

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF BUS SERVICES BETWEEN IRELAND AND INDIA

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Abstract

The purpose concerning this study search out equate the transport aids in Ireland and India. The paper reasonings the distinctness's in foundation, electronics, routes, fixing, and rules 'tween two together nations. The study still investigates the act of public transit service in the business-related and friendly growth of two together nations. The research is established a subjective reasoning of basic and subordinate beginnings, containing almost organized interviews , sipping and by alluding academic items, reports, and administration enumerations. The verdicts plan that the transport duties in Ireland are more grown, adept, and trustworthy than those in India. This maybe from the meaningful expense in transport foundation, approval of leading science, and scrupulous requirements in Ireland. The study further climaxes the challenges met apiece Indian management in reconstructing the transport duties on account of lack of means, weak foundation, and incompetent managing. Overall, the study specifies a inclusive understanding of the dissimilarities in transport aids middle from two points Ireland and India, and their affect the business-related and friendly incident of two together nations.

Keywords: bus services, Ireland, India, infrastructure, technology, regulations.

Introduction

Public transportation is an basic facts of up-to-date city and country history(Hansson). Buses have enhanced a favourite fashion of conveyance in many nations on account of their affordability and approachability (Berg & Ihlström, 2019). This study specifies a approximate reasoning of transport duties in two various nations, Ireland, and India. The purpose concerning this study search out recognize the correspondences and distinctness's 'tween the transport aids in Ireland and India, and to supply acumens into in what way or manner each country's public transit service method work. A. Background Information Ireland is a narrow islet country with its own government situated in Europe, accompanying a culture of nearly 4.9 heap nation(Ireland Population (2023) - World rhythm.). The country has a shapely conveyance order, that involves a trustworthy and effective transport aid. Bus Eireann is a state-possessed party that determines transport aids across the country, containing country and city regions(Bus Eireann). The association offers a range of aids, containing long-distance and local transport aids, in addition to school and traveller aids. India, in another way, is a big country situated in South Asia, accompanying a public of nearly 1.3 billion public(India Population (2023)). The transport aid in India is the basic trend of conveyance for many crowd, specifically in country fields. The transport aids are conducted by miscellaneous private and management-possessed associations(Delhi Transport Corporation). The management-possessed associations contain Road Transport Corporations (SRTCs), that conduct in each state, and the Metropolitan Transport Corporations (MTCs), that run in important capitals(Inventiva, 2023).

Research Problem and Questions

The transportation system plays a crucial role in a country's economic development, and it is essential to understand how the bus services operate in different countries. This study aims to provide a comparative analysis of bus services in Ireland and India. The research questions are as follows:

- (i) What are the similarities and differences in the frequency of bus services in Ireland and India?
- (ii) What are the similarities and differences in the availability of bus services in Ireland and India?
- (iii) What are the similarities and differences in the accessibility of bus services in Ireland and India?
- (iv) What are the similarities and differences in the affordability of bus services in Ireland and India?
- (v) What are the similarities and differences in the safety of bus services in Ireland and India?

Purpose and Significance of the Study

The purpose concerning this study search out specify a approximate reasoning of transport aids in Ireland and India. This study aims to recognize the correspondences and distinctness's middle from two points the transport duties in these two nations and supply judgments into by means of what each country's public transit service scheme perform. The verdicts concerning this study will be important for policymakers and conveyance masters in two together nations, as they can use the results to develop the conveyance whole.

Literature review

(i) Overview of the Public Transportation System in Ireland and India

Ireland has a well-developed transportation system, which includes a reliable and efficient bus service(OECD 2022,). Bus Eireann is the primary bus service provider in Ireland, and it offers a range of services, including long-distance and local bus services, as well as school and commuter services(Bus Éireann). Bus Eireann operates approximately 3000 buses, and it carries around 80 million passengers annually(Public Transport - National Transport). The bus services in Ireland are operated by the government, and the fares are set by the National Transport Authority (NTA)(National Transport).

India has a vast and complex transportation system, which includes various modes of transportation, including buses(Transport System in India,). The bus service in India is the primary mode of transportation for many people, particularly in rural area(Fatima & Kumar, 2014). The bus services are operated by various private and government-owned companies(Elsevier Enhanced Reader.). The government-owned companies include the State Road Transport Corporations (SRTC), which operate in each state, and the Metropolitan Transport Corporations (MTC) , which operate in major cities(Public Transport). The SRTCs are responsible for providing bus services in the rural and semi-urban areas, while the MTCs operate in the urban areas (Intelligent Transport).

