



## CONTEMPORARY AND COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CUSTOMS AND BELIEFS IN HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

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Although this is an era with marvels of Science and Engineering, the shadows of customs and beliefs of diverse fields are still followed in different levels. It is evident that a considerable number of customs and beliefs in house construction are yet followed by people in countries like Sri Lanka, India and China. In this study, contemporary status and reasons behind admitting those beliefs were investigated through a questionnaire survey carried out among the main stakeholders of the construction industry. A sample of 210 individuals consist of 75 Civil Engineers, 45 Architects, 30 Astrologers, 30 Carpenters and 30 Masons were randomly selected for this study. The study revealed that 68% of respondents are believed in customs and beliefs while 32% disregard. 41% of Civil Engineers, 27% of Architects, 97% of Astrologers, 100% of Masons and 97% of Carpenters are believed in customs and beliefs. As specific responses of respondents, 81% opted not to erect three or more aligned openings and not to place wall plates, rafters or beams directly on top of the openings, 75% of respondents have no willingness to place more west facing doors and windows while 73% respondents reluctant on cross wall junctions in brick walls. The study revealed that, though Masons, Carpenters and Astrologers adopt those beliefs as they inherit them from generation to generation which are being startled of their occult grab, Civil Engineers and Architects believe on these with some understanding in Engineering concepts. It divulged that when the people become more educated they tend to discard traditional beliefs in building construction and deal with some knowledge on Engineering and Scientific concepts.

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