

BASIC FACILITIES FOR CITIZENS: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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Abstract

Infrastructure in India is important for the social and economic progress of the country. The purpose of this study is to analyze the status of infrastructure in India, their availability, and challenges in development. Infrastructure includes roads, electricity, water, health services, education, and communication.

While various schemes of the Government of India have contributed significantly to the development of infrastructure, there is a need to improve implementation. Also, for the development of infrastructure in India, there is a need to encourage more investment, transparency in government schemes, technological innovation, special attention in the fields of education and health, and public-private partnership. These measures can improve the quality of infrastructure and provide better services to all citizens.

Keyword

Citizens, Infrastructure, Schemes, Sanitation, Services.

Introduction

In a developing country like India, providing basic amenities to the citizens is a major objective as it improves the quality of life of the citizens and leads to the overall progress of the country. Basic amenities include clean water, education, health services, roads, electricity, and communication services, which are the rights of every citizen. However, there are many challenges in smoothly delivering these

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services to the citizens, such as financial inequality, administrative failure, corruption, and natural disasters. These problems prevent citizens from taking full advantage of these facilities. This research paper analyzes these challenges and suggests some solutions to provide better facilities to the citizens.

Basic facilities for citizens:-

Availability of drinking water:

Clean drinking water is a fundamental right of every citizen, but even today water scarcity is a serious problem in rural and urban areas. Due to uneven distribution of water resources, climate change, and weaknesses in basic water management, citizens are not able to get clean and safe drinking water, which has a negative impact on their health.

Health services:

Inequity of health services is a major challenge, especially in rural areas. There, due to lack of primary health centers, difference in quality of health facilities, and lack of doctors and resources, citizens are not able to get the necessary health services on time. Due to this, management of health problems and diseases becomes difficult.

Education system:

Low quality of government schools, unavailability of teachers, and lack of proper resources hamper the education system. The level of education is low in rural and deprived urban areas, which has a negative impact on the educational progress of students and limits opportunities for higher education.

Roads and Transportation:

Roads and transportation facilities are vital to the economic and social mobility of any society. Without good transportation, the movement of people and access to businesses are affected. Poor condition of roads in rural and remote areas makes it difficult for citizens to access employment, education, and health facilities.

Availability of Electricity and Energy:

Availability of electricity and energy is essential for development and improvement in living standards, but lack of electricity in rural and remote areas still remains a serious problem. Lack of electricity not only affects daily life but also has a negative impact on education, health services, and economic activities, slowing down the pace of development.

World Bank Reports Related to Water and Health Services in India:-

World Bank reports have presented an in-depth analysis of the state of water and health services in India. These reports shed light on India's infrastructure, quality of services, and needs for improvement.

1. Water Services:

- ▶ Availability of clean drinking water; According to reports, there is a wide disparity in the availability of clean drinking water in India. There is a

difference in water supply between urban and rural areas, and many rural areas have problems with water resource scarcity and water quality.

- ▶ Water Management; There is a need for improvements in water management, including water conservation, recycling, and increased efficiency. With climate change and a growing population, proper management of water resources is of utmost importance.

2. Health Services:

- ▶ Inequality of health services; Reports have highlighted the disparity in health services between rural and urban areas. Lack of health facilities in rural areas, weaknesses in infrastructure, and shortage of medical personnel are major problems.
- ▶ Health expenditure and quality; High out-of-pocket expenditure, uneven quality, and differences between private and public health services in the Indian health system have been noted in reports. Reforms are needed so that all citizens can get quality and accessible health services.

3. Directions for improvement:

- ▶ Policy and planning; The reports recommend effective policies and plans for improving the water and health sectors. This includes proper utilization of financial resources, administrative reforms, and monitoring of services.
- ▶ Local participation; The reports recommend promoting local level participation for improvement so that plans can be made according to the needs of the communities and their effectiveness can be increased.

Based on these reports, comprehensive strategies and measures are needed to improve water and health services in India, which can help in achieving developmental goals.

Schemes of Government of India: Education and Sanitation Related:-

1. Education Schemes:

- ▶ National Education Policy (NEP); This policy, implemented in 2020, aims to reform and modernize the education system. It has taken several initiatives to promote quality, inclusiveness, and innovation in education, such as digitalization of education, skill development, and integrated approach to multi-trends.
- ▶ Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA); This scheme was launched in 2000, which aims to provide free and compulsory education for all children. It aims to provide primary and secondary education to children aged 6-14 years.
- ▶ Mid-Day Meal Scheme; Under this scheme, free mid-day meals are provided to children studying in government schools. It aims to improve the attendance and quality of education of children and reduce malnutrition.

- ▶ Right to Education (RTE) Act; It is a legal provision implemented in 2009, which provides the right to free and compulsory education to children aged 6-14 years. Under this, reservation of seats and other standards have been determined in private and government schools.²

2. Sanitation related schemes:

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM); Launched in 2014, this scheme aims to make India clean and garbage free. Under this, measures have been implemented to promote public and personal hygiene, end open defecation, and waste management.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM); Launched in 2019, this scheme aims to ensure safe and adequate drinking water supply to every rural household. Under this, water supply infrastructure is being constructed and improved.

