

## RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AVAILABILITY AND ITS IMPACT ON WELLBEING WITH SPECIAL REFERNECE TO UTTAR PRADESH

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**Abstract:** *The infrastructure and its availability plays an important role in the development of the economy and also helps in the reduction of the poverty as well as unemployment. Proper maintenance of the infrastructure brings in the quality development of the economy as whole and also increase the competence and capabilities of the individuals as well by increasing their standard of living, choosing better employment, etc. The earnings of the people living in the rural area depends on the infrastructure facilities available to them which includes basic amenities like health, education, financial institutions, roads, electricity, telecommunication, etc. For the better living and wellbeing people need the basic facilities like health, education, etc for the new beginning as well as from the beginning. The paper signifies the relationship between the infrastructure of the rural area and the level of living standard in the rural area. The more of the facilities they get, the more they earn which consequently reduces the income poverty as well as the unemployment. In a state like Uttar Pradesh where a large population lives in rural areas and that without the adequate facilities. It is always asked that whether the infrastructural facilities have any bearing on the wellbeing of the rural people. This paper tries to report on the relationship of the infrastructure, poverty and wellbeing of the people living in the rural area with special reference to Uttar Pradesh.*

**Key Words:** *infrastructure facilities, income poverty, wellbeing, rural people.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

According to the census 2011, the rural population in Uttar Pradesh declined from 72.19% to 68.84% which means that about 69% of the population is of the rural people in Uttar Pradesh. Agriculture is the main source of income for the people of Uttar Pradesh and the transport infrastructure for them makes it easy to get markets for their production with better prices, lowers the costs of inputs, facilitates easy access to finance and credit. The infrastructure and its availability plays an important role in the development of the economy as it is extensively recognized in most of the developing countries and it also helps in the reduction of the poverty and maintains the standard of living of the people living in the rural area. When there is greater access of the rural people to the infrastructure facilities like education, health services, water, roads, electricity, financial institutions and telecommunication, etc., there will be the increasing standard of living and it impacts the reduction of the poverty in the rural areas. In the state like Uttar Pradesh, Government continuously work for the rural infrastructure that increases the agricultural productivity and reduces the poverty at the same time. Government is also aware of the fact that for the growth and development of economy there is a need for the adequate availability of the infrastructure facilities but Governments face the stern budgetary constraints. Thus, it is important to make a bridge between the infrastructure and the poverty reduction and the wellbeing with reference to Uttar Pradesh where the large majority of rural people reside. Good infrastructure increases the capabilities and competences of the individuals that bring up their standard of living and ultimately reduces the poverty of the rural people. There is a need to bridge a gap between the rural and urban areas of the state.

### 2. ELEMENTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE:

There are number of studies which have been recognizing the importance of infrastructure for the development of the Uttar Pradesh and in increasing the capabilities of the individuals living in the rural Uttar Pradesh.

**Roads:** Roads are the essential part of transportation. Roads are very crucial for the maximization of the economic as well as social benefits and for this the network of the roads should be very efficient so that it may contribute to the functions of the community and enhance the overall performance of the individuals by increasing mobility and reducing poverty.

**Education:** Knowledge and learning are the two things which have been crucially recognized from the very beginning. Education has the very strong impact on the social as well as economic development of the country. Education can itself reduce the poverty, increase the employment, create opportunities, maintains the standard of living of the rural people. Hence, the role of the education is so very important for the nation as water for the living. Education is considered as a very necessary investment to the economy.

**Health:** The development of the economy of the country improves as the health of the citizens of the nation improves. An effective health system of the country is essential for providing due care to the sickness, prevent diseases, making institutions which promotes the wellbeing of the people of the nation making them more capable and efficient. Good health promotes the productivity of the labor, increases education level and so helps in reducing the unemployment. Good health also increases the income of the poor families as the investment of the income can be made on other important things. It ensures that the families are more likely to survive. Uttar Pradesh is a state where both type of diseases exists i.e., communicable and non- communicable diseases. People are not having the fast reach to the healthcare networks.

**Electricity:** Electricity or Energy is an essential component for the development of the economy. Energy contributes to both agricultural and industrial activities as both the activities demand for the energy. It basically improves the lives of the people living in the rural area as it helps in growing the economy. It is important to note that there is a correlation between the electricity and the economic development.

