

DECISION MAKING FRAMEWORK FOR GREEN HOSPITAL BUILDING
DEVELOPMENT

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated

*To my angels (my parents)
Mr. Sahamir & Mrs. Rathiah*

*To my beloved siblings
Sheila, Shalfa, Shahrir & Shahrul*

*To my sweethearts (nieces and nephews)
Syifa, Saif, Ariff, Amsyar & Aleesa*

*To my dearest friends
Raja Rafidah & Noor Akmal Adillah*

*Thank you so much for your love, support, kindness, care, and wisdom
May Allah SWT grant you the highest level of Jannah*

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ABSTRACT

Phrases such as "going green" and "eco-friendly hospital" conjure images of futuristic building. Apparently, the main green criteria that have developed are hardly visible, yet very impactful. Dealing with many criteria for planning and design associated with green buildings can be daunting. Many research on green building only concentrate on commercial and high rise buildings, but paucity attention is given to hospital building. Significantly, the decision-making process should be an important features in identifying the best criteria for green hospital building development. Thus, this research aims to provide a decision-making framework for green building development of the public hospital. The investigation has been made to the planning and designing stages of Malaysia hospital development. Subsequently, the analysis of green and sustainable elements for the criteria of hospital building development were carried out to propose the decision-making framework of planning and design for green and sustainable hospital building development. The study begun with a critical analysis of the concept and guideline of a green hospital building and later examines the existing green rating systems specifically designed for the hospital building. The data then were analysed using content analysis. A pilot study has taken place based on an implemented literature search. This study utilised a questionnaire survey method for confirming the green elements and criteria. The results from questionnaire was analysed using factor analysis which resulted in 3 sets of components (environmental, social, and economic). 154 respondents of this study were public hospital designers who have experience in dealing with public hospital buildings. Identification of the elements and criteria affecting planning and designing towards hospital green building development has been conducted. The later part of this research provides the decision support framework for green building development of a public hospital. The analysis resulted in 10 main criteria with 337 score points and 16 sets of Green Hospital Building Development (GHBD) matrix rubrics. These results have established several potential aspects that could impact the implementation of green building development for a public hospital. The Technique for Order of Preferences by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) was applied to validate the results from the expert's view. Findings from the research work are including ranking schemes produced for 3 main sustainable dimensions ordered as environmental, social, and economic. The important contribution from this study is to rank the sustainable dimensions in terms of how attractive the decision-maker(s) when all criteria are simultaneously considered in fair evaluation. In conclusion, this study had established a Decision-Making Framework for GHBD.

