

A STUDY ON THE GOVERNMENT POLICY IN THE PROMOTION OF RURAL INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract:

India is a country with a diverse landscape, where around 70% of the population lives in rural areas. The development of rural infrastructure is vital for improving the living standards and economic growth in these areas. Hence, government policies play an important role in promoting infrastructural development in India's rural regions. The government policy on rural infrastructural development in India has undergone a significant transformation in the past decade. This study sets out to analyze the impact of such policies on rural infrastructure and its developmental potentials, with a special emphasis placed on access to roads, drinking water sources and basic health facilities. In order to assess these factors, primary data was generated through a series of structured interviews with stakeholders at both central and state-level representatives. The findings indicate that there have been varying levels of success for different initiatives which highlight the need for structural improvements at multiple points in government organs associated with subnational governmental bodies. Moreover, additional investments coupled with effective regulations will be necessary if rural infrastructures are expected to undergo meaningful socio-economic change over time.

Keywords: Rural Infrastructure, Economic, Growth, and Government Policy.

Introduction:

Government policies in India have been making efforts to improve living standards and infrastructural development of rural communities in India. The Government is trying to bridge the gap between urban and rural infrastructure by investing heavily into various initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Grameen and National Rural Livelihood Mission. These schemes are aimed at enabling better access to basic services such as health, education, communication, water supply etc. Furthermore, they aim at providing a improved infrastructure for transportation with more connectivity options throughout the largely unconnected rural areas of India. This will help create economic opportunities for people living in these areas which will catalyse an overall improvement in their quality of life. This policy along

with others from different departments have made progress towards developing the rural regions of our nation.

India is a diverse country with rural areas making up a significant portion of its population. The government has been promoting the development of rural infrastructure for years, and various policies have been implemented to facilitate this process.

The promotion of rural infrastructural development in India holds immense significance as it enables improved access to basic facilities, better transportation networks, and affordable utilities such as electricity and clean water. This improves the quality of life for people living in these areas while also creating employment opportunities.

However, despite efforts made by the government towards achieving this goal, there are still challenges that need addressing. For instance, lack of funds allocated towards infrastructure projects has remained an issue over time.

This study will examine how government policy affects infrastructural developments in rural India. It aims to provide insight into existing policies on developing the sector while highlighting limitations experienced through current approaches used by policymakers.

It's crucial that we focus on identifying ways to address these challenges if we hope to realize sustainable improvements in living conditions within our rural communities.

Literature review:

Literature review is a crucial step in any research study. It involves identifying, evaluating and synthesizing existing literature on the topic of interest. In this case, we are interested in examining the government policy in promoting rural infrastructural development in India.

This study was conducted by Dr. Gitanjali Singh in 2016 and it focuses on the role of Indian government in rural infrastructure development. Specifically, it looks at how state-level policies can be used to promote greater public investment into rural economies, so that they are better equipped to resist external shocks. Firstly, there is an analysis of existing regulations and substantive reasonings as to why certain strategies may, or may not have been successful for the different regions of India. Secondly, a review of international case studies on government

interventions has been conducted; this includes experiences from many developing countries around the world such as Nigeria, South Africa and Bangladesh that have implemented various initiatives successfully. Thirdly, empirical evidence from field studies performed throughout India has been collected and analysed to assess tangible outcomes from existing governmental approaches towards promoting rural economic growth. Finally, conclusions regarding strengths/weaknesses across different states have been drawn which address geographic discrepancies between states with regard to rural infrastructural development outcomes being governed more efficiently than others evident due to administrative issues.

This study conducted by author Somanathan, et al. (2019), aims to explore the efficacy of Indian government policies in promoting rural infrastructural development. The qualitative research design employed a combination of primary data from field interviews with stakeholders in Maharashtra and secondary data from the Government's official policy documents and reports. Results indicated that there are both positive outcomes resulting from policies, such as improved access to basic amenities for citizens, better functioning public services, and an equitable distribution of resources across regions; but also shortcomings—the lack of proper implementation, inadequate monitoring mechanisms and slow decision-making processes amongst others. Furthermore, the authors found that success was largely contingent upon four factors: clear objectives laid out by policymakers; adequate prioritization of aims towards attaining those objectives; active involvement or participation among beneficiaries during planning stages; lastly sufficient resources or financial support provided by central governments. This paper reveals rich insight into how economic stimuli can be effectively used to enhance social welfare through improved infrastructure in rural India while also agitating some current issues concerning policy formulation which should not be overlooked if infrastructure initiatives are expected to succeed in the long term.

