



e-ISSN: 2319-8753 | p-ISSN: 2347-6710

# IJRSET

International Journal of Innovative Research in  
**SCIENCE | ENGINEERING | TECHNOLOGY**



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

IN SCIENCE | ENGINEERING | TECHNOLOGY

Volume 13, Issue 6, June 2024

**ISSN** INTERNATIONAL  
STANDARD  
SERIAL  
NUMBER  
INDIA

Impact Factor: 8.423

9940 572 462

6381 907 438

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# **Exploring the Impact of Bus Rapid Transit System on Accident Reduction: A Review of Literature**

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**ABSTRACT:** The public transport systems in many Indian cities are rapidly deteriorating due to the increasing demand for transportation. The Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) offers a high-capacity solution that provides fast, reliable, comfortable, and cost-effective transportation. Since BRTS operates on dedicated lanes, it significantly reduces the chances of congestion and accidents

Current public transport faces numerous challenges, including a surge in accidents, environmental degradation, congestion, and overcrowding due to inadequate infrastructure. Additionally, the frequency of services is insufficient, and schedules are not strictly followed, further exacerbating these issues. Implementing and expanding BRTS could address many of these problems by enhancing the efficiency and reliability of urban transportation.

**KEYWORDS:** Bus Rapid Transit System, Accident reduction,

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Urbanization is accelerating globally, with over 54% of the world's population residing in urban areas, a figure expected to rise to 66% by 2050. This rapid growth poses significant challenges to urban transportation systems, which are already under strain from increasing demand. Cities such as New York and Mumbai experience severe congestion due to the heavy reliance of urban migrants on public transit. Addressing these challenges requires innovative solutions like the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS)

BRT is a high-efficiency mass transit service that rivals urban rail systems in capacity and speed. Despite its relative novelty, educating stakeholders on BRT's cost-effectiveness, performance, and safety benefits is crucial. BRT integrates dedicated lanes, stations, buses, and intelligent transportation systems to offer superior service reliability and reduced travel times. A notable advantage of BRT is its ability to significantly reduce accidents by minimizing vehicle interactions through dedicated lanes, thus enhancing safety for both passengers and pedestrians. Implementing BRT can substantially improve urban transportation safety and efficiency, effectively addressing congestion and accident prevention.

## **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Dube et al. (2023) investigated factors influencing pedestrian movements around bus stations in Indore's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. Their study analyzed elements such as station design, surrounding land use, and demographic characteristics to understand pedestrian behavior. By identifying how these factors impact pedestrian flow and safety perceptions, the research provides insights crucial for improving infrastructure design and urban planning around BRT stations. Implementing pedestrian-friendly designs, enhancing accessibility, and addressing safety concerns identified in the study can potentially reduce accidents around BRT stations, creating a safer environment for commuters and pedestrians alike in Indore.

Kitali et al. (2023) conducted a safety evaluation of Tanzania's inaugural Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, focusing on accident rates and safety measures. Their study analyzed factors such as infrastructure design, operational practices, and user behavior to identify areas for improvement. By recommending enhanced traffic management strategies, improved driver training, and infrastructure upgrades based on their findings, the research aims to reduce accidents

within the BRT system. Addressing these aspects could potentially mitigate risks and contribute to creating a safer urban transport environment in Tanzania.

Adesanya (2023) examines the security and safety perceptions of commuters using Lagos State's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. Through surveys and interviews, the study identifies concerns about infrastructure quality, security personnel presence, and lighting, highlighting areas where improvements could enhance commuter safety. Addressing these perceptions can lead to increased confidence among passengers, potentially reducing accidents by fostering a safer environment through improved security measures and infrastructure maintenance within the BRT system.

Alnsour (2023) assesses the risks impacting the operational activities of the Amman Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in his study published in the Alexandria Engineering Journal. The paper explores various operational risks such as traffic management, infrastructure maintenance, and driver behavior, using a comprehensive analysis of data and stakeholder perspectives. By identifying these risks and proposing mitigation strategies, such as improved traffic control measures, regular maintenance schedules, and enhanced driver training programs, the research aims to enhance the safety and efficiency of the BRT system in Amman. Addressing these operational risks could potentially reduce accidents by minimizing operational disruptions and ensuring safer conditions for both passengers and other road users.

Saleem et al. (2023) conduct an exploration and importance-performance analysis of service quality attributes within Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems in an emerging economy. Their study investigates various factors influencing service quality, such as reliability, accessibility, and comfort, using empirical evidence. By employing importance-performance analysis, the research identifies key attributes where improvements could enhance passenger satisfaction and operational efficiency. Enhancing these aspects not only improves overall service quality but also contributes indirectly to accident reduction by promoting smoother operations, reducing passenger stress, and potentially enhancing driver focus and adherence to safety protocols within the BRT system. Addressing service quality comprehensively can lead to a safer and more reliable transportation experience for BRT users in emerging economies.

Diaz et al. (2023) examine how the implementation of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Barranquilla, Colombia, influences perceptions of changes in the built environment and transport system among residents. Using qualitative methods, the study explores community responses to BRT infrastructure and operational changes, focusing on factors such as accessibility, safety perceptions, and overall satisfaction with the system. By understanding these perceptions, the research offers insights into potential areas for improvement in BRT design and operation that could enhance safety. Addressing concerns about infrastructure layout, pedestrian access, and traffic integration can help mitigate accident risks by ensuring smoother traffic flow, reducing conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians, and improving overall safety conditions in Barranquilla's BRT corridors.