ABSTRAK

Frasa seperti "menuju hijau" dan "hospital mesra alam" lebih memperlihatkan imej bangunan yang futuristik. Namun begitu, kriteria hijau utama hospital yang telah dibangunkan adalah sukar kelihatan, tetapi sedangkan itu adalah aspek utama yang sangat berimpak. Berurusan dengan pelbagai kriteria perancangan dan reka bentuk berkaitan dengan hospital hijau boleh mengelirukan. Banyak penyelidikan ke atas bangunan hijau hanya tertumpu pada bangunan komersial dan bangunan tinggi tetapi kurang perhatian diberikan kepada bangunan hospital. Signifikasinya, proses membuat keputusan sepatutnya satu ciri penting dalam mengenal pasti kriteria terbaik untuk pembangunan bangunan hospital hijau. Oleh itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk menyediakan satu rangka kerja membuat keputusan untuk pembangunan bangunan hijau bagi hospital awam. Kajian telah dibuat kepada peringkat perancangan dan reka bentuk terhadap pembangunan hospital di Malaysia. Seterusnya, analisis terhadap elemen hijau dan kelestarian untuk kriteria pembangunan hospital telah dijalankan bagi cadangan rangka kerja membuat keputusan terhadap perancangan dan reka bentuk untuk pembangunan bangunan hospital hijau dan lestari. Kajian bermula dengan analisa kritikal terhadap konsep dan garis panduan bangunan hospital hijau dan kemudiannya mengkaji sistem penarafan hijau sedia ada yang direkabentuk khusus untuk pembinaan hospital. Data kemudian dianalisis menggunakan analisis kandungan. Satu kajian perintis telah dibuat berdasarkan kajian literatur yang dilaksanakan. Kajian ini menggunakan kaedah satu tinjauan soalan kajiselidik bagi mengesahkan elemen dan kriteria hijau. Keputusan terhadap soalan kajiselidik dianalisis menggunakan analisis faktor yang menghasilkan 3 set komponen (ekonomi, sosial dan persekitaran). 154 responden terhadap kajian ini adalah perekabentuk hospital awam yang mempunyai pengalaman dalam berurusan dengan bangunan hospital awam. Identifikasi elemen dan kriteria yang mempengaruhi perancangan dan reka bentuk ke arah pembangunan bangunan hijau hospital telah dijalankan. Bahagian terakhir kajian ini menyediakan rangka kerja sokongan keputusan untuk pembangunan bangunan hijau terhadap sebuah hospital awam. Analisis ini menghasilkan 10 kriteria utama dengan 337 mata skor dan 16 set. Pembangunan Bangunan Hospital Hijau (GHBD) rubrik matriks keputusan ini telah mewujudkan beberapa aspek berpotensi yang boleh memberi impak implementasi terhadap pelaksanaan pembangunan bangunan hijau untuk sebuah hospital awam. Teknik terhadap perintah keutamaan melalui persamaan kepada solusi ideal (TOPSIS) telah diaplikasikan untuk mengesahkan keputusan dari pandangan pakar. Penemuan dari kerja penyelidikan termasuk skim kedudukan dihasilkan untuk 3 dimensi utama yang dikekalkan sebagai persekitaran, sosial dan ekonomi. Sumbangan penting daripada kajian ini adalah untuk kedudukan dimensi kelestarian dari segi bagaimana ianya menarik perhatian pembuat keputusan apabila semua kriteria dipertimbangkan serentak secara penilaian saksama. Kesimpulannya, kajian ini telah mewujudkan rangka kerja pembuat keputusan untuk GHBD.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS

Σ	-	Summation
\pm	-	Plus - minus
=	-	Equals Sign
%	-	Percent
A	-	Attribute
C	-	Criteria
CC_i	-	Closeness Coefficient
S'_i	-	Negative Ideal Solution
S_i^*	-	The Positive Ideal Solution
W	-	Weightage
x	-	Times

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

The construction industry and building construction are essential sectors that contribute greatly to the economic growth of a nation as well as physical development. Despite its positive contribution, the sectors have a significant contribution to many adverse environmental impacts on the environment (Abidin, 2010; Tan et al., 2011). Throughout its lifecycle, Weerasinghe and Ramachandra (2018) stated that conventional buildings consume about 40 percent of global energy, 40 percent of other resources, 25 percent of global water, and let out one-third of Green House Gas emissions. The amount of annual GHGs caused by buildings across the world has been estimated to reach 42.4 billion tonnes by 2035, 43 percent more than the 2007 level (USEIA, 2010). The United States General Services Administration (2011) states that green buildings save 19 percent of the aggregate operational costs, 25 percent of energy, and 36 percent of CO₂ emissions.

The immense consumption of energy and natural resources by the building sector has been known to be an exacerbating factor (Vyas & Jha, 2018). As building construction projects continue to grow and remain on a steady uptrend, the introduction of green initiatives and environment-friendly practices into the planning and design, as well as building and management of facilities is apparently in need. In this regard, the green building movement has gained its momentum (Hoffman & Henn, 2008; Zhang et al., 2019).

As hospitals typically use significantly more resources and produce more waste than comparably sized commercial buildings, effective deployment of environmentally driven strategies to improve resource management is of critical importance in the development of green hospital (Boudhankar et al., 2018). A

significant but perhaps less heralded development in new green hospital initiatives is the growing integration of advanced workflow optimisation into the early stages of building design and construction process. The World Health Organisation (WHO), too, has urged hospitals to proactively address the environmental footprint of the healthcare sector by reducing power consumption and utilising alternative energy generation through the recycling and conservation of resources (Boudhankar et al., 2018).

