

Analysis of Contractor Performance on User Satisfaction in Road and Bridge Construction Projects in North Morowali Regency

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Abstract: This study analyzes the influence of contractor performance on user satisfaction in road and bridge construction projects in North Morowali Regency. Data collection used a questionnaire within the Public Works, Spatial Planning, Housing, and Regional Settlement Areas Office of North Morowali Regency. Data analysis employed two methods: Structural Equation Modeling based on Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) and Relative Importance Index (RII). The SEM-PLS analysis results show that contractor performance has a very strong contribution to user satisfaction, with an R-Square (R^2) value of 0.789. This indicates that 78.9% of user satisfaction is influenced by contractor performance. Based on the RII analysis, the Specifications and Material Testing Results indicator is the most dominant factor influencing contractor performance, with an RII value of 0.709. For user satisfaction, three main indicators have a balanced RII value (0.663): compliance with the work plan and budget; contractor understanding of owner needs; and proactive and solution-oriented capabilities when addressing field problems. Equipment suitability is the lowest contractor performance indicator, with an RII value of 0.589. Therefore, strategies to improve performance are needed, such as strict periodic maintenance, having spare parts available on-site, using officially licensed operators, and completing daily equipment check sheets.

Keywords: Contractor Performance, User Satisfaction, Roads and Bridges, SEM-PLS, RII.

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I. INTRODUCTION

North Morowali Regency is one of the rapidly developing regions in Central Sulawesi Province. This area has abundant natural resource potential, especially in the mining sector, as well as being supported by potential in agriculture and fisheries. In recent years, North Morowali Regency has experienced significant economic growth driven by high investment rates. This increase in economic activity has direct implications for the soaring need for adequate infrastructure provision. Road and bridge infrastructure development is one of the main pillars in driving economic growth, smoothing logistics routes, and improving regional connectivity [1].

In realizing this infrastructure development, the role of construction service companies or contractors is crucial. Road and bridge construction projects are included in the heavy civil engineering category that demands high precision. Their implementation in the field is carried out by the winning tender contractor under the supervision of consultants and the Public Works (PU) Department. Every work stage must comply with working drawings, technical specifications, and the Work Plan and Requirements (RKS)

contained in the contract documents [2]. Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia through Government Regulation (PP) Number 14 of 2021 has also regulated the implementation of construction services to ensure that projects are carried out by competent experts, meet quality and safety standards, and are able to compete in the construction industry.

The Public Works Department of North Morowali Regency as the service user (project owner) continues to push road and bridge development. However, in practice in the field, there are still many challenges and obstacles faced. Project implementation is often colored by problems such as a lack of skilled labor, delays in project completion, and high occupational safety and health risks. Contractor performance in construction projects is the main determining factor for project success. Good performance will ensure the project is completed on time, within budget, and with high quality. Conversely, poor contractor performance can trigger negative deviations such as schedule delays, cost overruns, and low physical construction quality [3].

The derivative impact of contractor performance quality culminates in the level of user satisfaction. The contractor's ability to meet contract specifications and resolve field problems will be directly proportional to the satisfaction of the PU Department as a representative of the regional government. Therefore, it is important not only to evaluate technical performance but also to measure the extent to which this performance affects user satisfaction. In addition, it is necessary to dissect more specifically what the dominant factors are, both from the internal management side of the contractor and from the user expectation side, that most determine success and satisfaction in these projects.

Previous studies relevant to this topic include Maulana [4] who analyzed customer satisfaction with project management performance in small-qualified building contractors in Yogyakarta with a CSI result of 78.105%. Fitriana [5] measured contractor satisfaction with client performance in private construction projects with a CSI value of 70.73%. Lyanawati [6] analyzed contractor performance on road improvement project quality in Probolinggo Regency using multiple regression. Kurnia [7] examined user satisfaction levels with contractor performance in a case study of office building maintenance at the West Java Regional Police with a CSI value of 73.10. Kurniawan [8] identified critical factors determining customer satisfaction with building contractor projects in Bukittinggi City. Syahroni & Siswoyo [2] analyzed owner satisfaction with contractor performance at the Public Works and Spatial Planning Department of Lumajang Regency with a CSI value of 66.32%.

