

Use of software in planning kitchen interiors

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ABSTRACT

With a little imagination and inexpensive planning the worker can transform the kitchen into a comfortable and pleasant working place and make the kitchen an enjoyable place and unhateful necessity. Keeping this in mind the present investigation was carried out in Hisar and Nagpur districts of Haryana and Maharashtra State, respectively in India. In order to develop a software program on cost estimation of kitchen interiors, relevant statistical procedures were adopted to draw meaningful inferences from interview schedule. A suitable computer programming language was chosen to develop a software that can provide a Graphical User Interface (GUI) to the target audience, and is convenient to use and more informative. Opinion of respondents regarding practicability of software programme on "Cost Estimation of Kitchen" revealed that utility of software was felt "very useful" by most of the respondents.

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Most housewives do spend a large part of their working day in the kitchen. Careful use of space is as important in a large kitchen as in a small one. In a modern house kitchen has completely changed in design, look and functions. Kitchen design has indeed come a long way, and today's kitchens are far removed from the dark dingy spaces one saw earlier. Contemporary kitchens are good-looking and extremely functional, with sleek lines, slick colours and polished surfaces. The emphasis is on practicality, with ease of maintenance and labour-saving options given prime consideration (Shahani, 1997). It has been said that 'A well-planned, well-equipped kitchen is an asset to any home, and a truly worthwhile investment, as it makes cooking a pleasure and household tasks less of a chore.' Nothing is closer to the truth than this and nothing easier to achieve, provided it is done systematically, patiently and innovatively.

Therefore, a software programme was developed to make planning process of kitchen interiors an easy job for homemakers.

METHODOLOGY

The main objective to prepare the computer software for cost estimation of kitchen was to provide knowledge regarding technical and standard aspects of kitchen along with the actual cost estimation of kitchen based on different parameters chosen by the respondents while designing their kitchen. Relevant literature was collected from libraries, market and architects regarding all the technical aspects related to designing of a kitchen. Various varieties of kitchen equipment's, their dimensions with cost were collected from market to give the target audience a default estimation of an average middle class

kitchen on which an individual can modify parameters according to his or her budget, choice of material and design. A suitable computer programming language was chosen to develop a software that can provide a Graphical User Interface (GUI) to the target audience, and is convenient to use and more informative. The developed software was demonstrated to target audience for their response and minor alterations and modifications were made in the software to incorporate their suggestions.

The contents and sub-contents of software programme were selected after referring relevant literature and finally administered to 20 private architects, builders and contractors from Nagpur and their opinion was sought regarding the relevance of each content based on kitchen standards to be included in development of software programme. Relevancy was assessed from judges in terms of most appropriate, appropriate and not appropriate with the assigned scores of 3, 2 and 1, respectively. On the basis of judges response mean scores were worked out and the contents were ranked accordingly so that highly ranked contents could be selected for software program. For easy running of software program developed, users manual was prepared to enable any person familiar with computer operation to implement the software effectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Utility of software programme on cost estimation of kitchen as perceived by respondents:

The opinion of the respondents regarding practicability of software programme on "Cost estimation of kitchen" was generated on the basis of the questionnaire. The respondents were given a