



Rural development through infrastructure in Rajasthan

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Abstract

Infrastructure refers to the facilities and services which help in improvement of all the sectors of the economy. Infrastructure term is used for all the facilities and activities that affect the process of economy growth directly or indirectly. Infrastructure is helpful in rural development. But infrastructure complete development in Rajasthan is very low. main problems that are faced in the way of rural infrastructure are traditional thinking of rural people, high ratio of uneducated people in rural area, corruption in democracy, deficit of knowledge among rural people about the rural development plans and many other problems related to infrastructure and agriculture sector. The present study deals with the brief introduction of Rajasthan and discusses its social and economic conditions. The study also makes us aware about the status of infrastructural development in Rajasthan.

Keywords: infrastructure, rural development, socio- economic conditions

Introduction

Rural word is defined as that area where the people are busy in primary sector activities such like agriculture, keeping animals, cottage industry, mining, and related agriculture based work. A group of people living in unity or happily living together in a village is known a rural community. There are many characteristic of rural area like low level of education, low productivity, poverty, slow development of industry and services sector, unemployment, economy and living based only on agriculture and other basic facilities are not available. Agriculture is the main source of income of rural people.

The term “infrastructure” is generated from Latin word “infra” meaning beneath and “structure” meaning to construct. In infrastructure mainly includes those works do which acts as the back bone for economy. Without a strong infrastructure base development can't be image of an economy. Infrastructure includes roads, power, transport, telecommunication, education, health, drinking water and sanitation. Infrastructure refers to the facilities and services which help in improvement of all the sectors of the economy. Infrastructure term is used for all the facilities and activities that affect the process of economy growth directly or indirectly. Infrastructure is helpful in rural development. But infrastructure complete development in Rajasthan is very low. main problems that are faced in the way of rural infrastructure are traditional thinking of rural people, high ratio of uneducated people in rural area, corruption in democracy, deficit of knowledge among rural people about the rural development plans and many other problems related to infrastructure and agriculture sector. According to the World bank infrastructure those includes power, ports, airport, railway, housing, water supply and sewerage disposal management, construction of roads and bridges. According to World Bank “Rural Infrastructure” development is a way designed to improve the economic and social living standard of a specific group of people in the rural poor. This group includes farmer, tenants, and landless labor.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA)

According to IRDA many factors are included in infrastructures which are: -

- A good quality of roads, bridges and rail network system
- Construction of highways, ports, airports, water supply projects, irrigation management projects and sanitation and sewerage disposal system is part of infrastructure activities.
- Development better of educational institutions, hospitals, industrial park, special economic zones, production and distribution of electricity by laying down a network of new grid of power line and other public facilities.

Status of Infrastructure in Rajasthan

Rajasthan is one the biggest states in India. Rajasthan has 3,42,239 kilometers of area which is 11 percent total geographical area of India. Rajasthan shape is like kite. A large portion of the Rajasthan state about 70 percent is desert area so Rajasthan state is also known Desert State of India. The desert areas are also known as the marukantar name. The extension of desert area is mostly in four districts of Rajasthan namely Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer. The Arawali range divides Rajasthan in two parts. In Rajasthan Mount Abu is the only hill station. Rajasthan has 6,85,48,437 crores population according to Census 2011. Out of which male population is 3, 55,50,997 crores and female population is 3,29,97,440 crores. Population growth rate is 21.3 percent, sex ratio is 928 per 1000, child sex ratio is 868 per 1000, population density 200 per 1 kilometer total child population (0-6 age group is) 56,39,176, literacy rate is 66.11 percent in Rajasthan according to census 2011. According to minerals Rajasthan is the second largest state of India. Rajasthan has monopoly over quartz, lead, zinc, gypsum and calcite in minerals.

Road: Rajasthan being located between landlocked northern states and western port states imposes additional burden on roads due to interstate movement of goods and passenger traffic. The name of that highway is Rajasthan State

Highway “RJSH” At the end of 31 Dec, 2014 there were 31 National Highways with the total length 7,310 kilometers and presently there are 38 National Highways with the total length share of 8,016.18 kilometers and 85 State Highways with the total length of 11,716 kilometers. In the year 1949, the road length was 13,553 kilometers and thereafter in March, 2016 the roads length become increased to 2,17,707.25 kilometers. The classification of road is done in five categories namely Express Ways, National Highways, State Highways, Main District Roads and District and Rural roads. Many plans started in Rajasthan related to road development such as Pradhan Mantari Gram Sadak Yojna, ring road plan, mega highway plan, Mahatma Gandhi state road yojna, and Gramin Gorav Path Yojna etc. All plans main object is the development of roads and to make a strong policy related to transport.