Based on this background, the research problems are: (1) How does contractor performance influence user satisfaction in road and bridge construction projects in North Morowali Regency; (2) What dominant factors influence contractor performance in road and bridge construction projects in North Morowali Regency; (3) What dominant factors influence user satisfaction in road and bridge construction projects in North Morowali Regency; (4) How to improve contractor performance in road and bridge construction projects in North Morowali Regency.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

➤ Research Type

This research is a descriptive quantitative study. Quantitative research with a descriptive format aims to explain, summarize various conditions, situations, or variables that arise in society as research objects based on what occurs [9]. In this study, the researcher explains the relationship between variables by describing the series of relationships between variables, testing hypotheses, and developing existing theories from previous research results.

➤ Research Location and time

This research was located in North Morowali Regency within the scope of work of the Public Works, Spatial Planning, Housing, and Regional Settlement Areas Office of North Morowali Regency. The samples used as research material were road and bridge projects in the 2024 fiscal year.

➤ Population and Sample

The population in this study was all employees of the Public Works, Spatial Planning, Housing, and Regional Settlement Areas Office (DPUPRPKP) in the Highways division. The sampling technique used was saturated sampling, where all population members were used as samples [10]. The number of respondents in this study was 35 people consisting of 1 Budget User Authority (KPA), 3 Commitment Making Officials (PPK), 1 Technical Activity Implementation Official (PPTK), and 30 Department Supervisors.

➤ Data Collection Techniques

Data collection techniques in this study were divided into two parts: primary and secondary data collection. Primary data was collected through observation and questionnaires. The research instrument used was a questionnaire with a Likert scale interval value for each answer ranging from 1 to 5, with categories: Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Agree (3), Quite Agree (4), and Strongly Agree (5).

➤ Research Questionnaire Design

Table 1 Questionnaire Design for Contractor Performance Variables

No.	Variable	Indicator	
1	Human Resource (Man)	Man 1	Work discipline
		Man 2	Work motivation
		Man 3	Project administration
2	Finance (Money)	Mon 1	Company finance
		Mon 2	Monthly work certificate
		Mon 3	Contractor financial management
3	Equipment (Machine)	Mac 1	Equipment completeness
		Mac 2	Equipment condition
		Mac 3	Equipment management and operation
4	Material	Mat 1	Material quality
		Mat 2	Material availability and supply
		Mat 3	Specifications and material testing results

5	Methods	Met 1	Work skills
		Met 2	Experience
		Met 3	Work methods
6	Work Environment	LK 1	Physical work environment
		LK 2	Non-physical work environment
		LK 3	Occupational safety and health

Source: Primary Data, 2026

Table 2 Questionnaire Design for User Satisfaction Variables

No	Kode	Indicator
1	KPJ 1	Conformity of work results with working drawings
2	KPJ 2	Conformity of work results with budget plan
3	KPJ 3	Conformity of work results with technical specifications
4	KPJ 4	Conformity of work results with terms of reference
5	KPJ 5	Minimal work defects
6	KPJ 6	On-time/earlier project completion
7	KPJ 7	Conformity of weekly/monthly work schedules
8	KPJ 8	Adjustment to work environment
9	KPJ 9	Rework
10	KPJ 10	Working hours
11	KPJ 11	Responsiveness and timeliness
12	KPJ 12	Clarity and completeness of information
13	KPJ 13	Understanding of user needs
14	KPJ 14	Transparency and honesty
15	KPJ 15	Proactive and solution-oriented capability
16	KPJ 16	Quality of meetings and discussions
17	KPJ 17	Work reporting

Source: Primary Data, 2026

➤ Analytical Methods

The research methods used in this study consist of three main parts: descriptive statistical approach, Relative Importance Index (RII), and Structural Equation Modeling Partial Least Square (SEM-PLS).

Relative Importance Index (RII) is used to measure the dominant factors of contractor performance. The RII method allows for the identification of the importance level of these indicators [11]. Based on the RII results Indicator with higher RII values are deemed critical, whereas lower RII values indicate that the factor exerts a minor impact [12]. The RII calculation uses the following equation:

$$RII = \frac{\sum W}{AN}$$

Where: W = Weight (Range 1-5), A = Highest weight, N = Total Respondents.

SEM-PLS is a statistical analysis to evaluate models consisting of linear relationships between variables that are usually latent variables that cannot be observed directly. There are two model evaluations: the measurement model evaluation (Outer Model) which aims to prove that the measurement model is valid and reliable [13], and the structural model evaluation (Inner Model) which aims to predict relationships between latent variables based on substantive theory using R-square for endogenous constructs and t-statistic values from path coefficient testing [14].

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

➤ Respondent Characteristics

Based on data collected from 35 respondents, respondent characteristics show that the majority of respondents were aged 31-40 years (48%), male (80%), had a bachelor's degree in engineering (54%), had 6-10 years of work experience (37%), had competency certificates (57%), and served as Department Supervisors (86%).