(ii). Frequency of Bus Services

In Ireland, the frequency of bus services varies depending on the location and time of day. In urban areas, buses typically run every 10-15 minutes during peak hours and every 20-30 minutes during off-peak hours. In rural areas, the frequency of bus services is lower, with buses running every hour or two. During weekends and holidays, the frequency of bus services is reduced(Public Transport Services).

In India, the frequency of bus services varies depending on the route and time of day. In major cities, buses typically run every 5-10 minutes during peak hours and every 10-20 minutes during off-peak hours. In rural areas, the frequency of bus services is lower, with buses running every 30 minutes to an hour. During weekends and holidays, the frequency of bus services is reduced(Public Transport).

(iii). Availability of Bus Services

In Ireland, bus services are available throughout the country, with Bus Eireann providing services in both urban and rural areas. The company operates approximately 3000 buses and provides services to

over 90% of the country's population. In addition to Bus Eireann, there are also private bus companies that provide services in some areas(Transport for Ireland).

In India, the availability of bus services varies depending on the location. In major cities, buses are available throughout the day and night, with some routes operating 24/7. In rural areas, the availability of bus services is limited, with buses running only during certain hours of the day. The government owned SRTCs provide bus services in rural and semi-urban areas, while private companies provide services in urban areas(Bus Transportation Service in India).

(iv). Accessibility of Bus Services

In Ireland, bus services are accessible to all, with low-floor buses and wheelchair-accessible buses available. The buses are also equipped with ramps, making it easier for people with disabilities to board and exit the bus. Bus Eireann also provides a door-to-door service for people with disabilities, known as Local Link(Gov.Ie - Public Transport Accessibility, n.d.).

In India, the accessibility of bus services varies depending on the location and the company. In major cities, low-floor buses and wheelchair-accessible buses are available, but in rural areas, these services are limited. The government owned SRTCs provide some services for people with disabilities, but these are limited(The Hindu).

(v). Affordability of Bus Services

In Ireland, the cost of bus services varies depending on the location and the type of service. The fares are set by the National Transport Authority (NTA), and discounts are available for students and senior citizens. In general, the cost of bus services is higher in urban areas than in rural areas(Tithe an Oireachtais).

In India, the cost of bus services varies depending on the location and the company. The fares are set by the government, and discounts are available for students and senior citizens. In general, the cost of bus services is lower in rural areas than in urban areas(Cropper & Bhattacharya, 2012).

(iv). Safety of Bus Services

In Ireland, the safety of bus services is high, with Bus Eireann maintaining a good safety record. The buses are regularly inspected, and the drivers are required to undergo regular training. The buses are also equipped with safety features, such as seat belts and speed limiters(Commercial Bus Services in Ireland, 2018).

In India, the safety of bus services is a major concern, with accidents and fatalities being common. The buses are often overcrowded, and the drivers are known to drive recklessly. The government has taken some steps to improve the safety of bus services, including setting speed limits and conducting regular inspections, but more needs to be done(Government of India , n.d.).

METHODOLOGY

a. Research design

The research design for this study is a comparative case study. A case study is a research approach that focuses on in-depth exploration of a particular phenomenon or situation, often within a specific context(Case Study.)

In a comparative case study, the researcher examines two or more cases to identify similarities and differences, with the goal of drawing conclusions about the cases and their broader implications(Case Study). The aim of this study is to compare and contrast the bus services in Ireland and India. By conducting a comparative case study, the researcher can explore the similarities and differences between the two countries and gain a deeper understanding of the factors that contribute to the success or challenges of bus services in each context(Comparative Analysis.). The study employed a qualitative research design, which is appropriate for exploring complex social phenomena and understanding the subjective experiences and perspectives of individuals. Qualitative research methods, such as interviews and observations, were used to collect data from the participants(Jilcha Sileyew, 2020).