Table 1.1: Lengths of Roads between 2001 to 2011

Classification	2001 (in km.)	2011 (in km.)	Change in %
National high route	4667	5713	22.41
State high route	8594	11716	36.32
Main district road	5739	7340	27.89
Total	19000	24769	30.36

Source: economic survey 2017-18

The above table is showing the lengths of roads and increment between the period of 2001 to 2011. The length of national highway is increased by 22.41% on the state highways and main district road have increased by 36.32% and 27.89% respectively which is considerably high than national highway

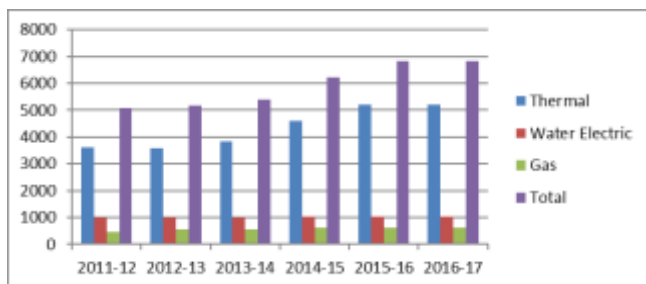
Power- Rajasthan has an advantage in the field of electricity and can also develop it by tapping its resources specific ally the non- renewable energy resources.

Power divided into two categories: -

1. Traditional power: Traditional power resources include water electricity, thermal electricity, coal, petroleum, natural gas and nuclear energy.
2. Nontraditional power: Nontraditional power include wind energy, geothermal energy, solar energy and biogas. Water electricity is also a renewable energy resource.

Total installed power generation capacity is 6810.79 Mw. at the end of 2015-16. In the state of which 76.21 % thermal is based power, 8.85 %, is gas based power and 14.93 % is water electricity.

Projects capacity of Rajasthan



Source: Economic Survey 2017-18 data published up to 2016-17

Fig 1

The above given figure is presenting about power capacity projects of last six years from 2011-12 to 2016-17. The thermal power projects are good and improving year by year whereas water and gas power projects have limited availability and growth.

Table 1.2: Allotment to state from central projects

Particular	2011-12	2012-13	2103-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Thermal	983.88	1261.49	1404.41	1379.41	1394.41	1394.41
Hydro	503.58	537.15	614.41	646.22	738.79	738.79
Gas	221.10	221.10	221.10	221.10	221.10	221.10
Atom	556.74	556.74	556.74	556.74	456.74	456.74
Total	2265.30	2576.48	2796.66	2803.47	2811.04	2811.04

(Source: Economic Review of Rajasthan 2016-17)

The above given table is showing allotment of power project from central government to state in last six years from 2011-12 to 2016-17. The allotment of thermal power has increased year by year whereas atom power has decreased.

Telecommunication: Rajasthan has a sound infrastructure a well-developed information system as well as communication facilities. Main service providers in Rajasthan are BSNL, Airtel Aircel and Tata Reliance. According to a report Rajasthan had 2, 77, 42, 395 mobile phone subscribers till September 2009. The state had about 1.5 million wire line subscribers.

Table 1.3: Total post offices in Rajasthan as on 31.3.2017

Particular	Number
Rural areas	9668
Urban areas	662
Total	10330

Source: Annual Report 2016-17, Department of Posts India

The above table is related to the number of post office in Rajasthan as on 31.03.2017. Researcher has observed that rural areas are still based on post office for their communication.

Education: When Rajasthan become independent then the literacy rate was only 8.5 percent and 66.11 percent at the end of 2011. Male literacy rate was 79.19 percent and women literacy rate was 52.12 percent in Rajasthan. In rural areas literacy rate was 61.44 percent and urban literacy rate was 79.68 percent in the end of 2011. Kota district has the highest literacy rate of 76,6 percent and Jalore district has a lower literacy rate of 54.9 percent. The state has a total of 37 universities, out of which 16 are private universities, 9 are deemed universities, and 12 are government universities.

Table 1.4: Literacy rate in Rajasthan

Year	Total	Urban	Rural
1951	8.50	NA	NA
1961	18.12	44.55	12.95
1971	22.57	50.82	16.44
1981	30.11	58.05	22.47
1991	38.55	65.33	30.37
2001	60.41	76.20	55.34
2011	66.11	79.68	61.44

(Source: Economic Review 2016-17 of Rajasthan)

The above table is related to literacy rate in Rajasthan in last six decades from 1951 to 2011. The literacy rate had improved in last six decades as from 8.5 to 66.11. The table is also presenting the literacy status of urban and rural Rajasthan.

Health - In the budget session of 2011-2012, Chief Minister of Rajasthan declared that the most useful medicines will be distributed without any consideration. But this facility is available only in government hospitals and it was implemented from 2nd October 2011. In Rajasthan, there are total 13,874 health centers out of which 127 are hospitals, 199 are dispensaries, 1504 are rural phcs, 37 are urban phcs, 118 are maternity and child health centers, 13 are urban aid posts. Various schemes have been launched with a view of improving the health situation in the state, like Chief Minister's BPL Jeevan Raksha Kosh to provide free treatment to BPL families in the State.

