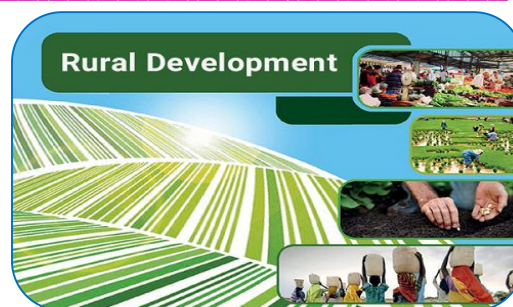




A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN KALVARAYAN HILLS BLOCKS OF VILLUPURAM DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

Dr. P. Murugesan

Assistant Professor , Centre for Rural Development,
Annamalai University , Annamalainagar.



ABSTRACT:

Basic infrastructure like safe drinking water and social infrastructure such as schools to provide education, to establish the health care providers are essential to promote better utilisation and by improving the economic growth and quality of life in the villages particularly among the rural poor and also among those who are settled at the remote places away from the access of the physical infrastructure. It is very essential to strengthen infrastructure facilities such as transportation, communication, health and so on among the rural people. In fact, India's high rate of economic growth will be difficult to sustain if infrastructure development does not increase and keep pace with the demand for the same. This study entitled "The Physical infrastructures of Rural People in Kalvarayan Hills Block", helps to find out the situation of rural infrastructure, the status of living conditions of rural people in the study area and the existence of relationship and impact between infrastructure development and rural livelihoods of Kalvarayan hills block. As this is one of the underdeveloped blocks in Tamilnadu, in Villupuram District, one-third of population live under absolute poverty. Kalvarayan Hills is landlocked and bordered by three districts Salem, Villupuram and Thiruvannamalai. In the block most of the territory remains as high mountains and a little small part of the area is terrain. Because of its landlocked nature and formation of territory, the economy is mainly agriculture based; besides, tourism is an alternative and also a potential sector for economic growth and livelihood.

KEYWORDS: Basic infrastructure , safe drinking water and social infrastructure.

1. INTRODUCTION

Rural Development is usually used to convey the activities and initiatives that are taken to improve the living standards in the rural areas, country side villages. These rural communities can be exemplified on account of low ration of open space inhabitants. The farming activities may be over bearing in this case where the economic activities would connect to the primary sector, production of food and raw materials. Rural progress is a process that is aimed at improving the overall well being of the masses habituating away from the urbanized places; usually rural development has meant the extension of farming facilities like irrigation, electricity, improvised cultivation techniques, school buildings and educational facilities, health care facilities and the like (Shisodia, 2006).

The linkage between infrastructure system and progress is an evergreen topic open to verbal combat. Adequate and essential infrastructure aids in the determination of a nation's success or failure through diversifying production, expansion of trade, coping with population increase, managing poverty or handling environmental degradation. Good infrastructure increases productivity and decreases production costs, and also aids to extend extensively to accommodate progress (The World

Bank, 1994). Rural infrastructure comprises of rural roads, housing and electrification. Rural road connectivity aspect is an essential factor for rural development. A centrally aided and controlled scheme has been launched called the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) which seeks to enable connectivity to the varied unconnected habitations of the rural areas with an inhabitation of more than 500 persons through good roads by the completion of the Tenth Plan period. In the hilly states and desert areas, the mission would connect habitations with population of 250 persons+ in the respective areas. In order to accomplish the objective of the Programme, a budget of Rs.60. 000 Crores were estimated. The 1991 Census stated that around 3.1 million households are homeless and about 10.31 million households reside in unsafe kutcha houses. Considering the intensity of this concern, a National Housing Habitat Policy was floated in 1998 which aims at ensuring "Housing for all" and facilitates the construction of around 201akh additional housing Units (13lakh in rural villages and 71akh in urban areas) annually with an emphasis to extend benefits to the poor masses and the economically downtrodden. The Government is also committed to its goal of shelter for all by the completion of the Tenth Plan period. For achieving the objective, a comprehensive blue print for rural village housing has been prepared. The objective of the Indira Gandhi Awas Yojna (IAY) is to ensure assistance and support to the below poverty line households (BPL) of the Scheduled caste, Scheduled tribe, and free bonded labour categories.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

D.B Usharani & Nandini K (2018) Ideal nutrition is essential for normal health, development and health maintenance throughout childhood. In the early stages of childhood the body is in need of both good quantity and quality food nutrients to facilitate the growth process. Majority of the children are victims of malnutrition on account low socio-economic basis. Our nation ranks low in the health status which also effects the future generations by way of severe malnutrition. Therefore, the Government has framed the ICDS scheme to provide food to needy children. A cross-sectional research has been done by using chi-square to authenticate the dependent variable and independent variables. The paper studies the use of supplements on the nutritional status of children and also to analyse household factors affecting the children's nutritional status.

