

## **IMPACT ON TRANSPORTATION FLEXIBILITY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AT UAE'S MARITIME INDUSTRY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The proximity to actions, employment prospects, and other opportunities gives modern cities a social edge and increases the economic growth. These cities are growing into complex, fragmented systems. Thus, promotion of sustainable and shared transportation options, the enhancement of social fairness, health, city resilience, and the efficiency of rural and scattered parts are some of the major difficulties facing transportation planning. This research is subjected to highlight the impact of transportation flexibility on economic growth. Findings revealed transportation flexibility is a cost effective way to promote transportation in the city as well as the increase in economic development.

***Keywords:*** *Economic Growth, Transportation Flexibility, UAE.*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Cities that experience rapid economic expansion, rising populations, and increased need for mobility are the best examples. As a result, there is an urgent need for specific measures to address

the rising and diverse transportation demand [1]–[4]. Innovative on-demand mobility, such as advanced transportation services can fill the gap between shared, subpar public transportation and unsustainable private individual transportation [5]–[7]. The United Arab Emirates' economic prosperity depends heavily on public transportation [8]–[10]. Through this flexibility, a variety of services are now available [11], including sending couriers by sea, road, or air, commuting from one location to another by car, bus, subway, or airline, and so on [12]–[14]. However, flexibility services may be a little more organized, well-priced [15], and able to accommodate a wider spectrum of users or even a combination of all three [16]–[19]. Globally, industries that deliver goods and services need transportation [20], [21] and its flexibility to operate more efficiently [22]–[24]. The economy has major dependency on transportation sector of a country [25]–[27]. Therefore, this research is aimed to explore the factors that can help to enhance economic growth while considering transportation as independent variable of the research.

## **2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### *2.1. What do you mean by transportation?*

Transportation means a mode of transport such as car, bus, train or airways to be used to commute from one place to another [28]–[30]. Basically, how transportation is used flexibly on these above mentioned modes of transports [31] which are going to be used for the betterment for the public in order to offer them various services [32]–[35]. Public transport plays an essential role in the economic development of the United Arab Emirates [36]–[38]. Now, various services can be obtained through this flexibility such as traveling from one place to another via car, bus or metro or plane [39]–[41], sending courier through sea, road or air transport [42]–[46]. Nevertheless, flexibility services can be a little cost effective [47], [48], well-organized and offer a wider range of users or maybe a fusion of each [49]–[52]. Globally, transportation and its flexibility are very important for smoother functioning for industries that provide goods and services [53], [54].

### *2.2. What is economic growth?*

Economic growth in simple terms means an increase of the production of goods and services from time to time or in a given period [55]–[57]. How is a country's economic growth measured? It is measured through GDP (Gross Domestic Product) [58]–[60]. For example, increase in capital goods, labor force [61], technology and human capital can all contribute to increase in economic

growth [62], [63]. The cumulative increase in production is correlated with the increase in average marginal productivity [64]–[66]. Thus, by enticing customers to take out their wallets and purchase more, this raises income. [67]–[69], which means higher quality of life or standard of living [70], [71]. However, GDP does not measure happiness of a person or individual, environmental quality, levels of health and education, increases in variety etc [72], [73].

### *2.3. A Short Brief on UAE's Maritime Industry*

Pearl diving used to be a significant source of income for the nautical sector in the United Arab Emirates. For each annual season, more than 1200 boats carried 20,000 men or more. Sadly, the Great Depression and China's invention of artificial pearls caused this venture to collapse. Depression in 1930s. Fishing was also an important source of earning back then. United Arab Emirates is famous for its history as a maritime trading nation. After the discovery of oil, this range is global, especially in Dubai, where the east-west trade gap is narrowing. The region serves all nationalities as goods are imported and re-exported for distribution to the Middle East, Africa and other parts of the world, far beyond their old trading partners.