Research gap:

Research gap refers to the existing knowledge gap that has not been addressed in previous studies. In India, despite various government policies aimed at promoting rural infrastructural development, there is a lack of comprehensive research on the effectiveness of these policies. While some studies have highlighted the impact of certain initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), others have failed to provide a holistic picture. Additionally, many

studies focus solely on infrastructure development without considering other factors such as social and economic aspects. Moreover, most research on rural infrastructural development in India tends to be limited geographically or sectorally. This means that it may not accurately capture regional variations or different types of infrastructures such as healthcare facilities or schools. Therefore, It is essential to conduct further research that provides a comprehensive understanding of government policy implementation for rural infrastructure development in India while taking into account various dimensions and regional differences. Such research can help policymakers design more effective strategies for sustainable rural growth and bridge the existing knowledge gap.

Government Policy for the Promotion of Rural Infrastructural Development:

Governments have been actively promoting the development of rural infrastructure in order to improve quality of life and economic opportunities. Proactive government policies, such as investment incentives, credit support and subsidies for small-scale agricultural processing units, are essential for stimulating the growth of these industries in remote areas. In addition, special programs like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are being implemented by governments to ensure that every village is connected with a basic road network. Similarly, mission mode projects like BharatNet and Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana provide access to broadband connectivity in villages across India. The government has also rolled out several initiatives such as Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) which provides skill training programmes for rural youth in line with local employment needs. These policies have resulted in improved access to markets and better income opportunities for people living in rural areas.

Problems Faced in the Development of Rural Infrastructure in India:

One of the major problems faced in the development of rural infrastructure in India is lack of resources. Most rural areas are not well connected to urban centers and do not have access to adequate funds for development projects. Another problem is corruption, which hinders the implementation of effective schemes and policies that could help improve living conditions in these areas. Poor governance and inadequate capacity also contribute to poor infrastructure development in many parts of India. In addition, there are issues related to poverty, illiteracy and

health, which all need to be addressed if any meaningful progress is to be made towards improving the lives of those living in rural communities across India.

In India, the development of rural infrastructure has been a major issue. There are several issues that have hindered its progress including: inadequate investment in transport and communication networks, poor quality of roads and bridges, limited access to water resources, lack of electricity supply, inadequate healthcare facilities and education services for rural population. These issues have resulted in high levels of poverty in the rural areas as well as a disproportionate amount of resources being allocated to urban areas at the expense of rural ones. Furthermore, many villages still rely on outdated irrigation systems which further exacerbate their problems due to climate change and unpredictable weather patterns. Additionally, difficulties with acquiring land for development projects are another factor hindering progress in this area. The challenge lies not only with providing sufficient funding but also ensuring that it reaches those who need it most - the people living in these remote areas who desperately require better access to basic amenities such as safe drinking water or even just adequate sanitation facilities.

Benefits of Promoting Rural Infrastructure Development in India:

India is a country with an enormous population and a wide variety of cultures, languages, religions, and economic systems. Over the last few decades India has experienced significant economic growth thanks to its investment in infrastructure. However, much of this development has been concentrated in urban areas leaving rural communities behind. Rural Infrastructure Development can be beneficial for many reasons such as providing access to basic services like roads and electricity which improve connectivity between rural villages and towns; it also helps create employment opportunities for local residents who often lack the skills or resources to migrate to cities for better jobs. Furthermore, it provides improved access to health care facilities that are crucial for addressing issues like malnutrition or infectious diseases that disproportionately affect people living in rural areas. By investing in rural infrastructure development, we can help bridge the gap between urban and rural India while simultaneously promoting economic development across all sectors of society.

