

Final Project 1 – Assignment #1

Project Title: Project Risk Management Practices in Saudi Construction Projects:
A Study on Planning and Execution Challenges

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Abstract

This research investigates project risk management practices within Saudi construction projects, with an emphasis on challenges faced during planning and execution phases. As Saudi Arabia advances its Vision 2030 agenda, construction projects are expanding rapidly in scale and complexity.

This study explores the extent to which risk management frameworks are applied, identifies key gaps, and highlights strategies that enhance project outcomes. Findings aim to provide localized insights that support both academic research and practical applications in Saudi Arabia's construction industry.

الملخص

تتناول هذه الدراسة ممارسات إدارة المخاطر في مشاريع البناء في المملكة العربية السعودية، مع التركيز على التحديات التي تواجه مراحل التخطيط والتنفيذ. ومع توسع المشاريع الإنشائية في ظل رؤية المملكة 2030، تزداد الحاجة إلى تطبيق أطر فعّالة لإدارة المخاطر. تهدف الدراسة إلى تحليل مدى تطبيق هذه الممارسات، وتحديد الفجوات، واقتراح استراتيجيات لتحسين نتائج المشاريع. وتساهم نتائج البحث في دعم المعرفة الأكاديمية والممارسات العملية في قطاع البناء السعودي.

Chapter 1: Introduction

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1. Introduction

Risk management has become essential to project success, particularly in large-scale construction projects.

In Saudi Arabia, Vision 2030 has accelerated the expansion of the construction sector, bringing new challenges in planning, execution, and coordination. This research explores how risk management practices are applied in Saudi construction projects, with a focus on identifying weaknesses and proposing strategies to improve planning and execution effectiveness.

2. Research Problem

Despite rapid growth in Saudi Arabia's construction sector, many projects suffer from inconsistent risk management approaches. Risk identification is often reactive rather than proactive, leading to increased costs and delays.

This study aims to answer: How can risk management practices be improved in Saudi construction projects, particularly during the planning and execution phases, to ensure sustainable project success?

3. Research Significance

The research is significant in supporting Saudi Vision 2030 by improving construction project delivery methods. Theoretically, it contributes to filling gaps in localized literature on risk management. Empirically, it offers practical insights for project managers and policymakers to

strengthen planning, stakeholder communication, and implementation efficiency.

4. Research Questions

1. 1. What are the main risk factors affecting planning in Saudi construction projects?
2. 2. What challenges occur during the execution phase of risk management?
3. 3. How do project managers identify and mitigate risks in practice?
4. 4. How does communication among stakeholders influence project risks?

5. Research Objectives

5. To identify risk factors in planning and execution phases.
6. To evaluate the effectiveness of current risk management practices.
7. To propose enhanced strategies for improving project success.

6. Research Hypotheses

- H1: Effective risk identification during planning reduces execution delays.
- H2: Poor communication among stakeholders increases execution risks.
- H3: Adopting formal risk management frameworks improves project success rates.

7. Research Model

Independent Variables: Planning quality, stakeholder communication, technology use.

Dependent Variable: Project success rate.

Moderating Variable: Organizational culture.

8. Scope of the Study

The research focuses on construction companies in Riyadh and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

It examines both government-led and private sector projects under Vision 2030 initiatives.

9. Project Structure

- Chapter 1: Introduction
- Chapter 2: Literature Review

- Chapter 3: Methodology
- Chapter 4: Data Analysis and Results
- Chapter 5: Conclusion and Recommendations

Chapter 2: Literature Review

This chapter provides an overview of global and local literature on project risk management, with a focus on Saudi Arabia’s construction sector. Studies (PMI, 2021; Albogamy et al., 2013; Alghamdi, 2020) highlight that risk management in Saudi projects is often reactive. Challenges such as poor communication, unclear responsibilities, and insufficient planning persist. Integrating digital tools and improving governance are key recommendations across the reviewed studies.

Reference List

- PMI (2021). A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide) – Seventh Edition.
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- Alghamdi, A. (2020). Risk Management in Saudi Construction Projects. *International Journal of Project Management*, 38(4), 215–227.
- Smith, N. J. (2014). *Managing Risk in Construction Projects*. Wiley.
- Vision 2030 (2024). Saudi Vision 2030 Official Website. <https://vision2030.gov.sa>

Appendix

Questionnaires for Research Variables

A structured questionnaire will be developed to assess risk identification, planning quality, and communication effectiveness. Responses will be measured on a five-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree).

Table of Research Instruments

Variable	Measurement Tool	Data Type	Source
Planning Quality	Questions 1–3	Qualitative	Project Managers

Risk Identification Questions 4–6	Qualitative	Risk Officers
Communication Questions 7–9	Qualitative	Engineers
Project Success Part B Questionnaire	Quantitative	Project Teams