

Rural Infrastructure and Development: Socio-Economic Analysis

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Abstract: India is a country where majority of people living in rural area. According to available statistics more than six lakh villages in India. India is emerging as a fast-growing developing economy. Economic development in India is long term and continues process, which enables the country to achieve higher levels of income, greater out put more employment and better standard of living of the people and this is largely associated with progressive changes in the socio-economic structure of the economy. To achieve progress in the socio –economic front, there is a necessity for the growth and development of infrastructure. This is because there is a close link between economic development and provision of adequate infrastructural facilities. The strong structure of the social and economic well-being of the people can be built only on strong foundations. The country's progress can be achieved only with well build social and economic infrastructure. Given the strategic linkage of infrastructure with economic growth, massive reduction of poverty and human resource development, more emphasis has been attached for adequate infrastructural development. In this backdrop infrastructure occupies an important and essential part in the economic development of the country.

Keywords: Rural, Infrastructure, Development, Socio-Economic.

1. Introduction

India is emerging as a fast-growing developing economy. Economic development in India is long term and continues process, which enables the country to achieve higher levels of income, greater out put more employment and better standard of living of the people and this is largely associated with progressive changes in the socio-economic structure of the economy. To achieve progress in the socio –economic front, there is a necessity for the growth and development of infrastructure. This is because there is a close link between economic development and provision of adequate infrastructural facilities. The strong structure of the social and economic well-being of the people can be built only on strong foundations. The country's progress can be achieved only with well build social and economic infrastructure. Given the strategic linkage of infrastructure with economic growth, massive reduction of poverty and human resource development, more emphasis has been attached for adequate infrastructural development. In this backdrop infrastructure occupies an important and essential part in the economic development of the country.

In India 60% of the people living in rural area without rural infrastructure amenities India cannot reach the developmental goal. It is essential to providing infrastructure facilities in rural areas of the country. But rural people have their own problems in this regard. All those problems mainly related to basic facilities. Infrastructures refers to all those economic activities and basic facilities which assists in production function like factors of production, infrastructural facilities such as health and education roads power supply, drinking water, sanitation, irrigation to the cultivable land and so on are not factor inputs which directly produce goods and services. They are indirectly facilitating in production activities but essentially help to increase productivity and helps to smooth functioning of the sectors like agriculture and industry. There is also need to distinguish between physical infrastructure and infrastructure services. Most infrastructure services are non-tradable. For these reasons the stock of infrastructure services may not be readily augmented through imports as in the case of other goods and services.

An economy's infrastructure is more conventionally divided in to parts namely,

- 1) Social Infrastructure
- 2) Physical Infrastructure

Social Infrastructure is concerned with the supply of such services as meet the basic needs of a society like health services, drinking water, sewerage, sanitation, electricity, education facilities etc.

Physical Infrastructure, On the other hand is directly concerned with the needs of such production sector as agriculture, industry, trade etc. in physical infrastructure we include such services as power, irrigation, transport, telecommunication etc.

Generally, infrastructure refers to physical asset or organizational structure that is capable to provide benefits for meeting basic needs of a society. It leads better living standard of people and towards smooth functioning of the economy. Social scientist and development experts categorized in two types as given bellow

1. *Economic infrastructure* contains rural roads, bridge, rural credit institutions like rural banks, rural electrification, irrigation facilities, rural transport, storage structures and warehousing facilities etc.

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2. *Social infrastructures* include primary health centers, schools, Anganwadi centers, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, rural housing and building of community centers etc.

Rural infrastructure refers to infrastructural arrangements designed exclusively for the betterment of rural people and this is initiated by the government and available with in rural areas like constructions of all-weather road connectivity, electricity distribution, telecommunication network. It helps to intervention for the rural population by ensuring their access to vast range of economically gainful activities, regulated and fair shops markets, health education and other community services, warehouses and go-downs in rural areas mitigated the food security problem and creation of irrigation facilities can boost up agricultural productivity.

Infrastructure and Economic Growth:

It as a two-way relationship with economic growth.