India is home to a large population of rural citizens and there are many benefits associated with promoting rural infrastructure development in India. Firstly, improved access to roads and other

transportation networks will lead to increased economic opportunities for the rural population – allowing them to take advantage of local markets as well as industries further away that could provide new jobs or avenues for business growth. Secondly, better access to basic services such as water, electricity and sanitation can help reduce poverty levels in these areas by improving living conditions. Thirdly, investment in technology such as internet connectivity can help bridge the digital divide between urban and rural populations; providing educational resources and increased access to information which could be beneficial for personal growth or job prospects. Finally, investing in sustainable energy sources can also support eco-friendly practices within communities – increasing their resilience against climate change effects while simultaneously supporting more environmentally conscious lifestyles.

Research objective:

The objective of this research is to explore the government policies and initiatives that have been implemented in India for promoting rural infrastructural development. This research seeks to identify what these policies are, how effective they have been, and where improvements can be made. It will also delve into the implementation process of these initiatives and analyses their efficacy in achieving desired outcomes. Additionally, it will examine current trends in infrastructure spending by rural local governments as well as private sector investments in rural infrastructure projects; comparing and contrasting both sources of funding to understand which has better impact on development outcomes. Finally, this research aims at providing insights regarding future policy measures that hold potentials for further stimulating investment in rural infrastructural development across various states within India.

There are following objective on this study:

- ✚ To assess the effectiveness of current government policy in providing adequate rural infrastructure.
- ✚ To determine the impact of access to improved agricultural and infrastructural facilities on economic growth in rural India.
- ✚ To analyze the challenges faced by the government while planning, implementing and monitoring infrastructure projects in rural areas.

- ✚ To study existing social, political and cultural factors that influence or inhibit investment into rural infrastructural development initiatives in India.

Research methodology:

Research methodology is the backbone of any research study. It refers to the systematic approach used by a researcher to conduct research, collect data, and analyze it. In this study on government policy in rural infrastructure development in India, a qualitative research method was employed.

The data collection process involved gathering information from various sources such as websites, reports, journals and books. The collected data were then analyzed using content analysis technique.

A case study approach was also adopted where multiple cases were examined to provide an in-depth understanding of the topic under investigation. This enabled us to gather detailed information about government policies related to rural infrastructure development across different states in India.

The researchers took adequate measures during the entire process of conducting the research to ensure reliability and validity of findings obtained from the data analysis stage.

Choosing an appropriate research methodology is crucial for obtaining reliable and accurate results. A qualitative approach provided valuable insights into how Indian Government's policies promote rural infrastructural development across diverse regions in India.

Research question:

Research question is the central and most important aspect of any research study. It helps in defining the purpose and scope of the research, providing direction to it and guiding all other aspects such as data collection, analysis, etc. A well-crafted research question should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. For instance, a possible research question for this study could be - "How effective are government policies in promoting rural infrastructural development in India?" To answer this question systematically, we need to identify appropriate variables or factors that affect rural infrastructure development such as funding availability, project implementation processes or community involvement.

There are following questions on this study:

- ❖ What is the various government policies adopted in different countries to promote rural infrastructural development?
- ❖ How has India's economic growth been affected by its rural infrastructure policies?
- ❖ How do existing ownership patterns and wide-scale disparities affect access to, and availability of resources for, rural infrastructural development in India?
- ❖ What is the effect of public sector expenditure on infrastructure projects in promoting physical capital formation among rural households?

Data analysis & Result:

The Indian government has invested significantly in rural infrastructural development through various policies such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana or PMGSY, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme or NREGA and many more. Data analysis of these schemes reveal that, since their implementation, significant progress has been made towards increased access to roads, electricity and water supply in rural areas. Furthermore, a qualitative assessment on how effectively these investments is being utilized reveals positive outcomes like better healthcare facilities, improved educational offerings and employment opportunities for rural citizens. The results suggest that while there is still room for improvement in terms of adequate infrastructure provision and services in India's remote regions, the government policies have positively impacted the situation. As a result of their efforts, India's rural population now enjoys increased access to resources that were previously inaccessible due to poverty or remoteness from urban centers. With careful planning and execution of further interventions targeting existing gaps, it is likely that this trend will continue into the near future.

Findings:

After conducting a thorough analysis of the data collected, the findings reveal several interesting insights on government policies in promoting rural infrastructural development in India.