**Sewage Disposal:** More than half of the percentage of drinking water in India is contaminated by sewage which is very alarming situation that exists in almost in every developing and lower- income countries. It affects the health of the poor people and their families who lives in the slum areas. There should be an effective waste water management by which the environment is protected and the economy of the country grows. Poor sanitation is one of the factor which is draining the GDP each year.

**Information Technology:** There is a wider contribution of Information Technology in the development of the rural areas. Information Technology is anything which can be represented in the digital form as information. It includes all the things like news, communication, entertainment, educational materials, announcements, schedules, storage, electronic processing, etc. All these things are of great importance with a view to the development of the rural areas. They must be accessed with greater information technology so that it brings up their living standard, reduce unemployment and poverty. Information Technology is very helpful in the overall development of the people of the rural sector and ultimately it will raise the economy.

**Financial Institution:** Financial Institutions plays an important role in the economic life of the people of any nation in the world. These institutions regulate the supply of money in circulation and it influences the production and consumption patterns of the people of the people of any nation in one way or the other. They help in the proper allocation of the funds and also helps in creating better infrastructure necessary for the economic development. It also affects their production and consumption patterns as it helps the farmers in extending credit for the modernization of the agriculture and irrigation.

### 3. LITERATURE REVIEW:

**P. Satish (2007)** concluded in the study that an element in the successful provision of infrastructure on a commercial basis is the establishment of reliable revenue sources that give providers more financial autonomy. Reliance on revenues directly related to services delivered will increase the productivity of infrastructure suppliers and also often benefit users.

**Parveen Sharma (2011)** analysed that the increase in the services provided to the rural people will result in the overall improvement of the society on one side by enriching the people with updated market information and providing latest technological developmental news and organizations on other side by creating more market opportunities for them and adjustment of the market prices. I.T. services need to be developed in reference to the present rural infrastructure.

**Pradepta Kumar Samanta (2015)** concluded that rural roads are the wealth of a nation, they are the tool for social and economic development. Rural roads link communities and their agricultural fields to the main transport system and markets. When rural roads are improved, it reduces transportation cost and encourages marketing. This results in increased productivity, crop diversification and increased profitability.

**Soumya Manjunath Elumalai Kannan (2015)** assesses the relationship between agricultural productivity and infrastructure development across the districts of Karnataka. The foregoing analysis provides insights into understanding the main drivers of agricultural productivity in Karnataka using land productivity as the dependent variable. In order to examine the relationship between rural infrastructure and agricultural productivity, the paper focused on different classifications of rural infrastructure and estimated the influences of infrastructure on agricultural productivity using district level data for the period between 1980 and 2010 in Karnataka

**Suman Kumari, Shahnawaz Alam (2016)** concluded that the Rural Development Department is implementing a number of programmes/schemes in the rural areas of the State. The main goal of these programmes is to reduce poverty, increase the assets among the families belonging to the lowest income category, reduce involuntary unemployment & under employment to negligible levels, improve access of the poor to social services and infrastructure development of rural areas.

**Suman Kumari and Shahnawaz Alam (2016)** concluded that Uttar Pradesh has aspire to achieving enhanced production and productivity in rural areas, to bring about a greater socio-economic equity, to bring about a special balance in social and economic development, improvement in the ecological environment so that it may be conducive to growth and happiness.

#### 4. OBJECTIVES:

- To identify the problems of rural sector in Uttar Pradesh.
- To report on the relationship of infrastructure and wellbeing of the people of rural sector.
- To make suggestions regarding the development of the rural people.

#### 5. METHODOLOGY:

This paper is a descriptive type of research. The data has been collected from other articles and research journal papers. The paper addresses the problems of rural infrastructure and its impact on the wellbeing of the people of rural sector and tries to report on the relationship of the infrastructure, poverty and wellbeing with special reference to the Uttar Pradesh.

#### 6. EMERGING PROBLEMS IN UTTAR PRADESH:

**Infrastructure:** In Uttar Pradesh, roads and transportation system is very poor and bad which is the serious issue as it takes years to make new roads. Also, when new roads are being made, they get destroy in the very few months. The material used is so adulterated.

**High Population:** Uttar Pradesh is the highly-populated state of India which is increasing day by day. In any highly-populated state, there will be increasing poverty, low literacy level, high unemployment.

**Poverty:** As discussed above, according to the census 2011, 69% of the population of Uttar Pradesh is of rural people which is unskilled, and less educated and these factors ultimately affecting their lives because they are paid minimum wages which is hunting their family's consumption pattern and lowering their standard of living.

