

## **IMPACT OF TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AT UAE MARITIME INDUSTRY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research is aimed to explore an environmentally beneficial investment in sustainable transportation should be made in a way that ensures steady growth of economy. The transportation system's time savings were invested back into society's economic input-output relationships, which raised the income level. This research provides theoretical view from literature that the infrastructure can increase accessibility while also increasing industry productivity. More specifically, this research has exposed collaboration occurs when industries retain adequate productivity in their relationships with accessibility. The maritime industry was targeted to assess the impact of transportation accessibility on economic growth, that concludes government authorities must seek the optimal collaboration between transportation plans and economic development strategies.

***Keywords:*** *Transportation Accessibility, Economic Development, Maritime industry UAE.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Transportation is considered as crucial to a company's and a nation's reputation, economic growth and transportation share many similarities [1], [2]. Take China as an example, where the manufacturing capacity and operations have increased significantly over time due to the country's extremely efficient transport sector as a result, the Chinese marketplaces have gained significant reputation and high levels of profitability in a variety of global markets [3]–[5]. Accessibility to transportation enables businesses to expand and grow their markets [6]. Moreover, giving everyone in society equal access to transportation is not feasible economically [7], [8]. Despite being able to achieve the perfect condition, we would have wasted resources that could have been used more effectively for another company project. [9], [10].

Therefore, an economy should maximize the transportation investment in a way that provides efficient accessibilities for productive customers while ensuring that the socially vulnerable preserve at least the necessary accessibility [11]–[13]. This study would advise actions we should do to enable "meaningful accessibility" for the entire economy of society in the same setting [14], [15]. in order to provide a deep study on important factor of a nation this research is aimed to identify the impact of transportation accessibility on economic growth in Maritime industry UAE. Transportation accessibility is considered as independent variable while economic growth is dependent variable of the research.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### *2.1. Transport Accessibility and Economic Growth*

[16] stated that the effect of the transport accessibility on economic growth is notable, as the rise and development of the transport industry aids to many factors that trigger economic growth [17]–[19]. Initially, the emergence of the transport industry itself has creates jobs in all dimensions and phases of it from the manufacturing of transport vehicles to drivers who drive the vehicles, the boom of the industry itself is constantly creating jobs and reducing unemployment [20], [21]. Moreover, transport accessibility provides the facility to transport goods, which is a crucial aspect in trading [22]–[24]. Transportation is the base of a distribution channel, and the method of distributing products from manufacturer to supplier, to wholesaler and then to the market retailer [25]–[27]. The aiding factor of transport in all industries and markets is the facilitation it provides

to safely carry goods from manufacturer to customer [28], [29], which is proving to be an all-rounder factor in triggering several points which assist in increasing economic growth employment, income spending, production etc [30]–[32]. Safe and sound transportation significantly lowers the cost of transporting goods as well as people (travel) [33], as one mean of safety and assurance would minus all other related costs and the upcoming costs in case of damaged goods [34]–[37]. The transportation of people increases productivity in an economy, which enables people to work and look for jobs in places which may seem inaccessible and far away [38], which also is another factor encouraging the economic growth which also provides an improved standard of living [39]–[41]. Furthermore, the output of goods and the influx of their availability increases, as the quick availability of goods will conflict with the demand supply rule [42], as efficient supply will maintain the demand and fight off inflation ticking another box for economic growth [43], [44]. Although transportation accessibility may seem favorable, it is essential to still evaluate the costs and expenditure which comes with it [45].

The economic growth and transport have a lot of things in common because the reputation of a company and country is highly dependent on transport [46]–[48]. Consider the example of China where the transport industry is highly efficient and that's why the operations and businesses in China have seen a lot of growth and production capacities overtime [49]–[51]. And for this reason, the Chinese markets have seen a lot of fame and high profitability in many different markets around the world [52], [53]. The transport accessibility allows companies to develop and grow their markets [54]–[57]. China Pakistan Economic Corridor where the Chinese government has invested a huge amount of money to build a huge rail and road network from South Asia to Africa and that's why it will allow a lot of communities and economies to develop overtime [58]. The CPEC is playing a huge role in the development of a lot of economies [59], [60]. The importance of transportation in CPEC is there because if people are not efficiently moving their goods and products from one to another then they are not contributing towards their economies [61], [62]. And that's why the underdeveloped countries have not grown their economies because of their poor transportation systems [63], [64].

## *2.2. Transportation Accessibility and Maritime Industry*

[65] stated that maritime transportation industry has been one of the oldest methods of transportation of goods and people in human history [66], [67]. Maritime transport is waterborne

transport and it has only aided to transport accessibility, as connection by land may not always be possible and favorable by geographical conditions [68]–[70], but waterborne transport is a feasible and cost-effective method widely used by people to transport goods from one place to another [71], [72]. The initial availability and reliability begins from the geographical factors of the original destination, up to the arrival destination, only then will this method of transport will be possible [73], [74].

