



ARCHITECTS' PERSPECTIVES ON GREEN BUILDING INTEGRATION: CHALLENGES, INNOVATIONS, AND VISIONS

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ABSTRACT As the Indian subcontinent experiences a dynamic expansion of urban centers, architects operating in different climatic zones of the country are confronted with unique challenges. India, with its diverse and often extreme climatic conditions, is a microcosm of the larger global effort to create buildings that reduce environmental impact, conserve resources, and prioritize the health and well-being of their occupants. From the scorching deserts of the North Zone to the lush coastal regions of the South Zone, architects have had to adapt and innovate in their approach to green building integration. This study, positioned against the backdrop of India's unique architectural challenges, seeks to delve into the perceptions and aspirations of architects engaged in green building practices across different climatic zones. As architects adapt and innovate to meet the demands of extreme conditions, the research strives to assess the challenges they face, identify the inventive strategies they employ, and understand their visionary outlooks for the future. The research explores India's diverse climatic zones, including Hot and Dry, Composite, Hot and Humid, Temperate, and Cold, to understand the challenges and opportunities architects face in integrating green building practices. It will focus on active green building project architects to gain context-specific insights into sustainable architecture, tailored to India's unique climatic conditions. This research aims to identify shared challenges faced by architects in integrating green building practices across diverse climatic zones in India. It also aims to highlight innovative design and construction strategies employed by architects, providing insights into sustainable architecture. The study also seeks to present architects' visions for sustainable architecture within climatic diversity, contributing to the discourse on future trends and design philosophies.

KEYWORDS : Green Building Practices, Sustainable Architecture, Climatic Challenges, Architectural Adaptation

INTRODUCTION

As nations grapple with the consequences of rapid urbanization and industrialization, green building practices emerge as the cornerstone of a conscientious future. From national policies advocating sustainable construction to global initiatives combatting climate change, the trajectory of architectural design is inseparable from the broader pursuit of a sustainable world.

As urbanization propels forward on the Indian subcontinent, architects find themselves at the nexus of a pivotal challenge — crafting sustainable buildings that harmonize with the diverse climatic tapestry of the nation. From the soaring temperatures of the North to the temperate landscapes of the South, India encapsulates a microcosm of global endeavors to create structures that mitigate environmental impact, conserve resources, and prioritize occupant well-being. In this dynamic context, this research explores the perceptions and aspirations of Indian architects engaged in green building practices, unraveling the challenges, innovations, and future visions across varied climatic zones. As architects adapt and innovate amidst India's climatic extremes, this study seeks to identify common challenges, showcase inventive strategies, and present a visionary outlook for sustainable architecture tailored to India's diverse environmental contexts.

Architects play a pivotal role in shaping the future of sustainable architecture. The decisions they make, the innovations they conceive, and the visions they articulate influence not only the aesthetics of buildings but also their ecological impact, energy performance, and societal well-being. As architects grapple with diverse climatic challenges, they also find themselves in a dynamic dialogue with green building rating systems, international sustainability standards, and local regulations.

Objective:

To comprehensively investigate and understand the dynamics of green building integration within diverse climatic zones in India, from architects' perspective:

1. To assess the challenges architects face in integrating green building practices in diverse climatic conditions such as Hot and Dry, Composite, Hot and humid, Temperate and Cold.
2. To explore the innovative strategies architects employ to overcome these challenges when designing sustainable buildings in various climatic zones.

3. To understand architects' visions for the future of green building integration, including emerging trends, technologies, and design philosophies specific to the Indian context.

Review Of Literature:

The study titled, "Effects of Motivators & Barriers on Green Building Intention: Architects' Perspective", Ziliya and Faisal, (2020) underscores the pivotal role of buildings in human existence, recognizing their profound impact on the economy, environment, and human health. With a focus on sustainability, it delves into the promise of Green Buildings to address environmental issues, offering solutions to problems like pollution, global warming, water scarcity, waste disposal, high electricity costs, and health concerns. Centering on the intentions of Indian architects, the study explores motivating and hindering factors influencing their engagement in green building activities, emphasizing their crucial role as sustainability proponents.

The study titled, "A Review on Green Building Movement in India", Manna and Banerjee, (2019) emphasize the urgent need for sustainable development to combat environmental challenges like the Greenhouse Effect, resource depletion, and global warming. Highlighting the global awareness gap between developed and developing nations, it particularly focuses on India's significant strides in eco-friendly constructions. The study explores the aim of green building projects in India to mitigate the construction industry's environmental impact, detailing certification criteria, government incentives, and the challenges faced. It serves as a valuable resource, shedding light on India's position in producing a sustainable built environment amid global concerns.

In the study titled, "Development of a 'Green building sustainability mode' for green buildings in India", Sharma, (2018) addresses the existing gap in green building. It establishes a conceptual framework involving nine constructs, exploring relationships among issues, challenges, government, corporate entities, developers, buyers, private bodies, strategic mix, and sustainable development. Empirical results emphasize the pivotal role of collaborative efforts, particularly government involvement, in achieving resource-efficient and sustainable development. The model's applicability extends beyond India, offering relevance to global academics, environmentalists, practitioners, policymakers, and guiding future research.