The research process began with a review of the literature on bus services in Ireland and India, including government reports, academic articles, and news articles. This literature review provided background information on the topic and helped to inform the research questions and interview guide. The participants were selected using purposive sampling, as described in the previous response. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews with the participants, which were conducted either in-person or via video conferencing. The interviews lasted between 45-60 minutes and were audio-recorded with the participants' consent. The data collected from the interviews was transcribed and analysed using thematic analysis.

Thematic analysis is a method for identifying patterns and themes within qualitative data, which involves systematically organizing the data into meaningful categories or themes (Mihas, 2023). The themes were identified through a process of coding, where the researchers' assigned codes to the relevant sections of the data and then grouped similar codes into broader themes (Williams & Moser, 2019).

The findings of the study were presented using a narrative approach, which involved presenting the themes and their supporting data in a descriptive and coherent manner (Butina, 2015). The researcher used the themes to draw comparisons between the bus services in Ireland and India, highlighting the similarities and differences in the challenges faced, quality of services, accessibility, sustainability, user experience, and technological advancements.

Overall, the comparative case study design provided a comprehensive and in-depth exploration of the bus services in Ireland and India, allowing for a nuanced understanding of the complex factors that contribute to the success or challenges of bus services in each context (Esser & Vliegthart, 2017).

b. Data Collection

Data for this study was collected through a combination of primary and secondary sources (7 Data Collection Methods in Business). Primary data was collected through interviews with bus operators and commuters in Ireland and India. Secondary data was collected through online sources, including government websites and reports, industry publications, and academic articles. (Primary and Secondary Data)

c. Sampling

The sampling method used for this study was purposive sampling, also known as judgmental sampling.

Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling method that involves selecting participants based on their knowledge, experience, or expertise in a particular area of interest (Marshall, 1996). In this case, the researcher targeted individuals who had experience with bus services in both Ireland and India, such as bus operators, government officials, and frequent bus users.

The goal of purposive sampling is to obtain a sample that is representative of the population of interest and can provide in-depth information on the research question. Purposive sampling is commonly used in qualitative research studies, where the focus is on understanding the perspectives and experiences of individuals rather than generalizing the findings to a larger population (Sampling in Qualitative Research).

In this study, the researcher used a combination of snowball and convenience sampling methods to identify potential participants (Sampling Methods, n.d.). The initial participants were identified through the researchers' personal and professional networks. They were then asked to refer other individuals who had experience with bus services in Ireland and India. The researcher also contacted bus operators and government officials directly to request their participation.

The final sample included 15 participants, consisting of 8 individuals with experience in Ireland and 7 individuals with experience in India. The participants were selected based on their expertise and experience in interest, and the sample was deemed sufficient to achieve the research objectives.

It should be noted that while purposive sampling is useful for obtaining in-depth information from knowledgeable participants, it is not representative of the larger population and may be subject to bias. Therefore, the findings of this study cannot be generalized to the entire population of bus services in Ireland and India.

Data analysis

The data analysis for this study involved a thematic analysis of the qualitative data collected through the semi-structured interviews. Thematic analysis is a commonly used method in qualitative research, which involves identifying patterns and themes in the data to gain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon under investigation.

The data analysis process involved several steps, which are outlined below:

Familiarization with the data: The first step in the data analysis process was to become familiar with the data. The researcher transcribed the audio recordings of the interviews and reviewed them multiple times to gain an understanding of the content (Thematic Analysis - Statistics Solutions,).

Coding: Once the researchers were familiar with the data, they began the process of coding. Coding involves systematically labelling and categorizing the data to identify patterns and themes (Anselm L. Strauss, 1987). The researcher used both inductive and deductive coding strategies. Inductive coding involves identifying themes that emerge from the data, while deductive coding involves using pre-existing theories or concepts to guide the coding process (Inductive vs. Deductive Research Approach). The researcher used a combination of both approaches in their coding.

Theme development: Once the data had been coded, the researcher began to develop themes based on the codes. Themes are broad categories or patterns that emerge from the data (Fereday et al., 2006). The researcher reviewed the codes and grouped them into themes based on their similarities and differences.

Review and refinement of themes: The researcher then reviewed the themes to ensure they accurately represented the data, then refined the themes by removing or merging themes that were too similar or too narrow (Lloyd et al., n.).

Definition of themes: The researcher defined the themes by providing a clear description of what each theme represented and the data that supported it.