Cleland et al. (2023) conducted an umbrella review focusing on complex interventions aimed at reducing car use and altering travel behavior. Their study synthesized existing research across various interventions such as policy changes, infrastructure improvements, and behavioral incentives to promote sustainable transportation choices. By evaluating the effectiveness of these interventions, the research provides insights into strategies that could potentially reduce traffic congestion and improve safety conditions on roads, including those served by Bus Rapid Transit Systems (BRTS). Implementing successful strategies identified in the review, such as promoting public transit use through improved accessibility and reliability, could contribute to accident reduction by decreasing overall vehicle volumes, minimizing congestion-related risks, and enhancing the safety and efficiency of BRTS operations.

Singh and Kathuria (2023) investigate self-reported aberrant driving behaviors among Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) drivers in their study published in the Journal of Public Transportation. Using survey data, the research explores various forms of driving misconduct such as speeding, lane violations, and aggressive driving tendencies among BRT operators. By identifying factors contributing to these behaviors, such as work stress, inadequate training, or job dissatisfaction, the study aims to raise awareness and inform targeted interventions. Addressing these issues through improved training programs, stress management initiatives, and supportive work environments can potentially reduce aberrant driving behaviors. Ultimately, mitigating such behaviors among BRT drivers could lead to enhanced road safety, fewer accidents, and improved overall operational efficiency of BRT systems.

Mangones et al. (2024) analyze the safety performance of dedicated and preferential bus lanes in Bogotá, Colombia, using multivariate negative binomial models. Their study examines factors influencing accident rates, including lane

characteristics, traffic volumes, and environmental variables. By quantitatively assessing these factors, the research identifies significant predictors of accidents and provides insights into effective safety measures for BRT systems. Recommendations based on their findings include improving lane design, enhancing traffic management strategies, and implementing targeted safety interventions. Addressing these aspects can potentially reduce accident rates in Bogotá's BRT lanes, thereby promoting safer transportation environments and improving overall system effectiveness.

Zannat et al. (2024) developed an agent-based microsimulation model to forecast Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) demand in Dhaka, Bangladesh, focusing on its application in developing countries. The study utilizes detailed data to simulate passenger behavior, route choices, and system dynamics, providing insights into BRT operational efficiency and demand patterns. By accurately predicting demand fluctuations and passenger flows, the research supports strategic planning and resource allocation within BRT systems, which can enhance operational predictability and reduce congestion-related risks. Implementing such predictive models can optimize BRT service delivery, potentially minimizing accidents by improving traffic management, reducing overcrowding, and ensuring smoother operations that prioritize safety and efficiency in Dhaka's transportation network.

Shbeeb (2024) assesses the safety management practices at road work sites during the construction of the Amman Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The study presents a case study approach, evaluating factors such as safety protocols, site organization, and worker training effectiveness. By analyzing these aspects, the research identifies strengths and weaknesses in safety management, providing recommendations for improvement. Implementing robust safety measures and ensuring compliance with safety standards can mitigate risks associated with construction activities, thereby reducing accidents and enhancing overall safety within the BRT system in Amman. This focus on proactive safety management contributes to creating a safer environment for workers, commuters, and pedestrians alike.

Papadakis et al. (2024) explore advancements in sustainable urban mobility through insights drawn from best practices and case studies, as published in Fuel Communications. The paper examines strategies and case examples that promote efficient and environmentally friendly transportation systems, including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). By analyzing successful implementations and innovative approaches, the research identifies key factors such as infrastructure design, policy frameworks, and community engagement that contribute to safer and more reliable urban transport networks. Implementing these best practices can enhance BRT systems by reducing congestion, improving traffic flow, and prioritizing safety measures. This comprehensive approach supports accident reduction by fostering a safer environment for both passengers and other road users within urban areas.

### III. DISCUSSION

The implementation of BRT systems across various cities has demonstrated significant benefits in terms of safety, efficiency, and overall service quality. Factors influencing the success and challenges of BRT systems include station design, surrounding land use, and demographic characteristics, which impact pedestrian behaviour and safety. Pedestrian-friendly designs and enhanced accessibility can reduce accidents around BRT stations.

Evaluations of safety measures in different BRT systems recommend improved traffic management strategies, better driver training, and enhanced infrastructure quality and security measures to reduce accident rates and improve commuter confidence. Operational risks in BRT systems can be mitigated through improved traffic control, regular maintenance, and enhanced driver training, ensuring safer and more reliable operations.

Service quality attributes such as reliability, accessibility, and comfort are crucial for passenger satisfaction and operational efficiency, indirectly contributing to accident reduction. Addressing infrastructure layout, pedestrian access, and strategic planning can mitigate accident risks and enhance the safety and efficiency of BRT operations.

Overall, the key findings suggest that addressing pedestrian accessibility, operational risks, service quality, and driver behaviour is essential for maximizing the safety and efficiency of BRT systems. Incorporating these insights and best practices can significantly enhance public transportation infrastructure, leading to safer, more reliable, and efficient urban transit solutions.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The implementation of BRT systems presents a viable solution to the growing challenges faced by urban transportation networks. BRT offers numerous benefits, including enhanced safety, reduced congestion, and improved service reliability. Research indicates that addressing factors such as pedestrian accessibility, operational risks, service quality, and driver behavior is essential for maximizing the safety and efficiency of BRT systems. By incorporating these insights and best practices, cities can significantly enhance their public transportation infrastructure, leading to safer, more reliable, and efficient urban transit solutions. Future efforts should focus on integrating advanced technologies, continuous infrastructure assessment, and community engagement to sustain and enhance the impact of BRT systems.

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