METHODOLOGY

The research employed a survey as the primary tool to collect data

from architects operating in India's five climatic zones—Hot and Dry, Composite, Hot and Humid, Temperate, and Cold. This comprehensive approach aimed to explore the nuances of green building practices in diverse environmental contexts. The survey targeted both architects actively engaged in green building projects and those not involved, capturing a holistic view of challenges, innovations, and visions related to green building integration. The sample size was 25 architects, capturing regional variations in green building experiences across the diverse climatic zones of India.

The quantitative analysis involved interpreting survey responses, with percentages derived to highlight prevalent challenges, innovative strategies, and visionary outlooks among architects. Simultaneously, qualitative analysis probed into open-ended responses, providing an understanding of architects' perspectives on green building integration. While the survey formed the backbone of data collection, the analysis integrated both quantitative and qualitative approaches, offering a comprehensive view of the challenges, innovations, and visions related to green building practices in India's varied climatic zones.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The study findings underscore a multi-faceted landscape of challenges in green building integration. The dominance of climatic challenges for 91.7% of architects signals the impact of diverse geographical locations on sustainable design. Notably, client-related hurdles, encompassing preferences and budget constraints, are identified as the most formidable challenge, indicating potential gaps in awareness and a need for client education in green building practices. The moderate challenge posed by the limited availability of green materials emphasizes the importance of a sustainable supply chain.

The survey reveals varying encounters with regulatory or policy hurdles, with a majority experiencing occasional obstacles, highlighting the complex regulatory environment in green construction. Interestingly, the least number of architects face policy hurdles, suggesting a relatively smoother policy landscape. The perceived high initial cost of green technologies emerges as a significant overarching challenge, aligning with broader concerns in the industry. This multifaceted understanding of challenges provides a nuanced view for shaping future strategies in green building practices.



Figure 1: Challenges faced by architects while integrating green building practices

2. To understand the innovative approaches of architects in green building practices, the study reveals a unanimous preference among architects for cost-effective techniques, with 100% opting for natural ventilation and shading devices. This strategic choice reflects a proactive response to counter the challenge posed by the high cost of green technologies, showcasing a collective commitment to sustainable yet economical solutions. Additionally, the adoption of solar panels and Low-E glass underscores a broader adoption of advanced technologies to enhance the green features of buildings.

Furthermore, the survey indicates a prevalent reliance on energy-efficient technologies and passive design strategies as innovative solutions. This trend aligns with the industry's pursuit of sustainable practices, suggesting a shared recognition among architects of the potential benefits and effectiveness of these strategies in overcoming challenges associated with green building integration. The survey findings collectively portray a landscape where architects strategically leverage both traditional and advanced technologies to innovate in the face of sustainability challenges.

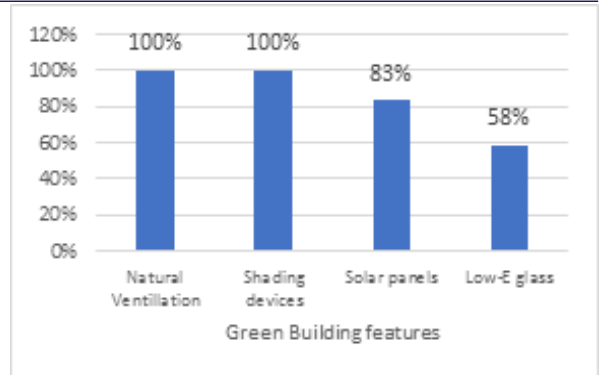


Figure 2: Preferences of architects for green building features

3. The survey on the vision for green building practices provides valuable insights into architects' perspectives on future trends and key considerations. Firstly, 75% of respondents anticipate a growing demand for green building practices in the Indian architectural context. However, they believe that the cold zone will witness the least growth in green building practices in the near future, highlighting the context-specific nature of expectations.

Moreover, a majority of architects (91.7%) envision advanced technology as the main component of future green buildings, coupled with a greater reliance on renewable energy. This collective belief underscores a forward-looking approach among architects, emphasizing the integration of cutting-edge technologies and sustainable energy sources in the design and construction of green buildings.

Additionally, 87.5% of architects express the belief that providing financial incentives and subsidies for green building projects will be highly effective in promoting green building practices in India. This aligns with the challenges identified by architects, particularly the perceived high initial cost of green technologies, emphasizing the pivotal role of supportive policies and incentives in fostering sustainable architecture. The survey findings collectively reflect architects' optimistic yet pragmatic vision for the future of green building practices in India.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The study's findings suggest several recommendations to enhance environmental sustainability in green building practices. Given the significant climatic challenges faced by architects, there is a need for region-specific design innovations that address environmental diversity. Encouraging the use of sustainable materials, especially those locally sourced, can contribute to reducing the environmental impact. Policy interventions should focus on streamlining regulatory processes and offering incentives to overcome financial barriers associated with green technologies. To foster a more sustainable future, there should be a concerted effort to promote the adoption of renewable energy sources and advanced technologies in green building projects. Overall, these recommendations aim to align architectural practices with environmental conservation, fostering a greener and more sustainable built environment.

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