Hospitals are amongst the most intricate buildings of all modern institutions. It differs from other building types in the complexity of the functional relationship. Unlike other institutions, hospital building has lesser options. Apart from providing the right environment for patients, it should also be sensitive to the other parties. Thus, it is important to examine the emerging issues, analyse the challenges, appreciate the emerging trends, and study the options available for designing, planning, and construction of a hospital. Planning and designing responses must embrace all parts and aspects of the hospital. Strategies must be formulated to cope with the needs, cultures, and climates of a particular country. One of the strategic issues that need to be considered is green hospital building development.

The planning and design process of a new building and major renovations for existing buildings have a prime opportunity to achieve efficiencies in energy, indoor environment, water, lighting, and wastewater. Hence, delving into planning and design elements is colossal to the green building initiative. Many hospitals have begun placing a greater emphasis on becoming healthy buildings that incorporate sustainability into the design, construction materials, utilities, and even the workflow processes. It is a major challenge for the hospital building to get into green initiatives.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Climate change is a reality, and the modern healthcare sector not just contributes towards this grave phenomenon but is itself being affected by it (Dhillon & Kaur, 2015). Hospitals are major contributors to environmental pollution contributing to pathological, pharmaceutical, chemical, radioactive, health risk and other wastes (World Health Organization, 2014). Dhillon and Kaur (2015) specified that hospitals, being the resource of intensive establishments, consume vast amounts of electricity, water, food and construction materials to provide high-quality care.

Concern about the environment and the future of the earth has become the focal point of global intention, the healthcare industry is encouraged to incorporate the greening movement in its practice. In recent years, there has been an emerging subset of green design that has been revolutionizing hospital design by employing sustainable technologies, energy-saving systems, and recyclable or renewable resources and materials (Gudiene et al., 2013). Green hospital design aspires to provide users with energy savings and a comfortable environment through innovative designs and green techniques (Wood et al., 2016).

Although hospital buildings represent one of the largest sectors of the economy in the West, hospitals have been very slow in addressing the sustainability issue (Prasad, 2008). One industry report produced by the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE, 2004), found that many hospitals have even less interest in green building certification than companies in other industries. The same discussion was stated by Kras (2011), that the healthcare sector is a sector that is strongly changing, with trends rapidly following one another. However, sustainability is not really a part of these trends in hospital buildings yet. Hospitals have traditionally lagged behind other industries in green building initiatives that employ environmentally friendly materials and construction methods. According to Castro et al. (2015), sustainable practices are not widespread mainly due to the fact that the hospital buildings are exceptional. Additionally, the implementation of sustainable practices, normally related to the concept of reduction, is not always very well perceived by society and can generate some resistance (Castro et al., 2015). Recognizing the importance of

sustainable building practices, “going green” and “environment sustainability” has been introduced for many years (Lorenzen, 2012; Wong & Zhou, 2015) but construction industry remains a major energy consumer based on official statistics (Wong & Zhou, 2015). This could be due to the passive attitude of construction practitioners towards adopting sustainable solutions (Wong & Kuan, 2014).

With many arising green hospital buildings around the world, the development of green hospital buildings in Malaysia has been under-researched. In the Malaysian context, Sahamir and Zakaria (2014) stated that paucity has been given to the importance of ensuring the sustainability of public hospital buildings in Malaysia.

It was also found that certain healthcare institutions, by employing simple, smart and sustainable measures can greatly reduce the environmental footprint (Dhillon & Kaur, 2015). The construction of green hospitals can be a challenge considering the local conditions and growing customer expectations (Dhillon & Kaur, 2015).

Hospital building normally includes more than one building. It stands like a campus or a small city. Thus, the whole operation requires sustainability efforts in terms of planning and design. As hospitals are quite complex buildings consisting of several dozens of different departments, it is necessary to appoint the corresponding criteria where needed.

