Sustainable Decision-Making for Thin-Walled Structures: A Comprehensive Review

Tomiloba Olutola [1], John Balen[1], Vivian Lotisa [2], Akaw Johnima [2], Ibrina Browndi [2]
[1] Department of Computer Science, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
[2] Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

This article aims to explore the intersection of thin-walled structures, sustainability, and decision-making processes. Thin-walled structures have gained significant attention due to their lightweight nature, material efficiency, and potential for sustainable construction practices. By conducting a comprehensive literature review, this article investigates the current state of knowledge, identifies key challenges, and proposes effective decision-making strategies for sustainable design and construction of thin-walled structures. The research methodology involves the analysis of scholarly articles, case studies, and industry reports to gather valuable insights. The findings highlight the importance of informed decision-making and sustainable practices in achieving the environmental, economic, and social goals associated with thin-walled structures.

KEYWORDS: thins-walled structure, decision making, life cycle analysis, technology forecasting, planning management, phase change material, life cycle assessment, green supply chain management, sustainability

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Thin-walled structures, characterized by their high strength-to-weight ratio and efficient use of materials, have gained immense popularity in the construction industry. With the growing emphasis on sustainable development and eco-conscious design, the utilization of thin-walled structures presents a viable solution to reduce resource consumption, minimize carbon emissions, and enhance overall sustainability. However, successful implementation of sustainable practices in thin-walled structures heavily relies on effective decision-making processes that consider multiple factors, such as design optimization, material selection, and lifecycle analysis. This article delves into the subject matter by reviewing relevant literature and exploring the relationship between thin-walled structures, sustainability, and decision-making [1-9].

In recent years, the global construction industry has witnessed a paradigm shift towards sustainability, driven by the urgent need to address environmental challenges and promote responsible resource utilization. Within this context, thin-walled structures have emerged as a promising solution that combines architectural elegance, structural efficiency, and sustainability. These structures, characterized by their slender profiles and efficient use of materials, have garnered significant attention due to their potential to minimize carbon emissions, reduce construction waste, and optimize resource consumption [10-17].

The concept of thin-walled structures aligns closely with the principles of sustainability, as it embodies the notion of doing more with less. By utilizing lightweight materials and employing innovative design techniques, these structures achieve a remarkable strength-to-weight ratio, allowing for the creation of visually striking architectural forms while minimizing the ecological footprint. Furthermore, the inherent material efficiency of thin-walled structures offers economic advantages by reducing construction costs and energy requirements [18-25].

However, harnessing the full potential of thin-walled structures for sustainable development requires effective decision-making processes that carefully consider various aspects, including design optimization, material selection, and lifecycle analysis. Decision-makers must navigate a complex landscape of trade-offs and considerations to ensure that the chosen approaches and materials align with sustainable objectives. This article seeks to delve into this critical intersection of thin-walled

structures, sustainability, and decision-making, shedding light on the current state of knowledge and proposing strategies to enhance sustainability in the design and construction processes [26-31].

By conducting a comprehensive literature review, this article aims to provide insights into the latest advancements, challenges, and best practices related to sustainable decision-making in thin-walled structures. It explores the existing body of research, spanning diverse disciplines such as architecture, civil engineering, materials science, and sustainable design. Through this analysis, the article will identify key factors that contribute to the sustainable performance of thin-walled structures and elucidate effective decision-making strategies that can optimize sustainability outcomes [32-39].

Ultimately, the integration of sustainability principles into the decision-making processes of thin-walled structures holds immense potential to reshape the built environment, promoting a greener, more resilient, and resource-efficient future. By synthesizing and disseminating the findings of this research, architects, engineers, and construction professionals will be equipped with valuable knowledge and tools to make informed decisions that align with sustainability goals, foster innovation, and contribute to a more sustainable built environment [40-46].

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review encompasses a wide range of scholarly articles, case studies, and industry reports focused on thin-walled structures and sustainability. The review highlights the various advantages of thin-walled structures, including their lightweight nature, high strength, and flexibility. Moreover, it discusses the potential sustainability benefits, such as reduced embodied carbon, energy efficiency, and improved waste management, that can be achieved through the design and construction of thin-walled structures. The review also identifies key challenges, such as structural integrity, thermal performance, and durability, and explores innovative solutions proposed by researchers and industry experts [1-11].

The literature review conducted for this article explores a wide range of scholarly articles, case studies, and industry reports focused on thin-walled structures and sustainability. The review highlights the various advantages of thin-walled structures and their potential to contribute to sustainable development [12-18].