Atrayee Ghosh Roy (2018) looked at the progress effect of India's physical infrastructure investments. Using 1980-2014 time series data, this paper tried to check from an empirical view point whether inefficiencies in infrastructure investments will hinder its economic growth potential, is impressive. An alternative equation model was being designed to cater to the two-way connection between economic progress and physical infrastructure investment. The results reveal that the physical infrastructure contribution to the national economic progress is negative and also statistically significant. Additionally, the results suggested that India's physical infrastructure investment is not in alignment with rapid economic growth.

R. Saravanan & Jayaprakash (2016) Indian tribes are a diverse group; majority remain at the lowest layer of the society due to multiple aspects like geographical and cultural isolation, low literacy, primitive occupations, and extreme poverty. The present study attempts to study the Health Status of Tribal women in Kalvarayan Hills at Villupuram district. A total of 60 tribal women were interrogated using an Interview schedule. The results revealed that there is a need for clinics that can take care of their physical and psychological requirements. It further stressed approachability of health services as a prime reason for the tribal women not going in for the health care services. The study also suggested provision of mobile clinic to cater to the community requirements every month on a predetermined date regularly.

Elie Ngongang (2015) stated that physical infrastructure is a sequence of interrelated structural components whose role is to help generate capital flows for the society to operate effectively. They enable the transfer of capital flows that ensure progress and stability. Further, pose a major encounter to progress and development. In this paper, we tried to evaluate the influence of physical infrastructure and financial progress on foreign direct investment (FDI) in the realm of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) by taking two different theoretical approaches namely (the paradox of Lucas) combine. and

external internal factors), and assimilating the association between the components of capital flows. Our regressions demonstrate the status of nonlinear effects to demonstrate the determinants of private capital. This analysis also highlights the more vital and essential role.

Sawada Yasuyuki et.al (2014) stated while affinity to physical infrastructure has improved the family's well-being, microeconomics, which has long influenced its function in limiting family and economic base there is insignificant long-term and temporary poverty in the study area. The purpose of this study is to bridge this lacunae in the existing literature by assessing the influence of large irrigation infrastructure projects of Sri Lanka. It has determined the access impact to irrigation by using the government's use of lottery tickets to distribute irrigated land. To unlock the channels where irrigation decreases poverty, it has expanded the seasonal consumption of the Parkson Smoothing Model.

Akhalumeh Paul and Ohiokha (2013) The article observes how infrastructure will play a key role in reaching Nigeria's vision 20:2020. The objective is to evaluate whether Nigeria's infrastructure base is sufficient as a prerequisite for accomplishing the commendable Vision 2020. The Nigerian government is expected to use the outcome of the study to assess Nigeria's infrastructure which will enable to take appropriate steps to rectify the apparent lack of infrastructure facilities. The study utilized a two-tier data from published materials from Trusted Internet sites to analyze the present situation in Nigeria. The study results reveal that despite the greatness of the Vision 2020 project, there still seems to be a dearth of willingness to accomplish the vision ideal, which is clear in the transport infrastructure, power generation and electricity construction. The technical impulses stated in the higher education standards in Nigeria should embrace concrete steps to resolve the concern of power distribution and also generation alongside the restructuring of the tertiary education.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Objectives

- To assess the status of physical infrastructures existing at present and in the past in Kalvarayan Hills block.
- To study the determinants that aid the access to the physical infrastructure like safe drinking water, transport and communication, banking facilities and health-care providers;
- To evolve the measures for effective management system of physical infrastructure available in Kalvarayan Hills block besides suggesting suitable policy measures to improve physical infrastructures in the said block.

3.1.2. Sample Design

The details of samples drawn from the study areas are as given below. The Villupuram District in Tamilnadu consists of 22 blocks. This study focused on physical infrastructure and its management by the tribal population in Kalvarayan block. This block had higher tribal population than the other blocks. To enlist the opinion and factors affecting the physical infrastructure, 22 villages of Kalvarayan block were selected for the study. Further, 15 households were identified from each village and the total number of samples selected for the present study by using Multi stage Disproportionate Stratified Random Sampling method was 330 households.