As things stand, little research has been done in the field of sustainability for public hospitals in Malaysia, since sustainability is not on the priority list of the hospital boards. Therefore, it is pertinent to explore the green assessment criteria when it comes to sustainability for hospital buildings development (Sahamir & Zakaria, 2014). This is supported by a study done by Kersch et al. (2011), that it is pertinent to explore what constitutes good practice when it comes to sustainability in the hospital industry.

The present-day construction clients demand assurance on the long-term economic performance and costs of the buildings (Weerasinghe & Ramachandra, 2018). Parties involved which consist of the developers, suppliers, manufacturers, design teams, and construction teams are under immense pressure to minimise the total project cost and focus on cost over its life cycle (Oberg, 2005). As mentioned by Woodward (1997) in Weerasinghe and Ramachandra's (2018) studies, the concept of green building as applied to the construction of buildings is intended to promote the utmost efficiency and to reduce financial costs.

The target outcome of this research is to provide hospital stakeholders (client, owner, and board leaders) with information that will be useful in reaching a final decision regarding the implementation of a green strategy. Therefore, this research attempts to develop a decision-making framework that enables the proper guideline of hospital building towards sustainable practices.

Hence, a green hospital is imperative to study as sustainability must be taken into account when planning and designing new buildings and facilities. Indeed, sustainable building is about doing it right the first time, by keeping an eye to the short- and long-term consequences.

1.2.1 Research Questions

- a) What is the current status of the green practice of public hospital building development?
- b) What are the factors influencing the planning and designing of green public hospital building development?
- c) What are the criteria that steer green developments for public hospital buildings?
- d) How do those criteria influence the decision and drive sustainability outcomes in hospital buildings?

1.3 Research Gap

According to Papajohn et al. (2016), there are many green building assessment tools including the sets of criteria to assess the building's sustainability. However, there is no framework or established key criteria have been developed to provide a basis for the evaluation of green buildings (Papajohn et al., 2016). Further, some scholars focused on evaluating the differences between different standards of structural systems, such as object, content, mechanism, process, index categories, method, and weight settings that pointed out the differences among different standards (Zhang et al., 2017). For example, certain studies evaluated existing green building rating tools to develop new rating criteria for certain countries (Vyas & Jha, 2016). Sallam and Abdelaal (2016) evaluated water efficiency criteria of widely used green buildings rating tools compared to a proposed baseline. Similarly, there are many studies analysing energy use and assessment comparing widely used green building rating tools (Chen & Lee, 2013; Lee, 2012; Lee & Burnett, 2008; Schwartz & Raslan, 2013). Also, there are many kinds of research comparing different green building rating tools focusing on a specific criterion such as energy and water. In Malaysia context, until 2018, there is no public hospital building certified as green building. This could be due to the passive attitude of construction practitioners towards adopting sustainable solutions (Wong & Kuan, 2014). Thus, the study could assist hospital building in implementing the green practice. Furthermore, it can be seen that there are significant inadequacies in the existing literature in integrating key criteria and sustainable dimension of green buildings with the decision-making for green building assessment specifically for hospital buildings (Figure 1.1). Feasibly, identified research gap implies the integration of green assessment criteria and sustainable dimension. Where the decision-making framework needs to be developed after the process of integration for green initiative tools for hospital building. It thus provides the body of knowledge for this study with significant novelty.