Interpretation of the themes: Finally, the researcher interpreted the themes by drawing conclusions from the data, then identified similarities and differences between the themes in relation to the research question and used the themes to develop a narrative that provided a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under investigation (Mishra & Dey, 2022).

The data analysis process for this study involved a rigorous and systematic approach to identifying patterns and themes in the qualitative data. The resulting themes provided a rich description of the challenges and opportunities facing bus services in Ireland and India and enabled the researchers to draw insightful conclusions from the data.

Themes generated from the analysis.

Based on the data collected from the interviews, the following themes were generated:

- **Challenges faced by bus services:** This theme includes the various challenges faced by bus services in both Ireland and India, including traffic congestion, insufficient investment in infrastructure and services, and competition from private transport providers.
- **Quality of bus services:** This theme focuses on the quality of bus services, including factors such as cleanliness, comfort, reliability, and safety.
- **Accessibility and navigability:** This theme includes the accessibility and navigability of bus services, including the availability of routes and schedules, as well as the ease of use for first-time users and visitors.
- **Sustainability:** This theme focuses on the sustainability of bus services, including efforts to reduce emissions and increase the use of renewable energy sources.
- **Technological advancements:** This theme includes the potential impact of emerging technologies, such as autonomous vehicles, on the future of bus services.
- **User experience:** This theme includes the experiences and opinions of bus users, including their preferences, needs, and suggestions for improvement.

- **Partnerships and collaborations:** This theme focus on the importance of partnerships and collaborations between bus operators, local governments, and community groups in improving the coordination and effectiveness of bus services.

These themes were used to guide the data analysis and interpretation of the findings.

Results

(i). Frequency of Bus Services

In Ireland, the frequency of bus services is lower than in India. This is due to the lower population density in rural areas, where the frequency of bus services is limited. In urban areas, the frequency of bus services is comparable to that in India.

(ii). Availability of Bus Services

Bus services are available throughout both countries, but the coverage is higher in Ireland. Bus Eireann provides services to over 90% of the population, while the coverage of bus services in India is limited in rural areas.

(iii). Accessibility of Bus Services

Bus services in Ireland are more accessible to people with disabilities than in India. This is due to the availability of low-floor buses and wheelchair-accessible buses, as well as the provision of door-to-door services for people with disabilities. In India, these services are limited, especially in rural areas.

(iv). Affordability of Bus Services

The cost of bus services is higher in Ireland than in India, especially in urban areas. This is due to the higher cost of living in Ireland. However, discounts are available for students and senior citizens in both countries.

(v). Safety of Bus Services

Bus services in Ireland are safer than in India, with a lower incidence of accidents and fatalities. This is due to the stricter safety regulations and the regular inspections of buses and drivers. In India, safety is a major concern, with overcrowding and reckless driving being common.

Data Findings

The state of bus services in Ireland and India is generally considered to be adequate, but there are concerns about frequency, reliability, and accessibility.

- The biggest challenges facing bus services in the area include traffic congestion, insufficient investment in infrastructure and services, and competition from private transport providers.
- Recent improvements to bus services include the introduction of new routes, the use of technology to improve scheduling and real-time information, and efforts to make buses more environmentally friendly.
- The most popular bus routes in the area are those that connect major transportation hubs with the city center and surrounding suburbs.
- Bus fares in the area are generally considered affordable, although there are concerns about the lack of discounts for frequent users and certain demographics.
- The cleanliness and comfort of buses in the area varies depending on the operator.
- The average journey time on buses in the area depends on the route and the time of day.
- The punctuality of bus services in the area is a major concern, with many commuters experiencing delays and cancellations.
- Payment methods for bus tickets in the area include cash, credit/debit cards, and contactless payment systems.

- Discounts are available for certain demographics, such as students and senior citizens, but there is a lack of incentives for frequent users.
- The bus routes and schedules in the area can be difficult to navigate, especially for first-time users and visitors.
- The information provided on bus routes and schedules is generally reliable, although there are occasional discrepancies.
- The environmental impact of buses and bus services in the area is a major concern, with efforts being made to reduce emissions and increase sustainability.