Swachh Ganga Mission; Launched in 2014 to reduce pollution of the Ganga river and clean its water, this scheme aims to implement sanitation and pollution control measures in the areas along the Ganga.

National Solid Waste Management Policy (NSWMP); Implemented in 2016, this policy aims to improve the management of solid waste. It provides guidelines for reuse, recycling, and disposal of waste. Through these schemes, the Government of India has taken steps towards significant improvement in the field of education and sanitation. The effective implementation of these schemes is expected to improve the living standards of citizens and bring positive changes in the society.³

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy: Energy Solutions and Schemes:-

The main responsibility of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in India is to promote the development and expansion of renewable energy sources. The energy solutions and schemes of the ministry include the following initiatives:

1. Related to Solar Energy

Solar Park Scheme; Under this scheme, solar parks are being developed on a large scale, which can increase the capacity of solar energy production. Solar panels are installed in these parks, which produce electricity on a large scale.

Solar Rooftop Scheme; There is a plan to install solar panels on the roofs of domestic and commercial buildings, which will increase self-sufficiency in power generation and reduce electricity bills.

Kisan Solar Pump Scheme; Solar pumps are being encouraged for use in agriculture, so that farmers can get cheap and sustainable energy for irrigation.

2. Related to Wind Energy

Wind Energy Policy; The policy has been formulated to encourage states and the private sector to promote the production of wind energy. It focuses on setting up wind farms and improving the efficiency of wind turbines.

Wind Energy Projects; By developing wind energy projects, the use of wind energy resources is being increased to meet the energy needs of the country.

3. Related to Bio-Energy

Biomass and Biogas Projects; Biomass and biogas projects are being encouraged to generate energy from agricultural residues and other organic material. These projects increase the availability of energy in rural areas and help in waste management.

Use of Biofuel in Public Transport; Biofuel is being encouraged for use in public transport and other vehicles, thereby reducing dependence on petroleum fuels.

4. Hydropower

Small and Medium Hydropower Projects; Plans have been made to promote small and medium-sized hydropower projects, which provide clean energy locally and are an effective measure against climate change.

5. Energy Efficiency and Technology

Various programmes and initiatives are being implemented to reduce energy consumption and enhance energy efficiency. These include incentives for the adoption of energy efficient appliances and technologies and the development and use of new technologies for energy storage, such as battery storage systems, which help handle fluctuations in renewable energy.

Through these schemes and initiatives, the Ministry of Renewable Energy has taken significant steps towards promoting clean and sustainable sources of energy in India. These efforts are aimed at not only ensuring energy security but also mitigating the effects of climate change.⁴

Solutions for proper implementation of infrastructure:-

Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

Adopting the public-private partnership model with the cooperation of public and private sector for the development of infrastructure can be an effective solution. This can overcome the shortage of financial resources and improve the quality and accessibility of basic services. Government projects can be implemented more efficiently by using the expertise and resources of the private sector.

Reformative Administration

Ensuring transparency and accountability is necessary to control corruption and remove administrative inefficiency. Through effective administration, schemes can be properly monitored and implemented. By assessing and evaluating the schemes on time and making necessary improvements in them, the availability of basic services can be increased.

Management of local resources

Proper management and proper use of natural resources available locally can be ensured for the construction and development of infrastructure. By using

water, energy, and other resources sustainably, local communities can be made self-reliant. Schemes can be implemented more effectively with local participation. Education and **awareness campaigns**

Education and awareness campaigns can be run to increase awareness among citizens about the importance of basic services. With better education and awareness, people will be able to get information about their rights and facilities and demand them. These campaigns can be run in collaboration with government and non-government organizations.⁵

Use of renewable energy

To reduce the energy crisis, the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind energy, should be increased. This can solve the problem of power shortage, especially in rural and remote areas. Renewable energy will not only increase the availability of electricity, but it will also have a positive impact on the environment.⁶

Population control and urban planning

To face the challenges of urbanization, it is necessary to implement measures of urban planning and population control. Better urban planning can ensure proper distribution of basic services in urban areas. Along with this, the pressure of population growth can be reduced through population control measures, which will reduce the burden on infrastructure and will enable their proper use. By implementing these solutions, better access to basic amenities can be ensured to the citizens and the overall progress of India can be promoted.⁷

Conclusion

There are many challenges in providing basic amenities to the citizens, such as lack of financial resources, administrative inefficiency, and unequal distribution. However, it is possible to solve these problems by implementing proper policies and effective measures. These problems can be overcome through public-private partnerships, remedial governance, management of local resources, education and awareness campaigns, use of renewable energy, and urban planning.

The collective efforts of the government, administration, and citizens can widen the access to basic amenities. If these efforts are implemented in the right direction, every section of the society will get equal benefits of these facilities and will promote the overall progress of the country. This will ensure that every citizen gets his rights and essential amenities on time and properly, thereby contributing positively to social and economic development.

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