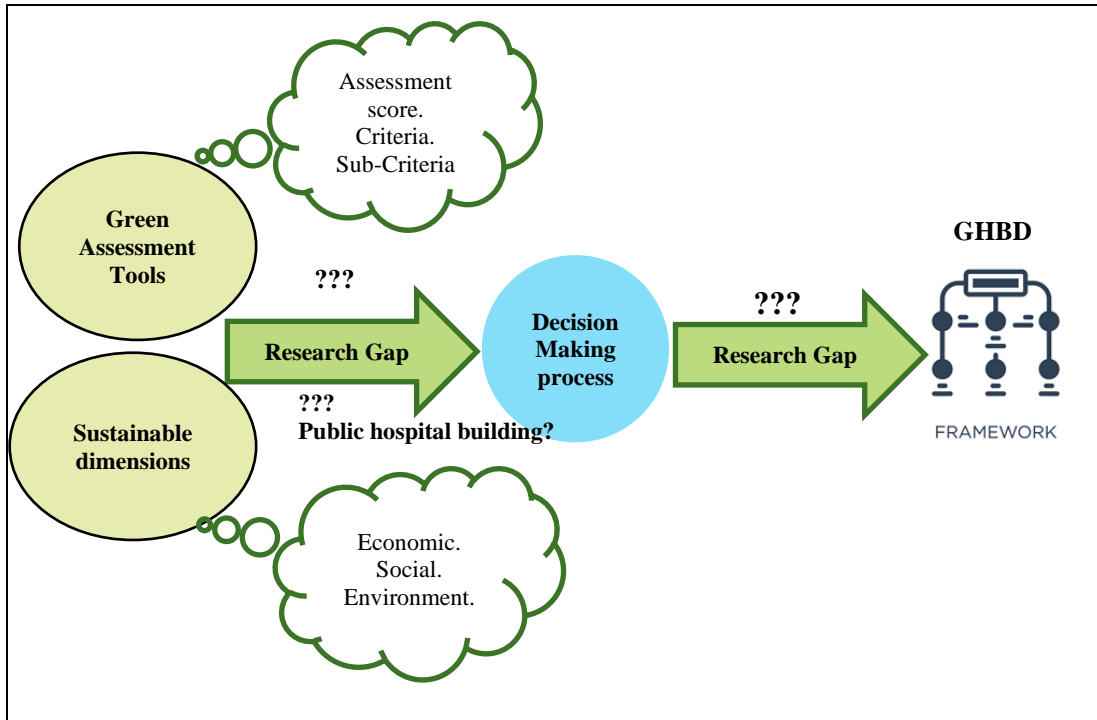


Figure 1.1 Research gap

1.4 Research Aim

The aim of the research is to provide a decision-making framework for Green Hospital Building Development (GHBD). The research elucidates the understanding of green hospital buildings towards the new development and improvement of the hospital buildings in Malaysia.

1.4.1 Research Objectives

To attain the research aim, the following objectives are formulated:

- a) To investigate the green practice of hospital building development in Malaysia.
- b) To determine the factors and criteria affecting the planning and designing of green hospital building development.
- c) To analyse green and sustainable factors and criteria of hospital building development.
- d) To propose the decision-making framework of planning and designing for green and sustainable hospital building development.

1.5 Research Scope

The research aims to propose the decision-making framework that hospital buildings will utilise green building design and practices into the development and its operation in Malaysia. Thus, the scope of this research confines the green building development concerning its criteria and sub-criteria in the decision-making process during planning and design stage.

Malaysian public hospital buildings are targeted in conducting the research as it contributes more to the development of green dimensions (economic, social, and environment). Besides, it is utilized by major populations in the region. The current

green assessment tools and related green policies applied in Malaysia have been used to highlight the practice of the sustainable concept.

The research focuses on the planning and designing practice in incorporating the green public hospital building for the development process. It discloses more on the design team's roles and responsibilities based on their job scope as professional planners and designers. The respondents of this research are those who were involved in the public hospital building project who held decisive roles during the project's planning and designing stage and had some knowledge pertaining to sustainable development and green construction. The results apply to Malaysia specifically, although they could be generalised to be applied to other developing countries with some modification regarding the cultural and political measures.

All criteria of buildings, respondents, and others are corresponding to the Malaysian context. At the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as 2015 Paris Climate Conference and Conference of Parties (COP) 21, held in Paris, France, Malaysia made a commitment to reduce by 2030 its CO₂ emissions per unit of GDP by 45% from the level in 2005. Thus, this study in the context of Malaysian hospital building development is essential. It is focused on the issue of public hospital building sustainability, which has generally tended to receive limited attention in Malaysia. Malaysia's green assessment tools and several global assessment tools for hospital buildings have been reviewed in ascertaining the objectives of the research.