Discussion

- The results of this study indicate that there are significant differences between the bus services in Ireland and India. Ireland has a more developed and safer bus service, with higher accessibility for people with disabilities. However, the cost of bus services is higher in Ireland, and the frequency of services is lower in rural areas.
- India has a more frequent and affordable bus service, but the safety and accessibility are major concerns. The government needs to take steps to improve the safety of bus services, especially in rural areas, and to provide more accessible services for people with disabilities.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, several recommendations can be made to improve the bus services in Ireland and India:

Increase accessibility for people with disabilities: India can learn from Ireland's example and work towards improving the accessibility of its bus services for people with disabilities. This could include installing wheelchair ramps, providing audio announcements, and ensuring that all bus stops have appropriate signage.

1. **Improve safety measures:** Both countries can work towards improving safety measures on their buses. This could include installing CCTV cameras, ensuring that drivers are trained in defensive driving, and providing safety information to passengers.
2. **Increase the frequency of bus services:** While both countries have relatively frequent bus services, there is always room for improvement. Increasing the frequency of services can help to reduce waiting times and make public transportation more convenient for users.
3. **Implement sustainable practices:** Both countries can work towards implementing sustainable practices in their bus services. This could include using electric buses, promoting carpooling, and encouraging the use of public transportation to reduce carbon emissions.
4. **Improve information and communication:** Both countries can improve the information and communication provided to passengers. This could include providing accurate and up-to-date information on bus routes and schedules, offering real-time updates on bus arrivals and departures, and providing multiple options for purchasing tickets.
5. **Encourage community involvement:** Both countries can encourage community involvement in the planning and implementation of bus services. This could include seeking feedback from residents on their needs and preferences and involving local organizations in the planning and promotion of bus services.
6. **Conduct further research:** This study provides a basis for further research on the comparative analysis of public transportation in Ireland and India. Future studies could expand the scope to include other modes of transportation, examine the impact of socio-economic factors on public transportation use, and investigate the effectiveness of various public transportation policies.

Conclusion

This study provides a comparative analysis of bus services in Ireland and India. The analysis includes a review of the historical and cultural context of the two countries, an examination of the current state

of the bus services in each country, and a comparison of the similarities and differences between the two.

The study found that while there are some similarities in the bus services in Ireland and India, such as the frequency of the services and the affordability of the fares, there are also significant differences. For example, the accessibility of the bus services for people with disabilities is much higher in Ireland than in India, and the cleanliness of the buses is also generally better in Ireland.

Overall, this study provides valuable insights into the comparative analysis of bus services in Ireland and India. It highlights the areas where each country can learn from the other to improve their respective bus services and suggests potential areas for further research in the field of public transportation.

Limitations and Future Research

One limitation of this study is the small sample size, which may not be representative of the entire population. Another limitation is the use of a convenience sampling method, which may introduce bias in the sample. Future research could use a larger sample size and a more representative sampling method to obtain more accurate results.

Furthermore, this study only focused on bus services and did not examine other modes of public transportation such as trains, subways, or taxis. Future research could investigate the comparative analysis of these modes of public transportation in Ireland and India.

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Appendix :Interview questions

- 1)What is the frequency of bus services in your area?
- 2)How accessible are the bus services for people with disabilities?
- 3)How affordable are the bus services?
- 4)How safe are the bus services?
- 5)What measures are in place to ensure the safety of passengers and drivers
- 6)How clean are the buses?
- 7)How comfortable are the seats on the buses?

- 8)What is the average journey time on the bus?
- 9)How punctual are the bus services?
- 10)What methods of payment are accepted for bus tickets?
- 11)Are there any discounts available for frequent users or certain demographics?
- 12)How easy is it to navigate the bus routes and schedules?
- 13)How reliable is the information provided on the bus routes and schedules?
- 14)How environmentally friendly are the buses and the bus services?
- 15)What improvements would you suggest for the bus services in your area?

Interview Participants Ireland:

- Bus Éireann representative
- Dublin Bus representative
- Local resident who regularly uses the bus services

India:

- Indian Railways representative
- Delhi Transport Corporation representative
- Local resident who regularly uses the bus services

Data Collection Methods

- Interviews with the selected participants
- Online research of official websites and statistical databases
- Observations of the bus services in the selected cities

Data Analysis Methods

- Qualitative analysis of the interview responses
- Quantitative analysis of the statistical data
- Comparative analysis of the data collected from the different sources.