

Safety Audit A Need of An Hour: A Case Study of Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation Limited

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Abstract - Auditing is an important professional task carrying heavy responsibility and calling for a high degree of skill and judgement. The history of Audit is traced back in the 18th century as a result of Industrial Revolution. The evolution of Auditing in India dates back in the year 1914 when the Indian Companies Act, 1913 came into force and the modification keeps on coming with the change in the Acts and time gaps. In its traditional sense according to Taylor and Perry "An audit is an investigation of some figures involving examination of certain evidences with the primary object of enabling the auditor to make report on statement." But with the time span the scope of Audit has also widened with its branching in different types. Here the paper deals with one of the Objective Based Audit that is the Safety Audit which illustrates the importance of Safety Audit in a developed developing economy like India where there is a great need of Infrastructural Development Projects but also reflects the other side of it that is when the safety measures are not given much importance the negligence of it sometimes leads to serious consequences as may be seen in the case of Kolkata Flyover mishap or the more recent case of Lucknow Metro accident. In this paper I shall discuss Safety Audit with reference to Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. case.

Keywords: Accident, Construction, Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation, Safety Audit.

I. INTRODUCTION

Audit at present today is used in a very much broader sense. The Modern Audit is also Contemporary Audit. The scope and objects of it are also much broader as compared to narrow concepts of traditional audit, encompassing several new areas of audit. At present Audit encompasses both types of entities – Commercial as well as Non-Commercial. As such Audit can be defined as "any evaluation process carried out systematically by examining data, statements, records, performance for a stated purpose and resulting in opinion which is communicated to interested parties through a report".

In a country which is characterized by its heavy population pressure the need for infrastructural projects to support the public utility services of the country become more important and to carry out these projects in a sustainable and safe way becomes more significant. Here arises the need of Safety Audit to keep an eye on these projects whether the safety measures are given proper and

complete consideration or not at their construction stage. A Safety Audit is carried out by the persons having Expertise in their respective fields who inspect management system, facilities and activities of the organisation on safety prospects assess the existing hazards, the level of prevention, protection and emergency management readiness and subsequently prepare a recommendation to upgrade safety inputs to prevent mishaps and limit effects.

II. SAFETY AUDIT OBJECTIVES

To pin-point the main objective behind the safety audit are as follows:

- 1- To make sure that the actions are matched with set standards, rules and regulations.
- 2- To check that the internal policies of the organisation are being made according to the standard wise practice and norms.
- 3- To identify the differences from designed and planned operating and maintenance procedure and standards.
- 4- To identify those conditions prevalent that could lead to an accident and extensive losses to life or property.

III. BACKGROUND



LMRC

Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation

Source: www.lmrc.com

Lucknow the city of Nawabs being the capital of the most populated state of the country attracting a large number of people for jobs requires a balanced public transport

infrastructure. To assist the transport infrastructure of the city Government of Uttar Pradesh with the support of Central Government initiated the Lucknow Metro Rail Project to facilitate and smoothen the public transport system of the city. The Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation has an Authorized capital of Two thousand Crores Rupees only divided into Twenty Crores Rupees Equity Share of Rupees 100 each only. The Lucknow Metro Rail Project has been divided into two parts that is the North-South Corridor and East-West Corridor. The project is to be funded on 50:50 model with equity sharing by Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh. Over 50% of the Project Rs. 3502 Cr. is to be funded through senior debt multilateral/bilateral agencies. The DPR of Lucknow Metro Rail Project approved by state government as submitted to MOUD on 26-08-2013 has given "In Principle Approval of Part-1A of DPR" on 27-12-2013. The completion cost of Part-1A is Rs.6880 Cr (As per the revised DPR submitted to MOUD on 10-10-2013).

IV. THE ISSUE



Source: www.mid-day.com

The Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation is in news since 17th April 2016 when a shuttering between two under construction pillars at Alambagh Metro Station collapsed on Sunday around 7 A.M. in the Morning. The accident not only puts a big question mark on Safety Measures at work for workers but also for the passersby travelling through the road as this was the second accident in 15 Days at the construction site. The Managing Director of Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation ordered the stoppage of work at Alambagh Metro Station till a Safety Audit was over. Four workers were injured during this accident in which one of them gets seriously injured when a pier-arm collapsed at the under-construction station site. The Principle Advisor of the Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation E. Sreedharan on his recent visit has also instructed to improve the security arrangements at metro site. Now the Safety Audit team is looking into the probe to see the loopholes and fix the accountability of responsible persons.

V. IMPACT ON LUCKNOW METRO RAIL CORPORATION

ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT: Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation removed station supervisor and two officers-an engineer and a safety incharge from the site. Construction work will remained stopped at the Alambagh Metro Station site till the Safety Audit of the site was completed.

PROJECT IMPACT: As the Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation and L&T is facing strict deadline to complete the work at the 8.5 km crucial stretch at North-South corridor which is to be operational by January next year the accident at the metro site delays the project to be completed at the priority area. As the work at the Alambagh Metro Station site will remained stopped till the Safety Audit gets over constituting officials from L&T headquarter under the guidance of Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation officials. The Safety Audit team will expectedly will submit report in the first week of May.

VI. THE REPORT



Source: The Hindu

The Report submitted to the Government Officials on Wednesday, 18th May 2016 by the members of Safety Audit Committee regarding the accident at Alambagh Metro Station site on 17th April 2016 when a shuttering collapsed at the construction site clearly depicts that shortcuts were used in setting up shuttering and bolts at the site putting safety aside. But also according to the sources in Report submitted some deviations are also found with the designed that is pre-approved which is to be implemented at the construction site changes has been made in the pre-approved design.

VII. CONCLUSION

The Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation Case is an incident which clearly predicts that whenever the safety measures are not given much importance and are not at top priority during construction work at the sites it not only results in accident at construction site but also makes hazardous situation for site workers. It also becomes necessary for responsible authority to do Third Party Safety Audit by

independent authority to avoid such mistakes at construction sites which predicts the true situation before the officials. The government should also issue clear cut guidelines regarding safety measures for the safety of workers and citizens which should be strictly followed by the Undersigned Corporation and Agencies during construction work to avoid such hazards. Here it becomes necessary to point-out that all those projects which are being run with 50:50 participation of Central and State Governments should promote Safety Audit through National Safety Council or through the agencies of National importance which should check Occupational Safety and Health perspectives as well as Management system, Medical facilities and first aid, Incident reporting & Analysis and Emergency Preparedness, safety in Formwork and concreting, Material handling, grinding, electrical safety, Occupational Health & Hygiene. A work done in public interest to support public transport system or facilitating any other public utility system with the morally, ethically and socially responsible agency or organisation not only facilitate work smoothly by minimizing the chances of hazards and promotes safety during work.

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