➤ Outer Model Test Results

The outer model testing was conducted to ensure that the instruments used to measure latent variables had good validity and reliability. Based on the first stage loading factor test results, there were 7 indicators that did not meet the critical value of 0.7: X6.1 (Non-physical work environment) with a value of 0.521, Y1.5 (Minimal work defects) with a value of 0.651, Y1.10 (Working hours) with a value of 0.689, Y1.14 (Contractor transparency and honesty) with a value of 0.671, Y1.15 (Proactive and solution-oriented capability) with a value of 0.644, Y1.16 (Quality of meetings and discussions) with a value of 0.513, and Y1.17 (Work reporting) with a value of 0.449. These seven indicators were removed and retested.

Table 3 Loading Factor Test Results - Stage 2

Construct	Indicator	Loading Factor Value	Critical Value	Description
Human Resources (X1)	X1.1	0,861	0,7	Valid
	X1.2	0,764	0,7	Valid
	X1.3	0,778	0,7	Valid
Finance (X2)	X2.1	0,861	0,7	Valid
	X2.2	0,849	0,7	Valid
	X2.3	0,884	0,7	Valid
Equipment (X3)	X3.1	0,829	0,7	Valid
	X3.2	0,848	0,7	Valid
	X3.3	0,834	0,7	Valid
Material (X4)	X4.1	0,837	0,7	Valid
	X4.2	0,861	0,7	Valid
	X4.3	0,898	0,7	Valid
Methods (X5)	X5.1	0,908	0,7	Valid
	X5.2	0,824	0,7	Valid
	X5.3	0,796	0,7	Valid
Environment (X6)	X6.2	0,954	0,7	Valid
	X6.3	0,969	0,7	Valid
User Satisfaction (Y1)	Y1.1	0,797	0,7	Valid
	Y1.2	0,825	0,7	Valid
	Y1.3	0,759	0,7	Valid
	Y1.4	0,758	0,7	Valid
	Y1.6	0,804	0,7	Valid
	Y1.7	0,755	0,7	Valid
	Y1.8	0,781	0,7	Valid
	Y1.9	0,756	0,7	Valid
	Y1.11	0,715	0,7	Valid
	Y1.12	0,807	0,7	Valid
	Y1.13	0,754	0,7	Valid

Source: SmartPLS Analysis Results, 2026

The Average Variance Extracted (AVE) test results show that all variables have AVE values greater than 0.5, so all seven variables are declared valid.

Table 4 Hasil Uji Nilai Average Variance Extracted (AVE)

Variable	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)	Description
User Satisfaction	0,599	Valid
Finance	0,747	Valid
Work Environment	0,925	Valid
Material	0,749	Valid
Methods	0,713	Valid
Equipment	0,701	Valid
Human Resources	0,643	Valid

Source: SmartPLS Analysis Results, 2026

The Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability test results show that all variable values are greater than 0.7, so all variables are declared to have good reliability.

Table 5 Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability Test Results

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability	Description
Human Resources (X1)	0,725	0,736	Reliable
Finance(X2)	0,833	0,844	Reliable
Equipment(X3)	0,789	0,804	Reliable
Material (X4)	0,834	0,847	Reliable
Methods (X5)	0,804	0,884	Reliable
Methods (X5)	0,919	0,946	Reliable
User Satisfaction (Y1)	0,933	0,936	Reliable

Source: SmartPLS Analysis Results, 2026

➤ Inner Model Test Results

R-Square (R^2) test results show a value of 0.789, meaning that 78.9% of the user satisfaction variable can be explained by the independent variables in the model, while the remaining 21.1% is influenced by other factors outside the model.

The Effect Size (f^2) test results indicate that the material variable has an f^2 value of 0.236, which falls into the large effect category, while the equipment variable has an f^2 value of 0.147 (medium effect) and the finance variable has an f^2 value of 0.145 (medium effect). The remaining variables demonstrated small effect sizes.

Table 6 Effect Size (f^2) Test Results

Variable	User Satisfaction (Y1)
Finance (X2)	0,145
Work Environment (X6)	0,013
Material (X4)	0,236
Methods (X5)	0,047
Equipment (X3)	0,147
Human Resource (X1)	0,017

Source: SmartPLS Analys Results, 2026

The significance test results show that the material and equipment variables have a positive and significant effect on user satisfaction with P-values of 0.007 and 0.030, respectively. Meanwhile, the finance, work environment, work methods, and human resources variables have a positive but not significant effect on user satisfaction.

