

ANALYSIS OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA: PROGRESS AND PROJECT APPRAISAL

Saroj Bala Dewatwal*

ABSTRACT

Infrastructure is considered the second pillar of economic growth as infrastructure facilities form the backbone of a nation's economy. The development of a country's infrastructure is vital for growth of its sectors and for overall economy. It is a key requirement for sustainable development. The provision of quality and efficient social & economic infrastructure helps in realizing the full potential of the developing economies. Developing infrastructure enhances productivity, better business environment and thus, boosting the economy. Also, better infrastructure facilities are required for rapid economic growth and human resource development in terms of poverty reduction, employment generation & raising the living standard. In the series of initiatives by the government of India to boost infrastructure sector, Public private partnership (PPP) and Project implementation in key sectors are on utmost priority. The present paper explores the progress and recent developments in key sectors including power, transport, telecom and water. The paper appraises the position of mega and major project implementation in these key sectors. Also, the progress of projects during 12th plan period is highlighted.

KEYWORDS: Sustainable Development, PPP, Project Appraisal, Business Environment & Economic Growth.

Introduction

It is said that 'road to development' is always under construction. So, it is an ongoing process and reveals that there is a close link between infrastructure and country's development. According to Dr. Rao, the link between infrastructure and development is not a once for all affair, it is a continuous process and progress in development has to be preceded, accompanied and followed by progress in infrastructure, if are to be fulfilled our declared objectives of self accelerating process of economic development . Infrastructure is a key measure of a country's position on the global stage and assessed as the second pillar of economic growth by the World Economic Forum.

Literature Review

The role of Physical infrastructure in promoting economic development has been well presented in the literature (**Sahoo & Dash 2009**). Thus, Indian government's first priority is the challenge of maintaining and managing high growth in infrastructure sector. The government of India has taken various initiatives to promote infrastructure facilities in India as it is a pre requisite for the development of any economy. Appropriate infrastructure aids in increasing productive efficiency of industries and employment opportunities both directly and indirectly (**Alleman 2002**).

Infrastructure facilities contribute to enhance productivity and potential ability of human capital to function better. Infrastructure both social and physical is essential for promoting better utilization of human resources and improving economic growth & quality of life (**De and Ghosh 2003**). The scope of infrastructure includes roads, railways, air and water transport, electric power, telecommunication & information technology. Infrastructure helps in productive process of agriculture, manufacturing and

* Assistant Professor, Department of EAFM, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, Rajasthan.