3.1.3. Data Analysis

The filled up interview schedule information was coded all the variables numerically. Editing was done spread sheets with the help of SPSS software package. In analysing, statistical description, tabulation, simple percentage average and testing hypothesis were made by using this SPSS software computer programme. Then, every village's sample respondents were selected for the analysis of the research study. The quantitative data were collected by adopting **Multi stage Disproportionate Stratified Random Sampling**. To understand the nature of the data, firstly, frequency tables were prepared, and subsequently the analysis and tabulation have been carried out using research techniques based on the requirement. Further, Chi-Square test and Binary Logistic Regression model were used.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter deals the demographic, social and economic profile of the respondents with regards to the Physical Infrastructures in Kalvarayan Hills Block, Villupuram District in Tamilnadu. The Socio Economic and Demographic characteristics of the respondents may likely to influence on the physical infrastructure in the study area. The level of education, income mode of conveyance would affect management of physical infrastructure. To understand the management of physical infrastructure and the determinants of them also discussed in the chapter.

Table 4.1. Distribution of Respondents according to Age

Sl. No	Age	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	21-30 years	21 (12.7)	40 (24.4)	61 (18.5)
2.	31-40 Years	68 (41.1)	51 (34.9)	119 (36.1)
3.	41-50 Years	56 (33.9)	27 (16.4)	83 (25.1)
4.	51 and above Years	20 (12.3)	47 (28.3)	67 (20.3)
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

It is said that age structure reflects the demographic and socio-economic history of a population over a period of about a century. Certainly, it is the result of various and interrelated factors such as fertility, mortality and migration, which have operated during the lifetime of the oldest inhabitants. Table 5.1 reveals that the total respondents in the study are age it was observed that the age group of 21-30 years was 18.5 followed by the age group between 31-40, 41-50, 51 and above years were 36.1, 25.1 and 20.3% respectively. It was observed in the north 41.1% were falling in the age group of 31-40 years. But this proportion in the south was 34.9%.

Table 4.2. Distribution of Respondents according to Sex

Sl.No	Sex	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	Male	98 (59.4)	95 (57.6)	193
2.	Female	67 (40.6)	70 (42.4)	137
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

Sex is an important characteristic of the social characteristics which determines the social status of the house as per the number of males and Females in the house. Figure 4.2 reveals that the total respondents in the study area are 193 males and 137 females. Of the male respondents, about 59.4% of the respondents reported that they are the heads of the family in the North villages of Pacheri, this proportion was very low (57.6%) in the South whereas the female proportion was 40.6% in the North. It is to be noted that this proportion was low in South. Hence, there is a likely chance of utilization of the physical infrastructure to be varied based on the situation of the heads of family in the study regions.

Table 4.3. Distribution of Respondents according to Community

Sl.No	Community	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	SC	28 (17.0)	29 (17.6)	57
2.	ST	97 (58.8)	93 (56.4)	190
3.	BC	19 (11.5)	30 (18.2)	49
4.	MBC	21 (12.7)	13 (7.9)	34
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

Community is the characteristic that helps to understand the status of the individuals in the society. The community which is socially and economically backward live away from the infrastructure developed areas. It may be due to their occupation and cultural behavior etc. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the proportion of respondents who belong to the community which would help to know what condition of the physical infrastructure for utilization is or whether they are in affordable conditions. Figure 4.3 shows that SCs and STs were the main respondents as they were covered by more than 72% of the total respondents. STs Respondents were more than other villages to Pacheri, SCs, BCs and MBCs (17.3, 14.8 and 10.3 respectively) were in high proportion in the North Region.

Table 4.4. Percentage Distribution of Respondents Opinion on availability of Post Office

Sl.No	Availability of post office	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	Yes	150 (90.9)	134 (81.2)	284
2.	No	15 (9.1)	31 (18.8)	46
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

Table 4.4 shows the availability of post office, as it makes the relationship between the government sectors and the people residing in the area. Because the telecommunications and connecting the people with various technical development in the country. The basic among this is post office in the telecommunications. The answers were obtained from the respondents that whether there is post office available. 90 and 81% for the respondents reported that they have post office in the study areas. But south region 18% of the respondents reported they were lacking post offices.

Table 4.5. Percentage Distribution of Respondents opinion on Using EB Service

Sl.No	Use EB Service	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	Yes	116 (70.3)	138 (83.6)	254
2.	No	49 (29.6)	27 (16.3)	76
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

Table 4.5 indicates the availability of Electricity board to collect the revenue related usage of electricity. Three-fourth of the respondents (70 and 83% in north and south respectively) had informed that they have facilities to collect the revenue from the people for usage of electricity. But one fourth of the respondents reported as they had no facilities to collect the revenue of electricity used by the people in the areas. Though the proportion seems to be very low this basic physical infrastructure availability is lacking in the area.

