

## RELATIVE IMPORTANCE INDEX OF DELAY FACTORS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY: CASE OF DUBAI

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### ABSTRACT

One of the largest industry in the United Arab Emirates is the construction industry, a complex and entails versatile participants. Multi-disciplinary participants work hand in hand to achieve a completed successful project. However, several hindrances occur such as delays in the completion of the construction. Delay in constructions are common in engineering projects worldwide leading to claims, increased project time and increased project cost. The objective of this study is to review the delay factors worldwide, identify and rank them in project construction in the UAE. Based on a survey instrument conducted to assess the importance of these factors using *relative importance index*, the results showed that the *changes in design* during construction, *lack of funds* and *owners slow decision making* are the most significant causes of delay in the UAE. These findings benefits the construction sector in the UAE thus providing insight for the construction practitioners, project owners and researchers to improve deliverables, productivity and overall performance of civil construction projects in UAE.

**Keywords:** Construction industry in UAE, Delays, Relative Importance Index.