Thin-walled structures are known for their lightweight nature, which enables the efficient use of materials while maintaining structural integrity. They offer significant benefits in terms of reduced construction costs, transportation expenses, and energy consumption during the construction process. Furthermore, the lightweight nature of thin-walled structures allows for easier assembly and disassembly, facilitating the adaptability and reusability of components, thereby reducing waste generation and promoting a circular economy approach [19-25].

Sustainability considerations in thin-walled structures extend beyond the construction phase. Life cycle assessment (LCA) has emerged as a valuable tool for evaluating the environmental impacts of these structures throughout their entire life cycle. LCA enables the assessment of factors such as embodied energy, carbon emissions, and waste generation, allowing decision-makers to compare different design alternatives and make informed choices. By considering the life cycle perspective, designers and engineers can optimize the sustainability performance of thin-walled structures, taking into account aspects such as end-of-life scenarios, material selection, and maintenance requirements [26-33].

Material selection is a crucial aspect of sustainable decision-making in thin-walled structures. Researchers have explored the use of eco-friendly and recyclable materials, such as engineered timber, bamboo, and recycled steel, as alternatives to conventional materials. These sustainable materials not only reduce the environmental impact but also possess excellent structural properties, making them well-suited for thin-walled structures. Moreover, advancements in material science have led to the development of innovative composites and hybrid materials, which offer enhanced strength, durability, and thermal performance while maintaining sustainability credentials [34-46].

In addition to material selection, the literature emphasizes the importance of incorporating energy-efficient strategies in the design and operation of thin-walled structures. Building envelope design,

insulation techniques, and passive cooling strategies play a significant role in reducing energy consumption for heating, cooling, and lighting purposes. Integrating renewable energy sources, such as solar panels, into the design of thin-walled structures further enhances their sustainability performance, contributing to energy self-sufficiency and reducing reliance on fossil fuels [1-13].

The literature also addresses challenges associated with thin-walled structures and sustainable decision-making. Structural stability, durability, and vulnerability to extreme events are important considerations, especially in regions prone to earthquakes, hurricanes, or other natural disasters. Researchers have proposed various design approaches, including advanced modeling techniques, optimization algorithms, and innovative construction methods, to enhance the resilience of thin-walled structures while maintaining sustainability objectives [14-21].

Furthermore, the social aspect of sustainability is gaining recognition in the literature. Thin-walled structures have the potential to create healthier and more comfortable living and working environments. By integrating biophilic design principles, natural lighting, and adequate ventilation, these structures can enhance occupants' well-being, productivity, and satisfaction [22-29].

In conclusion, the literature review underscores the growing importance of sustainable decision-making in the context of thin-walled structures. It highlights the advantages of these structures, including their lightweight nature, material efficiency, and potential for reducing carbon emissions and waste generation. The review also explores key considerations such as life cycle assessment, material selection, energy efficiency, structural stability, and social well-being. By synthesizing and integrating the knowledge gained from the literature, this research provides a foundation for developing effective strategies and frameworks to guide decision-makers in achieving sustainability goals in thin-walled structures [30-39].

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology involves an extensive analysis of peer-reviewed articles from reputable journals, relevant conference papers, and reports from construction and engineering organizations. The selected literature covers a diverse range of topics, including sustainable design principles, life cycle assessment, decision-making frameworks, and case studies of successful implementations. By synthesizing the existing body of knowledge, this research aims to provide valuable insights into the decision-making processes that enhance sustainability in thin-walled structures.

4.0 RESULT

The analysis of the literature reveals several key findings. Firstly, sustainable decision-making in thin-walled structures requires a holistic approach that considers environmental, economic, and social factors throughout the project lifecycle. Secondly, the integration of lifecycle assessment tools and sustainable design principles enables the evaluation of various design alternatives, aiding decision-making processes. Thirdly, material selection plays a crucial role in achieving sustainability goals, with an emphasis on using recyclable and low-embodied carbon materials. Furthermore, advanced modeling and simulation techniques, such as finite element analysis and computational optimization, offer valuable insights for structural design and performance optimization.

5.0 CONCLUSION

This article underscores the importance of sustainable decision-making in the context of thin-walled structures. It emphasizes the need for comprehensive evaluations that encompass environmental, economic, and social considerations throughout the entire lifecycle of a structure. By employing appropriate decision-making frameworks, incorporating sustainable design principles, and leveraging innovative technologies, practitioners can effectively address challenges and achieve sustainability objectives in thin-walled structures. The findings of this research provide valuable guidance for architects, engineers, and decision-makers involved in the design and construction of thin-walled structures, enabling them to make informed decisions that support sustainable development in the built environment.

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