1. Infrastructure promotes economic growth.
2. Economic growths begin about changes in infrastructure.

Infrastructure promotes growth reflects in some facts following,

1. Output of infrastructure sector like power, water, transport etc. are used as inputs for production in directly.
2. Transport improves productivity
3. Infrastructure provides key to modern technology in practically all sectors.
4. Close association between infrastructure and growth 1% growth in infrastructure associated with 1% growth in per-capita GDP.
5. Infrastructure development results in growth of the economy.

Some recent rural infrastructure schemes reflects the improvement in the rural basic facilities,

- Pradhanamantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Aimed at provide all weather roads in rural where the need. These roads connected to district roads and highways up to December 2011 total of 38,812 habitations have been connected by constructing 97,583 KM rural roads and 1,84,353 KM existing rural roads have been upgraded
- Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). Till December 2010 the physical target of 40.52 lakh houses constructed and 27.3 lakh houses are under Construction.
- National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). This scheme intended to provide safe drinking water facility to rural habitations 32,129 units covered quality affected habitations and 4500 rural school have got safe drinking water facility
- Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). 606 districts of deferent states in the country have been sanctioned. The campaign has been successful in the construction of 125.2 lakh individual hold latrines and 1.44 lakh school toilets. Under the Swach Bharath Abhiyan all rural houses have toilet through the working of pnachayath raj programs.

- Rajiv Gandhi Gramina Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVEY). This is set a target to electrify 17,500 un-electrified villages and 47 lakh BPL households against which 18,374 villages and 47.18 lakh households got this facility.
- Mahathma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREG). It is the massive programme in all district of the country. It is intended to create employment opportunity to rural people 100 days in a year. During 2009-10 36.51 lakh works were under taken, of which 51% constructed water conservation, 16% rural connectivity, 14 % land development and provision of irrigation facility to individual beneficiaries constituted around 19%. Through this scheme government purpose to increase ground water with adoption of water harvesting methods & renovate the village tanks & connect to main water resources.

Increase in rural infrastructure leads to greater economic growth and a declaim in the incidence of absolute poverty as people in rural areas get great access to market and there by better price for their produce. However, creating infrastructure needs large doses of capital formation.

- Planning commission estimates that required investment 65% will come from the government, 23% from private sector and 12% from agencies.
- The 11th Five-year plan noted direct and causal relationship between the infrastructure and incidence of poverty in states.
- 12th Five-year plan laid renewed emphasis on creation of physical infrastructure like roads, Railways, Ports, Airports, Power and telecommunications.
- In order to build rural infrastructure the former government implemented the Bharath Nirman scheme view to ensuring inclusive growth by improving rural infrastructure in an extensive pattern
- In its second phase of implementation of the Bharath Nirman scheme efforts are provide Electricity, Safe drinking water, all weather roads, Telephone and Broadband Connectivity to all eligible villages and sustainably step-up rural housing stock and irrigation and potential.

Infrastructure development has gradually been well recognized as one of the key elements of rural development strategies for transforming the low productive rural economy in to a fast growing industrial one. Lack of adequate infrastructure continues to remain a major constrain for sustainable growth across millions of villages. Economic development of rural areas as a definite link with poverty reduction. Enough evidence of theoretical and empirical nature can by sighted in support of the argument investment in rural transport infrastructure stimulates the rural economy and hence acts as a tool for poverty reduction.

2. Findings

- Good monitoring by the central, state and local

governments.

- Encompassing creation of awareness about the rural development programmes.
- Awareness to people participation.
- Transparency of all schemes.
- Social audit & monitoring of rural development programmes at all levels.
- Continues efforts by the center and state governments.
- As possible as made domestic investment on rural infrastructure.
- Make use of public private participation, it is extended to 4P framework i.e. 'People – Private – public – Partnership' it has to be the key to success for any development project.
- Increase the investment on rural infrastructure.
- Adopt appropriate technology to establishment of rural infrastructure.

Finally increase of rural infrastructures imperative for the

growth and development of the country. Community reaps the benefits of the rural infrastructure are,

- Improvement in quality life of rural people.
- Poverty eradication
- Improvement in the capacity of work
- Removal of isolation
- Linkages to economic activities
- Agricultural development and diversification
- Increase in production and proper marketing and
- Faster development of rural industrialization.

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