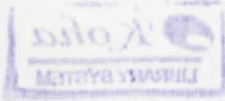
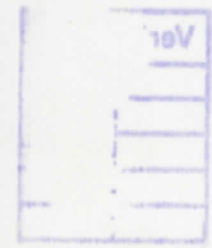




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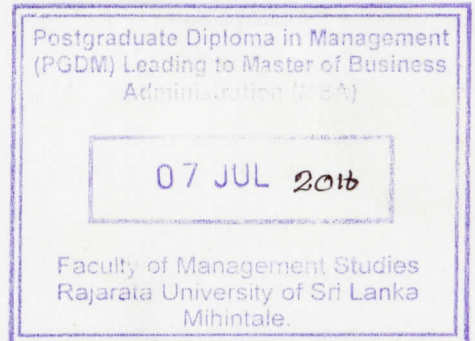


Rationalization of the failure of software projects;

Reference to the miniature and the mediocre level software development companies in Sri Lanka



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ABSTRACT

Information technology and communication (ICT) industry is an industry which had changed the lives, behaviours of people and influence the growth of many economies. As a result of increased demand for ICT applications in day-to-day lives of business firms and people, many investors had entered into the Industry to get better returns. ICT is intrinsically linked with software which resulted in launching new software development companies (SDC) or expanded existing companies with new software development projects. According to literature, rapid growth of software development projects and companies may be due to comparatively low levels of resource requirements. Literature shows that failures in small and medium software development companies and their projects are comparatively higher those of similar size companies and projects in other industries. Literatures also states that there are limited research on failures of software development companies/projects in Sri Lanka. Understanding the factors influencing failure of software development project may be useful for ICT industry to reduce the cost of project failures and to make necessary improvement in existing projects and to take precaution when starting new projects. Therefore this research focused on two research questions '(i).what factors influence the failure of software development projects started by small and medium-scale companies (ii). How those factors influence on success/failures of software development projects'. To address these research question conceptual framework was developed after reviewing pertinent literature on involvement of customer in developing software, process of project management, and attitudes of corporate management on software development projects. According reviewed literature, customer involvement in developing software, performance of project management team and the attitude of Executive management towards individual project had been used to develop conceptual framework. Purposively selected 64 software development projects in North Western Province and Western province to implement the research. T- test were proposed to test hypotheses that were framed according to the conceptual framework. According to findings attitude of the corporate management team toward individual software development project, and the degree of customer involvement are the most influential factors that affect success/failure of software development projects.

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