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# Ease of Doing Business in the Middle East: A Study from Investors' Perspective

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# Research Background

- Favorable business environment is critical for attracting FDI and promoting economic growth.
- Governments in the Middle East have implemented regulatory, tax, and policy reforms to enhance investor confidence.
- World Bank's Ease of Doing Business indicators provide a standardized framework to compare such environments across countries.
- Understanding these factors is essential for investors selecting optimal locations.



# Research Objectives

- Primary objective is to identify the most favorable country in the Middle East for starting a new business.
- Study evaluates Ease of Doing Business indicators from an investor's perspective.
- Aims to provide policymakers with insights to improve national business environments.
- Support informed investment decision-making.

# Theoretical Framework

- Ease of Doing Business reflects the regulatory efficiency and institutional quality of an economy.
- Previous studies establish a strong link between business-friendly regulations, economic growth, and FDI inflows.
- Key determinants include contract enforcement, access to credit, and property registration.
- Theoretical framework suggests that improved regulatory conditions enhance investment attractiveness and economic performance.



# Research Methodology

- The study uses secondary data from the World Bank's Doing Business reports for the period 2016–2020.
- Ten indicators are analyzed, including starting a business, taxation, and contract enforcement.
- Data is presented using rankings, tables, and comparative analysis across Middle East countries.
- The approach enables identification of relative performance and trends



## Key Findings

- The UAE consistently ranks as the most investor-friendly country in the Middle East.
- It leads in key areas such as starting a business, obtaining electricity, construction permits, and enforcing contracts.
- Other countries show strengths in specific indicators, such as Qatar in property registration and Bahrain in taxation.
- But performance varies significantly across countries and indicators.



## Academic Contribution

- Provides a comprehensive, indicator-level comparison of Middle East economies from an investor's perspective.
- Reinforces the relationship between regulatory quality and investment attractiveness in a regional context.
- Offers practical insights for policymakers to target reforms in specific areas.
- Contributes updated empirical evidence supporting the UAE's position as the leading investment destination.