**Education:** As Uttar Pradesh is highly-populated state, youngster from rural as well as from urban area are looking for better education but the quality of education and education system is highly obsolete. It is very easy to get the Degree of Bachelor and Masters without aptitude and skills.

**Health:** Health is very crucial for the development of everyone but maintaining the proper health and cure of the diseases is a major issue.

**Skills:** People from rural sector are unskilled due to bad education, they are not provided with the efficient training and are not aware of the opportunities as well.

**Dependence on Agriculture:** Agriculture is the main source of income for the people of rural sector in Uttar Pradesh as it consists of more than half of the population. Government makes many initiatives for the finance and credit and other facilities for the farmers but they are not benefited from all these policies because of the lack of transparency.

**Law and Order:** Public Security in the state is very bad because the Government as well as police is full of corrupted people. They enjoy benefits on the cost of the innocent people.

#### 7. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INFRASTRUCTURE, POVERTY AND WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE OF UTTAR PRADESH:

There is a significant relationship between the Infrastructure, poverty alleviation and the wellbeing of the people as greater access to the infrastructural facilities to the people, greater development and growth of individual will be seen. Infrastructure is of many kind and they individually affect the wellbeing of the people of rural sector. Government continuously work for the rural infrastructure that increases the agricultural productivity and reduces the poverty at the same time. Government is also aware of the fact that for the growth and development of economy there

is a need for the adequate availability of the infrastructure facilities. Uttar Pradesh remained underdeveloped due to the lack of services like transport, communication, irrigation, electricity etc. and people are bound to suffer from the lack of these basic facilities. Infrastructure is the key element in the reduction of the poverty. Transport infrastructure unlocks the opportunities for the rural and poor people to advance and increase their productivity with the limited resources. It increases the mobility of the labors who reside in the rural areas. Agriculture is the main source of income for the people of Uttar Pradesh and the transport infrastructure for them makes it easy to get markets for their production with better prices, lowers the costs of inputs, facilitates easy access to finance and credit. It is to be noted that why some other countries are more advanced than India. The answer is the development of infrastructure facilities. When the goods are produced, there is a need for transportation and for this, brilliant roads are needed. Rural infrastructure is important for agriculture as well as nonagricultural activities and for the overall development of the economy. It provides the people of rural sector with the basic amenities that indirectly improves their quality of lives. Rural infrastructure expand markets for farmers, increases reach to the markets, higher demands, lower transportation costs, higher yields. Infrastructure covering roads, transportation system, power, telecommunication, health, water supply, sanitation, sewage, education all have a direct impact on the quality and wellbeing of the people of rural sector. How infrastructure is performing reflects how economy of the country is performing. No state can develop without investing in the infrastructure. The extent the infrastructure improves the living standard of the poor, it is likely to alleviate the poverty in the rural sector. The present paper is to report on the relationship between infrastructure, poverty and wellbeing of rural people in Uttar Pradesh and the paper analyses that there is a positive correlation between the infrastructure, poverty and wellbeing.

## **8. SUGGESTIONS:**

### **Creating Awareness and Providing Training for Using I.T Tools**

More awareness and training should be provided to the people of rural sector regarding the meaning of Information Technology and usage of its tools and also making them aware about the benefits therefrom. There is need to take initiatives to train the personnel at village and other rural sectors. People from rural sectors must be aware about the knowledge of the I.T tools and they must be encouraged towards involvement in the Information Technology.

### **Making Transparent Policies and Schemes by Government**

Policies and schemes are made for the betterment of the rural sector and its development but who takes the responsibility and accountability that these policies and schemes are functioning properly. There is a lack of transparency, corruption is the major problem and this influences the development of the rural areas and rural people are left with nothing in their hands. Therefore, while making policies, there must be transparency and someone should be held accountable.

### **Provision of Finance and Credit**

Banks plays an important role in creating the source of finance and credit for the smooth functioning of the trade and commerce. For the rural sector, it is very crucial that there must be presence of the sound banking system that provides the efficient provisions of finance and credit for these people so that they can work for their living smoothly and efficiently. It also affects their production and consumption patterns and so there is a need to make provisions for farmers in extending credit for the modernization of their agriculture and irrigation.

### **R&D Investments**

R&D investments meaningfully gives impact on the rural poverty reduction but many times it has some smaller effects on the poverty because the R&D work is through the improved techniques which do not benefit the poor directly. Farmers or poor from rural sector uses obsolete techniques of agriculture and they cannot afford the improved techniques at one time. Hence, there is a need to do R&D specially for the poor or rural people that benefits them directly at the lowest cost.