Table 4.6. Percentage Distribution of Respondents' Responses on Village Roads

Sl.No	Status of road	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	Concrete	14 (8.48)	31 (18.7)	45
2.	Thar road	80 (48.4)	85 (51.5)	165
3.	Village road	71 (43.0)	49 (29.6)	120
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

Table 4.6 explains the status of road in the study area, which reveals that 18.7 and 8.5% of the respondents reported they use concrete road to travel from an area to other in south and north region respectively. Similarly, 29.6 and 43% of the respondents reported they use village road as the main source of travelling road in the study area. To find the development of road facilities is the basic thing not only for travel but also necessary to have better communication, supply of basic demands of the people like public distribution and welfare scheme of the government to the people.

Table 4.7. Percentage Distribution by Responses Availability of Primary Health Centres (PHCs)

Sl.No	Availability Of PHC	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	No	150 (90.9)	149 (90.3)	299
2.	Yes	15 (9.1)	16 (9.7)	31
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

Indian government gives more importance on health of the people and Health for all was introduced to make awareness among people to maintain health of the people, so that to obtain the health facilities in the remote areas is possible only through the Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) of the government. The analysis revealed by the above table shows that only 10% of the respondents reported that they were using the PHCs in the study area and remaining 90% of the respondents reported that they were not using PHCs for the services which may be due to the distance, facilities and doctors available in PHCs.

Table 4.8. Percentage Distribution by Responses on Used Primary School Service for Children

Sl.No	Used primary school service for children	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	No	28 (17.0)	24 (14.5)	52
2.	Yes	137 (83.0)	141 (85.5)	278
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

The above table reveals that whether respondents use primary school service for their children, 85.5 and 83% of South and North respondents reported used primary schools for their development respectively. Though, there were developments in both the regions south had comparatively more developments in comparison to North. Around 15% of the respondents did not use the schools in the study area.

Table 4.9. Percentage Distribution by Responses on Availability of Basic infrastructure Facilities, such as Toilet, Proper Class Room etc

Sl.No	Availability of basic infrastructure facilities, such as toilet, proper class room etc	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	No	90 (54.5)	88 (53.3)	178
2.	Yes	75 (45.5)	77 (46.7)	152
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

The above table infers the responses of respondents for the question as to whether the primary schools had basic facilities for the students. Nearly 55% of the respondents told that the schools in the study areas did not have basic facilities such as toilets, class room, and drinking water and playground etc., for the students in the schools. It is the duty of the government to provide the basic facilities for the students. It is the bounden duty of the people in these areas to bring to the notice of the policy makers and planners.

Table 4.10. Percentage Distribution by Responses on Availability of Water and Tank

Sl.No	Availability of Water tanks	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	Yes	112 (67.8)	94 (56.9)	206
2.	No	53 (32.2)	71 (43.1)	124
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

Drinking water is a basic requirement for life and a determinant of standard of living. However, besides government efforts, supply and demand factors of both surface and groundwater determine the level of drinking water available to people. The supply and demand factors increase with the natural and human factors like pollution. This limits drinking water supply provision and raises the delivery cost. Decline in groundwater table and availability of surface water, particularly in summer months, has put large number of people in risk for want of drinking water. Poor water quality problem has also been observed in a number of habitations. Inadequate resource management and institutional system seems to be the major cause for the present problems. Availability of drinking water facilities shows the socio-economic status of the regions. The extent of water providing services may likely increase the health of the individuals and family and finally lead to the maintenance of health for the animals too. About one third of the respondents reported that they had water facilities for drinking and remaining percentage of the respondents reported they had no having drinking water facilities. Moreover, they had reported if they want to satisfy their demand of drinking water facility they had to go for long distances to have safe drinking water. It is the duty of the government to provide safe drinking water to the people. While comparing the north and south region in the Kalvarayan block the south region was comparatively less in proportion of the respondents who reported that they had lacking of safe drinking water.

Table 4.11. Distribution of Respondents according to Availability Banking Services

Sl.No	Availability of Banking Services	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	No facilities	103 (62.2)	98 (59.4)	301
2.	Available	62 (37.8)	67 (40.6)	29
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

The above Table 4.11. infers the answer for the availability of banking facilities in the study areas. About 62 and 60% of the respondents had no banking facilities in the north and south regions. Around 40% of the respondents informed they had banking facilities in the study area. Hence the concern of banking facilities was comparatively in a better situation in the south region whereas the north region has to travel a long distance to get improved banking facilities.