The UAE's seaports are international and regional hubs and an important driver for promoting economic growth and economic diversification. The country's maritime transport sector is constantly evolving in terms of ports, shipping, maintenance and dry dock construction in accordance with international standards for maritime safety and protection of the marine environment. There are many ports in the UAE. According to the World Shipping Council, two of the world's 50 largest container ports are located in the UAE, with Dubai in the top ten. It has 1010 berths with a carrying capacity of 100 million tons.

- Seaports such as Zayed port (Abu Dhabi), Mina Rashid and Jabel Ali Port (Dubai), Mina Saqr (Ras al Khaimah), Fujairah Port, Khalifa Port (Abu Dhabi) have been the economic powerhouses of the UAE.
- Lastly, UAE's maritime industry has shown a rapid growth after the discovery of oil. Due to the current pandemic, its maritime industry has been hit hard by the coronavirus crises. We shall discuss this further in the report.

### **3. LITERATURE REVIEW**

As we all know that transportation in today's world plays a major role and more importantly its flexibility directly leads to the country's economic growth [74]–[76]. The article of Geography transport says that “When transport systems are efficient [77]–[79], they provide economic and social opportunities and benefits that result in positive multiplier effects such as better accessibility to markets, employment [80]–[83], and additional investments” Transportation and Economic Development) [84]–[86]. This means that both transportation flexibility and economic growth has an important connection between each other [87]–[90]. The development of transportation flexibility takes place in a socio-economic context [91]–[93]. Although development policies and strategies focus on physical capital [94]–[96], in recent years human capital has seen a good balance with the inclusion of issues [97]–[99]. Despite the relative importance of physical and human capital [100], development cannot occur without their interaction, because without proper operation and maintenance [101], infrastructure cannot remain viable [102]–[104]. At the same time, economic activity cannot be undertaken without infrastructure [105]–[107]. The highly transactional and service-oriented functions of many transport operations highlight the complex relationship between its physical and human capital needs [108]–[111]. For example, efficient logistics depends on infrastructure and management experience [112]–[114].

Due to intensive use of its infrastructure [115], the transport sector is an important component of the economy and a common tool used for development [116]–[118]. This is even more so in the global economy, where economic opportunities are related to the mobility and freight of people [119], [120], including information and communication technologies [121]–[124]. The relationship between quantity and quality of transport infrastructure and level of economic development is clear [125]–[127]. High density transport infrastructure and highly connected networks are usually associated with high levels of development [128]–[131]. When transportation systems are efficient [132], they provide economic and social opportunities and benefits, resulting in positive multiplication effects such as improved access to markets [133], employment, and additional investment [134]–[136]. When transportation systems are low in terms of capacity or reliability, they may have economic costs such as reduced or lost opportunities and lower quality of life [85], [137]–[139].

#### *3.1. General Research Model*



*Figure 1: Conceptual Research Model*

#### **4. DISCUSSION**

On the basis of theoretical review, it can be said that the impact of transportation flexibility is positive for economic growth. Currently, maritime industry has suffered a major setback due to the coronavirus crisis. Declines in trade and production, changes in freight rates due to trauma in container demand for goods, and restrictions on repatriation and crew changes by governments worldwide are some of the ways in which pressure is increasing on the epidemic sector. Shipping industry faces \$1.7 Billion revenue loss and faces widespread political tensions, environmental concerns and trade restrictions. In addition, people lost their jobs, companies went bankrupt, expats left the country due to job loss and seeing no upcoming opportunities in the coming years, port closures, less demand for cargos, dispute between owners and charters, disputes in lay time settlement, discussion on clauses between owners of the ship and charters etc.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this pandemic has effective the complete logistics industry in transportation which led to a major hit on the country's economy. Both transportation and economy share a connectivity with each other, which needs to be balanced for an economic growth. Therefore, impact of flexibility on transportation will lead to an economic growth and the inflexibility of transportation can also lead to a decline in the country's economic growth such as GDP, exchange rate etc.

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