### **Accountable and Efficient functions of Gram Panchayat**

The Gram panchayats are expected to play the significant role in the rural development. They work for empowering rural population, provides rural infrastructure, growth opportunities for the poor, makes sure that there is availability of the natural and financial resources for their livelihood, etc. but it is always needed to check into the functioning of these panchayats so that they do not deviate from their paths and make sure that there is proper accountability and functions efficiently.

## **8. IMPLICATION OF EFFICIENT RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES IN U.P**

There are many rural development programmes which have been implemented in the Uttar Pradesh which ensures a huge hike in expenditures in the rural areas. All the programmes have been made to recommend the state to exploit them to best possible to increase their resources effectively. Some of the names of such programmes are as follows:

- **PRADHAN MANTRI VIDYA LAKSMI KARYAKRAM:** Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi is a first kind of portal for the students who are seeking loan for the education. It aims to bring all banks who provides educational loans. 39 banks have been registered under 70 educational loan schemes. This portal has been developed under the guidance of Department of Financial Services, Department of Higher Education and Indian Bank Association. This portal is being managed and maintained by NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure limited. Students can view, apply for the education loan anytime and it also provides linkages for Government Scholarships.
- **PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA:** The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) was launched by the Government of India on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2000 to provide all weather connectivity to the unrelated rural areas of the country making it a strategy for poverty reduction. The Yojana predicted to connect population of 500 and above persons in plain areas and 250 and above persons in hill states, tribal and desert areas. It involves construction of about 3.71 lakh km. of roads for the purpose of new connectivity and 3.68 lakh km. under the upgradation.
- **UTTAR PRADESH LOHIA GRAMIN AWAS YOJANA:** Uttar Pradesh Lohia Gramin Awas Yojana is social welfare programme created by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide houses for the rural people. Under this scheme of Indira Awas Yojana, every year the Government selects the fixed number of beneficiary for providing home. It is provided through the BPL List for poor families of SC, ST, OBC and unreserved category. It aims at providing the best housing requirements to the beneficiaries. It is one of the most famous and popular housing scheme of Uttar Pradesh Government.
- **SWARANJAYANTI GRAM SWAROZGAR YOJANA:** Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar yojana was launched in April, 1999. The objective of Swarnajayanti Gram Yojana (SGSY) is to bring Swarozgaries above Poverty line by ensuring continuous level of income. The aim behind the Yojana is to be achieved by organizing the rural poor into self-help groups (SHGs) through social mobilization, training of the rural and poor people, capacity building and by making provisions of income generating assets.
- **SWATCH BHARAT MISSION:** Swatch Bharat Mission was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 throughout the country as a national move. Prime Minister himself initiated the cleanliness drive at Mandir Marg Police Station. He simultaneously addressed the health problems that Families in India are facing because of the lack of proper toilets in their homes. The objective is to create a sense of responsibility among the people to make their surroundings clean and thereby making India clean.

All these programmes have been made to provide the poor and rural people with the better education, employment, making connectivity with the roads, face competition and challenges etc. but there must be the greater transparency so that the poor the benefited the most. It will help them getting employment, increased income of the family, pursue better education, reduce poverty and live happily.

## 9. IDENTIFY THE AREAS WHERE GOVERNMENT IS NEEDED AND WHERE NOT?:

Government plays a major role in the development of the infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh but sometimes the initiatives of the Government becomes ineffective and for this, it is better to see the areas where the role of Government is needed because private sector can also be positioned in a better way to shape the outcomes. It is better to distribute the projects and models and decentralize the work among private and public.

## 10. CONCLUSION:

The paper has addressed various problems of the Uttar Pradesh and it also analyses that there is positive relationship between the infrastructure, poverty and wellbeing of the rural people. Uttar Pradesh needs Infrastructure for its development and growth. The Government of Uttar Pradesh must focus on building the new cities and better infrastructure which will help in increasing the employment rate, better education by building new and advanced Colleges and Universities. The aim of Poverty alleviation and wellbeing of the rural people of Uttar Pradesh can be achieved by the proper development of Infrastructure in the state. It includes availability of primary Schools and Health Care Centre in all the villages of the state, supporting farmers in terms of subsidies, discounts, provision of credits and finance, availability of water supply and sewage disposal, telecommunication, roads, dams, power etc. More and more awareness and training is needed in every sector for the wellbeing of the people of rural Uttar Pradesh.

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