

# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

## **Abstract:**

*Rural development mainly depends on infrastructure. Human development and infrastructure are directly related to each other. Schools, hospitals, road connectivity, water supply, banks are important infrastructures in improving the living standards of people in rural areas. Human development is easy only if people are provided with basic facilities and their living standards are improved. Three key dimensions of a long and healthy life, education, and standard of living are included in the Human Development Index, a measurement tool for assessing human development. Human development can be measured through these three dimensions. Human development is the main tool to measure the economic development of a country. If human development is increasing, that area is moving towards development.*

## **1.1 Introduction:**

The improvement in people's quality of life as measured by various health and educational indicators is referred to as human development. Through advancements in skills, education, and health, human growth generates human potential. As a result, productivity rises and economic growth quickens. It is credited to the famous economist Mehbooba ul Haq for giving particular attention to human development. The Human Development Index is a metric used to assess each United Nations member state's level of individual human development. In 1990, the United States launched the Human progress Index to highlight the idea that people and their potential should be the primary factor to evaluate a nation's level of progress. By integrating indices of lifelong education or knowledge area and income or standard of living, the Human Development Index calculates the degree and changes in quality of life. Mehbooba ul Haq and Amritsena, two distinguished economists from India and Pakistan, created the index.

The government of India has concentrated on initiatives to raise people's quality of living by constructing roads, schools, hospitals, sanitary facilities, and water supplies. Human growth and economic development are made feasible when people access basic infrastructure. Providing social services to the public, particularly the weaker and more marginalised segments, depends heavily on investments in social infrastructure. Infrastructure is essential to attaining and

sustaining high levels of human development. The goal of infrastructure is to eradicate regional disparities.

According to the World Health Organization, the Human Development Index is defined as follows. "The Human Development Index is a composite measure of a country's average achievements in three basic dimensions of human development: health, knowledge and living standards.

There is a connection between poverty and gender inequality. When it comes to access to excellent education, skills, health care, food, clothing, and other necessities, gender inequality is frequently present in low-income households. Because of this, women are denied the same possibilities as men, which hinders their ability to find acceptable work and generate revenue. Accordingly, the 2005 Human progress Report suggested that if gender equality is not accompanied by progress, it could be in danger.

Human development puts people at the core of progress and aims to improve their well-being. It includes all facets of development. It consists of all aspects of human development that impact people's lives, such as social cohesiveness, empowerment, economic progress, political and cultural freedom, social security, and meeting fundamental requirements. It is intended to supplement GDP to highlight the role that human development plays in the growth process. The following are the Human Development Index's dimensions.

❖ **Long and Healthy Life:**

The life expectancy at birth determines the measure of a long and healthy life. A person's life expectancy at birth is the amount of time they should anticipate living on average, given their birth year and present age.

❖ **Education:**

Indicators of education include mean and expected years of education. The average length of schooling is 15 years, but the maximum possible length is 18 years, according to the United Nations.

❖ **Standard of Living:**

Gross National Income per capita is commonly used to assess the standard of living. In 2021, India ranked 132nd out of 191 countries in the Human Development Index. As of 2020-21, Karnataka ranked third in India's index. In 2019-20, Karnataka ranked 66th in the Human Development Index. But in 2020-21, Karnataka ranked 2nd.

## **1.2. Relationship between Human Development and Rural Infrastructure:**

Infrastructure is closely related to human development in rural areas. They are explained as follows.

### **1.2.1 Human Development and Transport System:**

A vital component of human transportation, transportation is a crucial infrastructure that facilitates the movement of people and things between locations. The integration of human development in rural areas is facilitated by transportation, which serves as a link between manufacturing facilities and end customers. Transportation can be divided into four primary categories: air, sea, rail, and road.

Road transport plays a vital role in rural development of India. Road transport facilitates agricultural development, industrial development, trade development, job creation, dissemination of education, etc. Roads are mainly classified as National Highways, State Highways, District Roads and Rural Roads. National Highways connect the national capital Delhi and state capitals with major cities, district headquarters and national highways. The construction, maintenance and management of these roads is the responsibility of the state governments. The taluk headquarters of the district are important places. The roads connecting state highways and national highways are district roads. The construction, maintenance and management of these roads are the responsibility of the local bodies. The roads connecting the taluk headquarters and various villages are rural roads. These roads are mostly unpaved roads.