Table 7 Path Coefficient Significance Test Results

Path Coefficient	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	T statistics	P values	Description
Finance→ User Satisfaction	0,294	0,296	0,211	1,397	0,081	Not Proven
Work Environment→ User Satisfaction	-0,09	-0,073	0,152	0,594	0,276	Not Proven
Material→ User Satisfaction	0,334	0,296	0,137	2,439	0,007	Proven
Methods→ User Satisfaction (Y1)	0,155	0,151	0,168	0,924	0,178	Not Proven
Equipment→ User Satisfaction	0,331	0,322	0,176	1,878	0,03	Proven
Human Resources →User Satisfaction	0,092	0,12	0,176	0,522	0,301	Not Proven

Source: SmartPLS Analysis Results, 2026

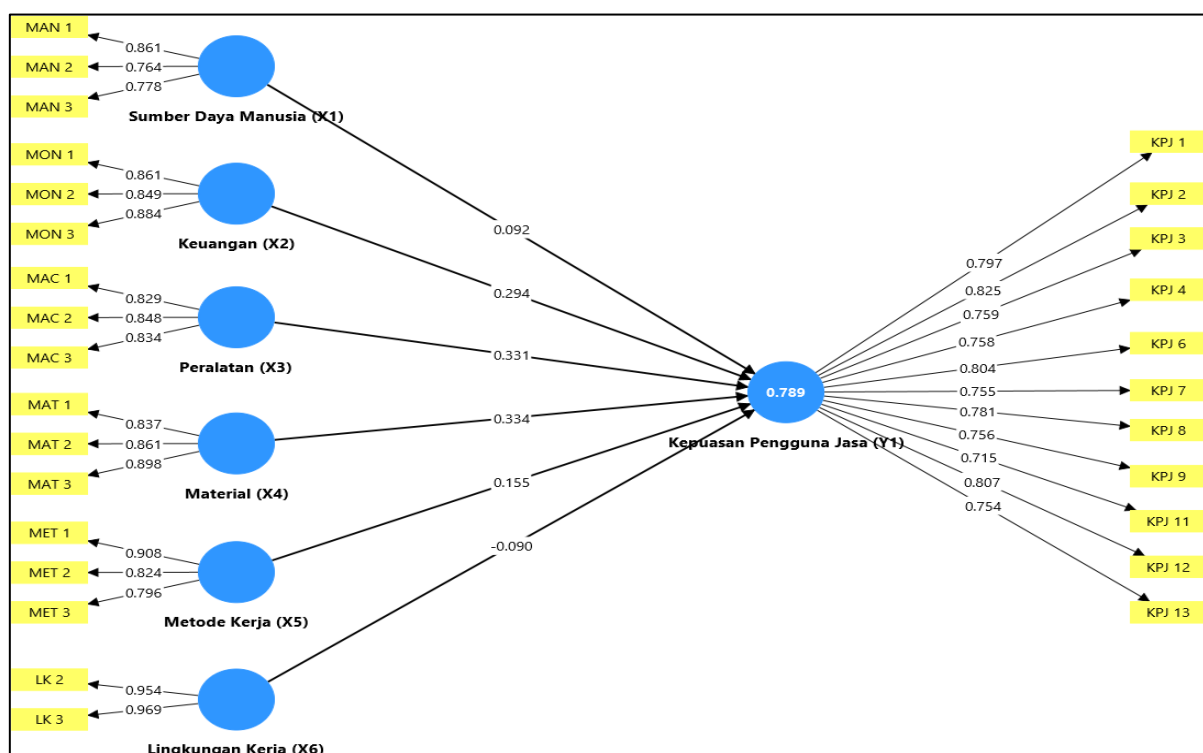


Fig 1 PLS SEM Algorithm Output Model

➤ *Relative Importance Index (RII) Test Results*

Based on the RII test results on contractor performance variables, the most influential indicator is specifications and material testing results with an RII value of 0.709, followed by material quality (0.697), contractor project administration

(0.657), contractor work motivation (0.651), and work methods (0.651). The indicator with the lowest RII value is the feasibility condition of equipment used for work with an RII value of 0.589 (medium category).

