BIM Implementation â€“ Where does India Stand?

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This article talks about the status of India in implementation of Building Information Modeling within the architectural sector. Building Information Modeling or BIM is the process of generating a realistic model of a proposed project and exploring its details before the actual construction begins in the real world. A lot of contractors, architects, designers and engineers in the United States and the United Kingdom have started using this highly advanced technology for better productivity and efficiency in their infrastructural projects. This is in stark contrast to the scenario of BIM technology acceptance in Indian context.

Building Information Modeling is essentially a process that is still not a part of the working process of Indian architects and designers. A fact that needs to be mentioned here is that though BIM technology is being used for the most complex buildings in the world, it is still at a very early stage of development.

According to report by Autodesk, designers across the world have started implementing BIM technology in their respective construction projects whereas their Indian counterparts have still not captured the full potential of BIM technology for visualization and walkthrough developments. However, this does not imply that Indian designers are unaware of BIM's potential and its ability to revolutionize the construction sector; neither does this mean that there is a lack of skilled professionals who could efficiently use this technology. Actually, there is a lot of outsourcing of BIM services to India by US, UK and European countries as Indian services are much more cost-effective and easily available.

But there are compelling reasons for BIM technology not being adopted by Indian designers and architects. The main and key issue is that of costs. With implementation of any new software comes the cost related to implementation, additional hardware installation and training the staff for using it. In a developing country like India where skilled as well as unskilled labor comes relatively cheap and is copiously available, the tendency towards shifting to an apparently costly technology gets diluted. Moreover, implementation of BIM also reduces the size of the team that works on it. Inexpensive labor and additional costs of software implementation have discouraged companies to move on to technologically advanced solutions like BIM.

Indian firms still need to realize the cost and time savings that BIM has to offer. A quicker turnaround on projects, efficient and seamless development shall go a long way in achieving the expected infrastructural development in India. Indian architects would really need to plan strategically in order to take up this technology and realize its true potential. Apart from substantial time and cost savings, BIM technology also offers to improve the productivity of architects, designers and builders in a great way. Though it faces a few challenges today, Building Information Modeling is anticipated to be received really well in the coming years in India owing to its enormous advantages and invariably huge contribution to the Indian architectural and construction sectors.

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