

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The demographic changes and urbanization accompanying the socio-economic growth of India has given rise to a strong growth in the transport demand especially between the high growth industrial and urban centers.

The intercity transport in India lacks capacity to meet the growing demand and does not offer a cost effective, environment friendly and fast mode of transport and is heavily dependent on costly oil imports.

1.3. Purpose of Study

Examine the case for introduction of HSR for passenger transport in India

1.4 Research Questions

- What is the scope for development of HSR in the context of Indian passenger transport?
- What are barriers in the development of HSR in India?
- What are the possible models for implementation of HSR?

1.5 Methodology

- (i) Review the literature on various aspects of high speed rail to understand the key characteristics, costs & benefits and analyze its Social and economic impacts in terms of spatial distribution of growth, socio-economic development and its viability.

- (ii) Feedback from study reports of international railways, journals and periodicals instituted by international transport to appraise the trends of international developments of HSR and models adopted across different countries which have successfully introduced HSR.
- (iii) Collection of data from secondary sources (Planning Commission, Ministry of Railways) related to demographic trends, urbanisation, economic trends/ projections, transportation capacity/ transportation needs of India and analyze it to understand the perspectives of passenger transport in India and case for HSR in India.
- (iv) Interaction with concerned officials from the Planning commission and / or Ministry of Railways who are responsible for planning and infrastructure development of the transport sector and Railways in particular to understand the present initiatives and readiness for HSR in India.

Document Flow

The dissertation document has been organised in six inter related chapters. It starts with an introduction in chapter I which covers the emergence of high speed on the public transportation agenda, its key definition, a synopsis of international development of high speed rail, its advantages and a brief snapshot of passenger transport and railways' role in India to build up on the purpose of the study, the research questions and the methodology adopted.

In chapter II, a review of literature has been attempted under broad heads which help in establishing the key characteristics of HSR, patterns of socio-economic indicators for its introduction based on international empirical studies, costs & benefits, modal shift patterns, issues of project evaluation and viability, technology development imperatives and issues of private participation. The review throws up generic requirements and impacts of HSR which have application to an Indian perspective for introduction of HSR.

In chapter III, international HSR systems have been studied with a focus on business models, funding and institutional structuring. Even though context specific, these experiences provide valuable insight for possible adaptation in the Indian context.

The case for introduction of HSR in India and the associated imperatives have been examined in chapters IV and V respectively based on inferences drawn from literature review and international experience covered in earlier chapters and present status and trends of social and economic growth in the Indian sub-continent and existing policy and institutional framework needs.

Finally, the conclusions and recommendations of this study have been brought out in chapter VI. This chapter addresses the research questions based on the outcome from this study and also recommends steps for introduction of HSR in India.