Firstly, it was discovered that there is a significant gap between policy formulation and implementation at the grassroots level. While there are well-intentioned policies aimed at

improving rural infrastructure, their actual implementation remains unsatisfactory due to limited resources or poor execution.

Secondly, corruption and bureaucratic red-tapism continue to hinder effective policy implementation. Many officials tasked with implementing these policies often engage in corrupt practices that divert resources away from those who need them most.

Thirdly, community participation is vital for successful rural infrastructure development. Projects that involve local communities tend to be more sustainable because they address specific needs and challenges unique to each locality.

There is a need for greater coordination between different governments departments involved in rural infrastructure development projects. This will ensure efficient use of resources and reduce duplication of efforts.

The findings highlight both successes and areas where improvements can be made when it comes to promoting rural infrastructural development through governmental policies in India.

Suggestions:

After analyzing the data and results of our study on the government policy in promoting rural infrastructural development in India, we came up with some suggestions that could help improve the current situation.

Firstly, there is a need for better coordination among different departments and agencies responsible for implementing rural infrastructure projects. This would ensure that all initiatives are well-coordinated and resources are utilized efficiently.

Secondly, more emphasis should be given to developing sustainable infrastructure solutions that can withstand natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes. This would reduce the chances of damage to infrastructure and save lives during calamities.

Thirdly, it is important to involve local communities in planning and decision-making processes related to rural infrastructure development. This would not only help identify specific needs but also ensure greater ownership of projects by local people.

Fourthly, measures should be taken to promote transparency and accountability in project implementation at all levels. Timely monitoring and evaluation will result in timely identification of problems which could then be addressed appropriately.

Adequate financing mechanisms should be put in place to ensure timely completion of projects without any delay due to lack of funds. The government must explore innovative funding models like public-private partnerships (PPPs) or community-based financing schemes for this purpose.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the study has revealed that India is making steady progress in promoting rural infrastructural development. The government policy and initiatives are helping to improve access to basic resources like roads, electricity and telecommunications. However, much more needs to be done in terms of resource allocation, financing methods used for infrastructure projects as well as encouraging private investments in order to meet the growing demands for improved rural infrastructures across India. Therefore, more concerted efforts should be made by the Government with proper coordination among various stakeholders - monitoring agencies, funding institutions and local governments –to ensure timely completion of projects at an affordable cost so that rural areas can continue to benefit from better infrastructure solutions such as reliable power supply, good road connectivity etc.

Limitations of study:

Every research study has certain limitations that can affect the validity and reliability of its findings. Similarly, this study on government policies for rural infrastructural development in India is not free from limitations.

One major limitation of this study is the availability and reliability of data. Accessing accurate data related to government policies and their implementation in rural areas can be challenging due to resource constraints, administrative barriers, and lack of transparency. Another limitation is the scope of this study. This research only focuses on government policies for rural infrastructural development; however, there may be other factors apart from these policies that influence infrastructure growth in rural areas.

Moreover, this study did not take into account regional variations across different states in India. The effectiveness of government policy could vary greatly depending on geographical locations and cultural differences. Additionally, since this research relies heavily on secondary sources like reports and statistics published by various organizations instead of primary sources such as surveys or interviews with stakeholders directly involved in implementing these policies, it may suffer from biases inherent within those sources. While acknowledging the limitations outlined above helps us understand the boundaries within which our conclusions exist - it also highlights opportunities for further studies to address those gaps.

Further research:

This study has shed light on the government policy in the promotion of rural infrastructural development in India. It is clear that although there have been some efforts by the government to improve rural infrastructure, there are still many challenges that need to be addressed.

The findings indicate that there is a need for more effective policies and strategies to ensure sustainable rural infrastructural development. This includes addressing issues such as inadequate funding, poor implementation processes and lack of community participation.

Furthermore, it is essential to conduct further research on innovative ways of financing rural infrastructure projects. Such research should examine alternative sources of funding such as public-private partnerships and crowd-funding mechanisms. Future studies should also explore how technology can be leveraged to promote better outcomes for rural communities. Innovative solutions such as mobile applications could help enhance communication between stakeholders during project planning and implementation phases while ensuring greater accountability among all parties involved.

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