Road density is very important to increase the income index of the people. It is essential for the human development process. Rural road transport is giving its own importance to rural human development by helping people to get education, expand the market for goods and travel to distant areas. The growth of road transport has increased jobs, goods and services and has helped in rural development as well as increasing human development.

The development and expansion of rail transport has revolutionized the transport system across the world. The construction of railway lines in India started in 1844. The first train in India covered a distance of 34 km between Bombay and Thane in April 1853. Rural development can be accelerated by the creation of employment opportunities, agricultural development, industrial development, and expansion of trade through rail transport.

Railway transport helps people move from one area to another to provide rich regional services to isolated rural areas living in the nation. Rail transport helps in human development in rural areas by accessing the market. Rail transport increases the interest of investment in rural areas. As the amount of investment increases, employment opportunities are created in rural areas. This can lead to human development.

Human development also increases as the spread of education through rail transport increases. In addition, many goods and resources needed by humans can be delivered at very low cost through rail transport.

The movement of people and products by rivers, canals, seas, or oceans is known as water transportation. The primary modes of water transportation are ships and boats. Waterways don't require development or maintenance because they are natural. Water transportation is, therefore, the most affordable mode of transportation. This transportation mechanism is capable of carrying both heavy and bulky items. In India, there are two types of water transportation: sea transportation and inland waterway transportation. The movement of people and products along rivers and canals by small boats and ships is known as inland waterway transportation.

Water transport infrastructure plays a big role in human development in rural areas. People in rural areas save internal water transport and do business. Many people in the study area do their business transactions through water transport. And they travel to distant places through water transport. Water transport is directly helping human development. As human development progresses, rural areas develop. And people are getting the necessary goods and services through water transport. Thus, water transport plays an important role in human development.

Air travel is a relatively new invention. Passengers are transported by aircraft. The quickest and priciest mode of transportation is air travel. The frontline of national defence is air transportation.

When we take rural development, the air transport system is helpful only for the urban people in rural areas. Rural areas are far from this transport system. But in the study area, this transport system is expected to be available in the near future. Thus, this transport system is indirectly helpful in human development, even if it is not directly.

The system is a two-way street. The message flows in two directions. Communication is a political force that influences all constraints and limitations. Agriculture and rural development desperately need strategies that include communication. Governments need to promote public

awareness about agricultural innovations. Governments need to take necessary steps to improve the livelihood of rural people, especially in health, education and other aspects of rural development. Communication plays an important role in supporting agricultural extension and disseminating non-farm information and advice to the rural people. The communication policy aims to systematically promote rural communication activities. It is working to provide information to the rural people through its successful media such as radio, computers and the Internet.

Human survival in society is only through communication. Therefore, communication is recognized as the oldest continuous activity of man since birth and continues till death. Communication is a basic human need and the network of society. It helps in the growth, progress and development of man. Communication sustains life. It strengthens the sense of solidarity through the exchange of messages. Therefore, communication is a very powerful factor in the socio-economic status of a person.

The residents of rural areas now have access to more postal services and faster transactions. The Department of Posts has provided the latest solar-powered hand-held devices to improve postal operations in branch offices that do not have a computerized network.

Post offices in rural India are the largest network of financial communication and other retail services providers. The postal service aims to improve the quality of life of people living in isolated areas by increasing their participation levels and meeting their needs. The Department of Posts has been involved in rural development for the last 150 years. Electronically enabled post offices are reducing complaints of discrimination and neglect faced by rural India. Post offices provide a large number of services in rural areas through their vast network to provide several utility services to customers.

