

# **Analyzing the Relationship between Project Success and Critical Success Factors –**

## **An Empirical Investigation for USAID Funded International Development Projects in Pakistan**

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**Ishaq Bin Zaighum**

## DECLARATION

I Ishaq Bin Zaighum ID #. S2016171014, Session 2016-2018, hereby certify that this thesis is being submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MS degree in Project Management.

This thesis is my original work, and the data/material presented herein has not been used for the acquisition of any other degree from any institution. The Similarity Index is below permissible limit.

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## Abstract

This study follows the updated framework of project success considering project sustainability, long term impact and stakeholders satisfaction in addition to traditional parameters of time, cost and scope. Instead of following a life-cycle based approach, the critical success factors pertaining to implementing organizations have been taken to study their relationship with the project success. These factors include availability of project funding, trainings of staff, clearly defined objectives, involvement of beneficiaries in decision making, communications with staff and provision of security to staff. A questionnaire adapted from the available literature on international development projects is administered to collect responses from development professionals who have worked in USAID funded international development projects in Pakistan. The respondents include managers, specialists, component leads, officers and associates. The analysis of the relationship reveals that availability of project funding, trainings of staff, clearly defined objectives, involvement of beneficiaries in decision making and provision of security to staff positively influence the success of USAID funded international development projects in Pakistan.

**Keywords:** Project success; Critical success factors; International development projects; USAID

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Improving the lives of people in terms of their economic condition and financial stability in the long run is one of the sustainable development focuses. In the same context, the international development projects are working in various parts of the world to play their role in the improvement of the people's lives. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is one of the leading agencies that is working to achieve their goals of poverty reduction and economic sustainability for more than 50 years. USAID has been working in Pakistan for decades with a special focus on the economic growth, agriculture, health, education and energy sectors in the country.