Need and Importance of Infrastructure in Rural Areas

Infrastructure is the basic foundation of rural development following some points proves the need of infrastructure in rural area which is given below:-

- Most people of India live in its villages According to Mahatma Gandhi so it is necessary to develop rural areas for achieving economic growth. It is because no increase in economic growth will be achieved without development in rural area. Presently many villages lack basic facilities. Many villages are backward and forward no help in the economic development of the country. Economic factor of infrastructure plays a direct role in providing inputs in increasing the production level. Social factor of infrastructure related to human development is changing living standard of rural people so that their habits, ideas and living standard also changes. It is helpful in changing the way of thinking resulting in rural people doing work in positive direction and this is helpful in production indirectly and economic growth also increases.
- Presently no development in rural areas is taken place mainly because people are uneducated thus, they don't have any knowledge and have minimum level of awareness, they have faith in old and traditional techniques so these people do not like any change in the economy or any social changes. People in rural areas have no knowledge about the plans that so they are unaware to can be helpful take benefits of plan and results no increase in rural condition so when basic infrastructure is develop in rural area then their lived villagers become awareness.
- Many people living in villages are poor because they have no alternative employment other than agriculture and no other income generating sources and Agriculture sector depends on monsoon. Infrastructural development is necessary in rural areas so that many resources are available for employment. Availability of alternative options other than agriculture helps people to earn extra income and increase their living standard. Because of low confidence without employment in rural areas people and because of fear start doing any other work because they have no strong financial position then changes are seen in their life later after getting employment.
- Agriculture is the only option for generating income in

rural areas. All the people work in agriculture fields. This is the way reason many people have zero marginal productivity which is similar to unemployment. They waste their time then mainly infrastructural development becomes important because by in rural areas because by this many schools & hospitals can be started and basic facilities become available and so people get other alternative sources.

- Employment these become helpful in increasing income and productivity which increases their living standard and villages become self-dependent.

Now a day's people have unlimited wants and every person wants to fulfill all the desires. Basic facilities are not available in villages. This is the reason why many people are don't like living in villages and they are running to urban areas from villages. The main reason to leave villages is no infrastructure in the villages. So if infrastructure develops in villages then people will like to live in villages and no will run towards urban areas.

Major Problems of infrastructure in Rural Areas

Many risks are faced in rural areas related to infrastructure development. Some risks are shows

- 1. Lack of Education:** Main problem of rural areas infrastructure development is lack of education because lack of education people not know about infrastructure development and they are no participate in rural developments programs. Those people become uneducated in rural areas they are have negative thinking about infrastructure development. They are having faith in traditional approach and techniques. Lives in rural areas people not like in changes thus no develop become possible in rural areas. Lack of education mainly people based in agriculture sector. Rural areas people have no knowledge about development programs so many rural areas is present time is also known backward areas. Lack of education they have low level of knowledge and they can't start any work with perfectness.
- 2. Corruption:** Corruption is present in all India. All level of development sector is includes in corruption activities so any work done complete without security. In case of corruption developers authority wants to get black money. All developers authority wants to get prices exchange doing any development work in rural areas so many develop work is no become started in lack of money and many running work projects become stop. No work done complete possible without given money in corruption. So can no imaging of rural areas infrastructure development in corruption.
- 3. Poverty:** In present about 40 percent population lived in below poverty line. In case of poverty rural people does not full fill their major willing. Doing any work started become sufficient finance then work done can easily complete without finance running work projects stop many years in rural areas. Better finance sources is also no available in rural areas in case many problems are faced doing any infrastructure development work started. Rural people have no interested in related infrastructure developments schemes and programs in situation of poverty thus no develop work start in rural areas.
- 4. Large Area Desert:** Large number of people lived in village in Rajasthan. About sixty percent area is desert in

Rajasthan thus there is no basic facility available like water, roads, electronic and industries etc. In case of lack basic facility there is no start develop infrastructure work any person doesn't like going to in desert areas so infrastructure work no start possible in desert areas. In desert areas main problem of water and without water any work doing start no possible.

- 5. Lack Attention of Government Towards Rural Areas:** About sixty percent population lived in villages and sixty percent areas is cover by desert in Rajasthan. Become mainly focus of government on districts those are present in perfect infrastructure development condition. Government no makes polices, rules and development programs related to rural areas. Mostly infrastructure development works projects are stop in work in progress but government no take any action for this regarding in rural areas. Any one government officer no wants to goes in rural areas for take real situation of rural areas infrastructure development work. Government no makes a good management for rural infrastructure development. Government has mainly focused on few developed and famous districts. Lack of awareness of government no possible complete rural infrastructure development work related to rural areas.
- 6. Lack of Sources:** Basic facilities are not available in rural areas. Problems are faced related to shortage of resources related to infrastructural development work. There is Lack of resources so no work can be start easily and there is always a fear of finishing of resources and in this case it is not possible to do maximum utilization of resources. When it is not possible to do maximum utilization of resources then automatically cost will increase related to work and work will automatic stop. Thus when become no sufficient sources for rural infrastructure development then no one can image rural infrastructure development in rural areas.

Conclusion

After the study of various reports and journals, government publications and books researcher found that infrastructure in kind having vast role in development of any economy. It is found that Rajasthan is a developing state but in case of rural development state is facing various issues in which infrastructure is important one. In rural areas of the state government is working in field infrastructural up gradation but the pace is very low than the required pace. The parameters of social infrastructure were improving continuously but in case of economic infrastructure employability is on lowest rank. So that people are not interested in staying in villages. Government should work on growth and development of rural infrastructure.

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