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Research Proposal

Impact of the Haramain High-Speed Railway on Saudi Arabia's Transportation Sector

أثر قطار الحرمين فائق السرعة على قطاع النقل بالمملكة العربية السعودية

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Research Title:

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Introduction:

The Haramain High-Speed Railway (**HHR**) is an important infrastructure project in Saudi Arabia aimed at improving transportation between the cities of Mecca and Medina. However, little research has been conducted to understand the impact of the **HHR** on the local economy, particularly in terms of tourism and business development. This study aims to address this research gap by investigating the impact of the **HHR** on the local economy, identifying challenges and opportunities that arose during its implementation, and evaluating whether it achieved its objectives.

The study will address sub-problems such as the impact of the **HHR** on tourism and the local business environment, and its social and environmental implications. The research is significant as it will provide valuable insights that can inform policy decisions and future infrastructure development projects in Saudi Arabia. This study is relevant to the field of business administration and transportation management as it addresses the impact of an important infrastructure project on the local economy.

Research Problem:

The Haramain High-Speed Railway (**HHR**) is one of the most significant infrastructure projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aimed at improving the transport sector. Despite the significant investment in the **HHR** project, it is unclear what the impact of this project has been on the local economy, particularly in terms of tourism and business development. Therefore, the research problem that this study seeks to address is:

"What has been the impact of the Haramain High-Speed Railway on the local economy, particularly in terms of tourism and business development?"

This general question will guide the research and be broken down into several sub-questions, which will be explored throughout the study. The sub-questions will include but are not limited to:

- How has the **HHR** affected the volume and pattern of tourism in the region?
- To what extent has the **HHR** contributed to the development of the local business environment?
- What are the challenges and opportunities that emerged during the implementation of the **HHR** project?
- How has the **HHR** affected the local job market?
- What are the social and environmental implications of the **HHR** project on the local economy?

Importance of the Research:

This research is significant as it will provide valuable insights into the impact of the **HHR** project on the local economy, which can be used to inform policy decisions and future infrastructure development projects in Saudi Arabia. The findings of this study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on transportation and infrastructure development and will provide a better understanding of the economic, social, and environmental implications of the **HHR** project on the local economy.

Objectives of the Research:

- To assess the impact of the Haramain High-Speed Railway on the local economy in Saudi Arabia, particularly in terms of tourism and business development.
- To examine the challenges faced during the implementation of the **HHR** project, including cost overruns, delays, and technical issues.
- To identify the factors that have contributed to the success of the **HHR** project, including effective planning, stakeholder engagement, and project management.
- To analyze the potential long-term impact of the **HHR** project on the local economy, beyond its initial scope.
- To provide recommendations for future infrastructure projects in Saudi Arabia, based on the lessons learned from the **HHR** project.

Initial references list:

- Alotaibi, Saleh, et al. (2022) "Transport investment, railway accessibility and their dynamic impacts on regional economic growth." *Research in Transportation Business & Management* 43: 100702.
- Jamil, Mohamed, et al. "A Study of Customer Satisfaction with Special Reference to High Speed Haramain Railways Services in Saudi Railways." (2019).
- Pawar, Puja Sunil. "A Study of Innovative Transportation and its Effects on Economic Growth of a Nation-A Case Study of Saudi Arabia." *International Journal of Advanced Study* 2.9 (2019): 1-12.