:** Project Management, Planning Performance, Project Manager Experience, Team member capability, Customer Involvement, User involvement.