### **1.2.2 Human Development and Communication:**

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### **1.2.3 Human Development and Banking Growth:**

Finance is an important concept and banks play a major role in financial transactions. Banks play a vital role in human development and rural development. Banks promote efficient allocation of resources in productive activities. Access to finance helps in carrying out day-to-day services. Banks protect rural people from being cheated by moneylenders. Financial development has a major impact on the growth of human capital. Hence, it affects the level of human development. Income inequality and poverty act as a hindrance to human development. Financial development reduces income inequality and alleviates poverty. Banking process is positively associated with human development.

Financial inclusion is one of the key factors in human development. The financial system promotes the allocation of resources in a productive way. India has witnessed unprecedented growth and progress since liberalization. The banking sector has played a major role in putting

rural development on a growth path in the last two decades. The nationalization of banks in 1969 allowed for rapid expansion of the banking system in rural areas. In addition, to meet the financial needs of people in rural areas, the government set up Regional Rural Banks in the 1970s. In addition, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development was set up in 1982 to deal with all matters related to agriculture and rural development. The Reserve Bank of India took several steps to promote financial services among the lower income groups. It allowed them to open bank accounts at zero interest rates.

#### **1.2.4 Human Development and Growth of Cooperative Sector:**

Cooperative sector is an organization in which people voluntarily organize themselves on the basis of equality to protect their economic interests. In India, in 1950-51, there were 1 lakh primary agricultural credit cooperative societies with a working capital of 3725 crores. How did this number increase to 3 lakhs in 1998-99. During this period, 19 State Land Development Banks and 7400 primary agricultural credit cooperative societies were functioning, and in 2007-08, cooperative banks issued 21 lakh Jisan credit cards and provided 48 thousand loans to agriculture.

Similarly, several cooperative sectors are seen in India. For example, agricultural credit cooperative societies, primary land development banks, agricultural non-credit cooperative societies, etc. Cooperative societies are seen in large numbers in rural areas. The cooperative sector is providing financial assistance to the rural people.

#### **1.2.5 Human Development and Education:**

Human resource development is crucial to the advancement of rural development, and education is one of the most significant means of improving the calibre of human capital. Education plays a big role in improving human capacities and skills. Similar to that of an illiterate, education is the fundamental instrument for rural development and consciousness growth.

In India, rural areas are home to 65 percent of the population. Because rural areas lack enough educational facilities and technology, the quality of education is poor. A key component of social change and sustainable rural development is education. Many issues in rural regions can be resolved in large part through education. "Human development plays a significant role in the state, economy, and society's evolution." One of the most crucial elements in promoting human

development is education. The expansion and improvement of educational ability produce a favourable environment for human development. Their level of efficiency rises with education. High-quality education promotes human growth by addressing the contemporary demands of people in society.

## **Conclusion:**

Rural development mainly depends on infrastructure. Human development and infrastructure are directly related to each other. Schools, hospitals, road connectivity, water supply, banks are important infrastructures in improving the living standards of people in rural areas. Human development is easy only if people are provided with basic facilities and their living standards are improved. The Human Development Index is a measurement system to evaluate the level of human development, which includes three important dimensions, namely a long and healthy life, education and standard of living. Human development can be measured through these three dimensions. Human development is the main tool to measure the economic development of a country. If human development is increasing, that area is moving towards development.

There is a direct correlation between rural infrastructure and human development. Infrastructure for transport has contributed to human development in its own right. Regarding transportation, we examine air, sea, rail, and road transportation, and the rural population benefits from these transit systems' significant services. People can move and transfer goods and services from one location to another with transportation infrastructure. Humans can profit from this transit infrastructure in many ways, including providing jobs, markets, and education. People's incomes are raised by road infrastructure.

The banking process is positively related to human development. The financial system promotes the efficient allocation of resources in productive ways. As banks develop in rural areas, the standard of living of people increases. Since many cooperative societies have been established in rural areas, they provide financial services quickly to the rural people, which accelerates human development. Irrigation and electricity infrastructure are playing an important role in human development. Since agriculture is the main occupation in rural areas, irrigation is required. Irrigation facilities help in increasing the productivity of rural people. Similarly,



electricity measures the standard of living of people. When electricity is supplied to every household in rural areas, the standard of living of people improves and human development is possible.

### **Acknowledgement**

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