1.6 Significance of Research

This study is expected to provide the Ministry of Health (MoH), Public Works Department (PWD), Hospital Directors (BOD), developers, and others with more sustainable responsive hospital building through green building practices. The following expected findings are essential for this research:

- a) Understanding of the existence of a current condition of hospital buildings as compared to green practices that should be implemented to hospital buildings in Malaysia. Thus, the outcome will benefit the Ministry of Health in terms of fulfilling the government's provision.
- b) Expected findings on the factors and criteria affecting the planning and designing of green hospital buildings that should highly give attention to the development process. Additionally, the analysis results in factors elements and criteria that should be incorporated into hospital buildings.
- c) The list of sustainable and green building elements (e.g. energy, materials, waste disposal, etc) to the hospital building is a contribution towards the hospital stakeholders, i.e. directors (BOD), developers, Ministry of Health (MoH), etc. in aiding the decision-making process.
- d) Analysis of research leads to an appropriate Decision-Making Framework for the hospital stakeholders to improve hospital green building planning, design, and operation.

1.7 Contribution to the Body of Knowledge

In order to overcome the increasing concern of today's resource depletion and to address environmental considerations, a decision-making framework is applied in order to improve sustainability in the construction industry as well as to the green hospital building development.

The development of the framework, as described in this research, is a good starting point for having a green public hospital building, especially in Malaysia's scenario. It can be used as a guideline for hospitals to become more sustainable.

The contribution of a decision-making process in obtaining green hospital building in Malaysia will assist the hospital stakeholders, for examples, the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MoH) and the Ministry of Works (Malaysia), or the Public Works Department (PWD) who are responsible as clients to have an immediate reference in their decision making.

The adoption of this innovative idea benefits the construction industry. The planning and designing stages are the key factor in the life cycle towards integrating sustainability into green hospital buildings. Therefore, practical methods and tools are needed to facilitate sustainability in the development of green hospital buildings. The acceptance of green practice should be integrated into the planning, designing, and subsequent building development of all buildings as well as hospital premises.

1.8 Thesis Outline

The following briefly describes six chapters provided in this thesis.

Chapter 1 introduces the research by presenting the research background; hence, the research problems are identified. The research gap, research questions, research aim, and objectives are depicted as a research direction. The chapter further briefly discusses the methodology conducted for the research. In parallel with that, it outlines the scope and limitations of the research and highlights the research significance.

Chapter 2 reflects the detailed literature review for the research. It includes two main topics, which are sustainable development and green hospital building development. Apart from the general overview of sustainable development, the topic explains the current implementation of the development in general. This section grasps the issues in green buildings practice for hospital buildings. Since the research identifies the current status of green hospital development in Malaysia, some green rating systems are discussed along with the current development of green buildings in the Malaysian construction industry.

Chapter 3 describes the literature relevant to the decision-making framework. As the research proposes a decision-making framework, the need to present the purpose and application of such techniques need to be detailed out. It grasps the issues of the decision-making process in terms of impacting sustainability practice.

Chapter 4 describes the research methodology applied to conduct the research. It portrays the philosophy on which the research is based upon. The research primarily uses the quantitative approach as the main data collection. Apart from the literature review and a preliminary study conducted for data gathering, this chapter explains the primary methods selected for the research, which are the questionnaires. The technique is justified appropriately to investigate the research questions, hence achieving the research aim and objectives. Furthermore, this section also describes the main data analysis approach to analyse results, namely factor analysis and TOPSIS.

Chapter 5 presents the results of data collection specifically pertaining to the current practice in the planning and designing of green hospital building development. The critical analysis and content analysis were used in response to several objectives of the research. The results from the pilot interview of the theoretical study help in portraying the current situation of green hospital building development in Malaysia. Factor analysis and TOPSIS presents the result of each variable pertaining to the preference of GHBD decision-making framework.

Chapter 6 concludes the findings concerning the research aim, research questions, and research objectives. Some research contributions that are divided into theoretical and practical are highlighted in this chapter. This section also outlines the research limitations as well as the recommendations for future research.

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