Moreover, the maritime industry has only proven to be fruitful in terms of creating employment and more so boosting the import and export industry of a country [75]–[79]. From the engineering of ships and containers to development and management of ports, this industry has only flourished with time regardless of many other innovations and inventions in the transport industry which are deemed quicker and efficient [80], [81], such as air cargo and land cargo, but sea freight cargo still remains a method which is the first choice of many individuals and firms – mainly because of its low cost factor [82], [83]. It is an observed fact that cities with ports for example, Karachi, Dubai and Shanghai have offered immense opportunities and have caused an influx of productivity and economic growth to the government and to the people of the cities [84]–[86]. This factor of a port has initiated a lot of migration for work, as the described cities are mainly home to immigrants and expatriates who have traveled for work and an abundance of population is employed at ports [87].

Furthermore, this availability has caused a great impact in the export and import of products from continent to another, which has divided gaps and has turned the world into what we now know as the ‘global village,’ as business activity stretched beyond borders [88], [89], supplying specially manufactured products and creating strong ties between governments [90]–[92]. Due to such developments, the innovation that has occurred and is constantly being upgraded in the industry is notable [93]–[95]. There are multiple technological advancements that are being carried out to improve and create more efficiency in modifying ports, clearing out water channels [96], creating and engineering safe freight water vehicles and increasing the size capacity of vessels such as containers, tankers, bulk carriers etc [97]–[99]. Therefore, the correlation between GDP and global economic trade will constantly keep this form of transportation a crucial one despite many available alternatives and developments [100]–[102]. A negative aspect of this industry, as voiced by environmental experts and advocates [103], is the extreme impact on marine life and the destruction of habitats as well as the vast increase in greenhouse gases that originates from

maritime transport [104], creating this as an external cost towards the industry as well as gaining backlash from a mass number of environmental advocates [105]–[107].

The maritime industry too sees a huge fame and growth if the accessibility of transport is there. For example, if people sitting in Bangladesh have to export and transport their goods i.e. fish from one place to another then it is highly important to have an efficient transport service in order to transport their goods from one place to another [108]–[110]. This is because of the reason that a lot of customers wait for the products too and that's why for maritime industry, the availability of transport is highly important to play a bigger role in the development of economies and companies [71], [111].

### *2.3. Impact of Maritime Industry on Economic Growth*

[112]–[114] stated that the impact the maritime industry has created in terms of economic growth is massive, since maritime transportation industry has created multiple jobs in several sectors which are directly or indirectly related to it [73], [115]–[117]. The government gains tax revenue through ports, through custom charges, taxes as well as port being under the public sector, which aids to in filling in the government expenditure and crating government jobs for individuals [118], [119]. Moreover, the industries which have emerged due to maritime transport are countless – one being the cargo shipment industry [75], [120]. People relocate from country to country and prefer taking their belongings with them, which is cost effectively possible through cargo shipments [121]–[123]. Apart from relocation, it is notable how products are imported and exported – from technological devices and appliances to dry fruit and cattle maritime transport has proven to be a one stop solution for many problems [124], [125]. Sea passenger transport may seem outdated, but it has been an existing method for transport all over the world in the past, and is still carried out in some parts of the world today, mainly for leisure and national transportation region to region [126]–[128]. It may be time consuming but it is still a notable method of transport, which again improves the travel and productivity of individuals [129], [130]. About 90% of the world's trade is carried out through sea transport, which also generates regional and international employment as well as an increase in the GDP, along with aiding in a positive BOP (Balance of Payments) [131]–[133].

[134], [135] stated that economies always prosper when the economic growth is there and that's why transportation in the economies is important for this reason [136], [137]. A lot of developed

countries have efficient means of transport and that's they have seen a lot of growth and developments in their regions [76], [138], [139]. For example, if there is a flood in the coastal regions of the United States, the help and relief teams are easy to reach there on time because of the efficient transportation in their regions and that's why its east for them to deliver the products on time and that's why transportation plays an important role for the growth of economies.

#### 2.4. General Research Model



Figure 1: Conceptual Research Model

### 3. DISCUSSION

This research provided a deep insight about environmental protection and economic growth are both necessary for sustainable development. The theoretical analysis of this research focuses on achieving sustainable environmental protection as opposed to sustainable economic growth. For this reason, the study established that increased transportation accessibility and the local production system interact reciprocally to produce the overall benefits from a transportation investment. Additionally, this research demonstrated that the relationship between accessibility and the economy only makes sense when each component continues to produce at a reasonable level. Similarly, in order to alter ports, clear waterways, design and engineer safe freight water vehicles, and increase the size capacity of vessels such as containers, tankers, bulk carriers, etc.,

there are several technological developments being carried out. Despite the availability of many alternatives and technological advancements, this mode of transportation will continue to be essential given the relationship between GDP and global economic commerce.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Facilitating the transportation sector, the best method to meet the objectives of environmental sustainability, economic growth, and equal distribution of accessibility is to run the system as efficiently as possible. Transportation investments are recognized as an essential component of society's overall production system. The relationships between transport accessibility is able to determine the special benefit to the growth of economy. Many industrialized nations have effective transportation systems, and as a result, their regions have experienced significant growth and development. As a result, it is simple to deliver the goods on time, thus transportation is crucial for the development of economies.

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