Table 8 Summary of Relative Importance Index Results for Contractor Performance

No.	Indicator	RII	Level of Influence
1	Specifications and material testing results	0,709	High
2	Quality of materials used	0,697	High
3	Contractor project administration	0,657	High
4	Contractor work motivation	0,651	High
5	Work methods used in the construction process	0,651	High
6	Work experience aligned with the project undertaken	0,640	High
7	Contractor work discipline	0,634	High
8	Material availability and supply	0,634	High
9	Work skills of the contractor company	0,629	High
10	Monthly certificate aligned with work progress	0,623	High
11	Equipment management and operation	0,623	High
12	Non-physical work environment	0,623	High
13	Contractor company finances are adequate	0,617	High
14	Implementation of occupational safety and health	0,611	High
15	Contractor financial management	0,606	High
16	Completeness of equipment used for work	0,600	High
17	Feasibility condition of equipment used for work	0,589	Medium

Source: Analysis Results, 2026

For user satisfaction variables, there are three indicators with the highest equal RII values: conformity of work with the budget plan, contractor understanding of user needs, and proactive and solution-oriented capability when facing field problems, each with an RII value of 0.663.

Table 9 Relative Importance Index Results for User Satisfaction

No.	Indicator	RII	Level of Influence
1	Conformity of work with the budget plan	0,663	High
2	Contractor understanding of user (owner) needs	0,663	High
3	Proactive and solution-oriented capability when facing field problems	0,663	High
4	Conformity of work with working drawings	0,657	High
5	Working hours during project implementation	0,651	High
6	Conformity of work with technical specifications	0,640	High
7	Work reporting (daily, weekly, monthly) to users	0,623	High
8	Conformity of work with terms of reference	0,617	High
9	Work adjustment to environmental conditions	0,617	High
10	Contractor transparency and honesty during construction	0,617	High
11	Quality of meetings and discussions with users	0,617	High
12	Minimal work defects	0,611	High
13	Clarity and completeness of information provided by contractor	0,606	High
14	Responsive and timely to user requests and complaints	0,600	High
15	Rework (if demolition is done due to non-compliance with planning)	0,589	Medium
16	On-time/earlier project completion	0,577	Medium
17	Conformity of weekly/monthly work schedules with actual field conditions	0,571	Medium

Source: Analysis Results, 2026

➤ *Discussion*

Based on the research results, contractor performance represented by six latent variables (human resources, finance, equipment, material, work methods, and work environment) has a very strong contribution in shaping user satisfaction with an R^2 value of 0.789. This is in line with the findings of Syahrani and Siswoyo [2] which showed that

owner satisfaction with contractor performance at the Public Works and Spatial Planning Department of Lumajang Regency was in the satisfied category with a CSI value of 66.32%.

The material variable has a positive and significant effect on user satisfaction. In the construction industry,

especially in road and bridge development, materials such as asphalt, ready-mix concrete, aggregates, and reinforcing steel are the main components of the physical structure. Timeliness of material delivery, conformity of specifications with laboratory standards, and minimal material quality defects are the main indicators that define project quality success. This is reinforced by the RII test results which show specifications and material testing results as the most dominant factor (RII = 0.709).

The equipment variable also has a positive and significant effect on user satisfaction. The characteristic of road projects that are highly dependent on the existence of heavy equipment such as excavators, vibratory rollers, and asphalt finishers is absolute. When equipment is able to work at maximum capacity with minimal downtime, the work rhythm in the field is maintained, which is positively assessed by users. However, the RII test results show that equipment feasibility condition has the lowest value (RII = 0.589), thus requiring improvement strategies such as strict periodic maintenance, spare parts management at the project site, and operator qualification with official Operator Licenses (SIO).

The human resources, finance, work methods, and work environment variables show an insignificant effect on user satisfaction. This can be explained by the characteristics of users in North Morowali Regency who tend to be oriented towards the final physical object (product-oriented) rather than the process of individual contractor personnel competence (process-oriented). As long as the road and bridge projects they work on are built, the limitations or dynamics of internal contractor performance tend to be ignored.

For user satisfaction, there are three main indicators with balanced RII values (0.663): conformity of work with the budget plan, contractor understanding of owner needs, and proactive and solution-oriented capability when facing field problems. These three indicators show that users pay great attention to budget compliance, understanding of needs, and contractor problem-solving capabilities.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and discussion that has been conducted, the research conclusions are as follows:

- Contractor performance represented by six latent variables (human resources, finance, equipment, material, work methods, and work environment) has a very strong contribution in shaping user satisfaction. This is evidenced by the R-Square (R^2) value of 0.789, indicating that 78.9% of the variation in user satisfaction level is influenced by contractor performance variables.
- The RII test results show that the specifications and material testing results indicator is the most dominant factor affecting contractor performance with an RII value of 0.709.
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