Table 4.12. Distribution of respondents according to Availability of Waiting Hall, Toilet Facilities in Bus Stations

Sl.No	Availability of Waiting Hall, Toilet Facilities in Bus Stations	Villages		Total
		North	South	
1.	No	132 (80.0)	133 (80.6)	265
2.	Yes	33 (20.0)	32 (19.4)	65
Total		165	165	330

(Figure within the brackets denote percent) Source: computed from primary data

Table 4.12. Infers about the basic facilities available at the bus stand for the utilization of public while they use the bus stand for travelling. Four in fifth of the respondents reported as there were no basic facilities in the bus stand for the use. But one in fifth of the respondents reported that they had basic facilities like toilets and other related facilities. It shows that either particular people only use the toilets or those people were not interested to understand as to what facilities should be provided by the government.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. Total respondents in the study are age it was observed that the age group of 21-30 years was 18.5 followed by the age group between 31-40, 41-50, 51 and above years were 36.1, 25.1 and 20.3% respectively. It was observed in the north 41.1% were falling in the age group of 31-40 years. But this proportion in the south was 34.9%.
2. Of the male respondents, about 59.4% of the respondents reported that they are the heads of the family in the North villages of Pacheri, this proportion was very low (57.6%) in the South whereas the female proportion was 40.6% in the North. It is to be noted that this proportion was low in South.
3. SCs and STs were the main respondents as they were covered by more than 72% of the total respondents. STs Respondents were more than other villages to Pacheri, SCs, BCs and MBCs (17.3, 14.8 and 10.3 respectively) were in high proportion in the North Region.
4. 90 and 81% for the respondents reported that they have post office in the study areas. But south region 18% of the respondents reported they were lacking post offices.
5. Three-fourth of the respondents (70 and 83% in north and south respectively) had informed that they have facilities to collect the revenue from the people for usage of electricity. But one fourth of the respondents reported as they had no facilities to collect the revenue of electricity used by the people in the areas.
6. 29.6 and 43% of the respondents reported they use village road as the main source of travelling road in the study area. To find the development of road facilities is the basic thing not only for travel but also necessary to have better communication, supply of basic demands of the people like public distribution and welfare scheme of the government to the people.
7. 10% of the respondents reported that they were using the PHCs in the study area and remaining 90% of the respondents reported that they were not using PHCs for the services which may be due to the distance, facilities and doctors available in PHCs.
8. 85.5 and 83% of South and North respondents reported used primary schools for their development respectively. Though, there were developments in both the regions south had comparatively more developments in comparison to North. Around 15% of the respondents did not use the schools in the study area.
9. 55% of the respondents told that the schools in the study areas did not have basic facilities such as toilets, class room, and drinking water and playground etc., for the students in the schools. It is the

duty of the government to provide the basic facilities for the students. It is the bounden duty of the people in these areas to bring to the notice of the policy makers and planners.

10. 62 and 60% of the respondents had no banking facilities in the north and south regions. Around 40% of the respondents informed they had banking facilities in the study area. Hence the concern of banking facilities was comparatively in a better situation in the south region whereas the north region has to travel a long distance to get improved banking facilities.

CONCLUSION

The physical infrastructure and human capital can constrain the economic growth of the people in the rural areas. The physical infrastructures comprises of village markets, community hall, availability of post office, electricity board, bus station mode of conveyance etc., are set up for promotion of rapid industrialization and also improves the people's quality of life. Adequate physical infrastructure amenities are an absolute necessity for rapid achievement of sustainable economic growth and hence, they are mentioned as wheels of development, without the physical infrastructure here is no economy function in the society. To assess the impact of the government's efforts on basic, social, health care providers and transport and communication infrastructure are major emerging aspects in the field of rural development. This is a fact that India's high rate of economic growth will be difficult to sustain if infrastructure development does not rise and keep pace with the demand. Therefore, a number of measures are essential to address the various infrastructure constraints that the country faces and thereby improve the productivity of physical infrastructures.

It is very essential to strengthen infrastructure facilities such as transportation, communication, health and so on among the rural people. In fact, India's high rate of economic growth will be difficult to sustain if infrastructure development does not increase and keep pace with the demand for the same. Therefore, a number of measures are required to address the various infrastructure constraints that the country faces and improve the productivity of physical infrastructures.

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Dr. P. Murugesan

Assistant Professor , Centre for Rural Development, Annamalai University ,
Annamalainagar.