

**RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE: A Great
Challenge to Economics Development
(A Case Study of Three Mising Villages of Majuli Island)**

**Dr. Upen Bora
Assistant Professor,
U. M. K.College,Majuli.Assam**

Introduction:

Rural Infrastructure is the backbone of national economy. The early and medieval history of India shows that the villages of India were generally self-sufficient. It was so happened because of the availability of arable land, natural resources less population and existence of local handicrafts. It was because of the colonial nature of the British period the villages were left on their own fate. On the other hand, increase of population, traditional equipmentation in agriculture destruction of handicraft, backward communication etc had thrown the villages in to a more critical situation. So, the national leaders laid importance in eradication of backwardness of the villages. Gandhiji, even desired 'Gram Swaraj' as pre-condition of Swaraj as a whole. The positive aspects of the National Movement under the leadership of Gandhiji empowered the villages to an extent. During the post-independence period the Govt. of the India been adopting a good number of schemes and policies to enfold the 'five year planning's also have been giving continuous emphasis on the stage govt. have also been implementing several schemes. Yet the rural infrastructure has not been yet fully developed.

Need of the study:

Six decades of economic planning and various schemes and policies from the parts of central and stategovts.have not yet been able to make decent change in rural infrastructure of rural India in general and Assam in particular. So, it is very necessary to see what are the factors behind the failure of the schemes and policies? Whether some other measures could be adopted? What types of reforms can be introduced? Or what is the exact nature of rural infrastructure?

To study (Miris) being one of the original tribal groups of Assam, constitute the second largest tribal group among the plain tribes in the state. The Misings subsists primarily on agricultural economy based on production of rice, mustard seeds, black pulse and vegetables. However, the main source of income for an average Misingfamily is the rearing of animals such as fowls,pigs,goats etc.

So, they prefer to live on river banks. The Mising constitute major sections of tribal population in the Brahmaputra Valley. Our study area is a tiny part covering about 1000 families of the Mising population area.

Objectives and Procedure:

The sample of 100 people (60 male and 40 female) from the three villages was selected.

Procedure of Data collection:

For collection of data the investigators made a survey to observe the conditions, distribute the questionnaires to the respondents and were collected after one week. Personal interaction with a few people is also entering upon.

Statistical Technique used:

Calculation of percentage is found suitable for deriving conclusion in this study. While investigation the problem following infrastructural problems are noticed:

- (a) Poor communication
- (b) Lack of electricity
- (c) Lack of pure drinking water
- (d) Lack of proper sanitation
- (e) Lack of hygienic habitation
- (f) Lack of well-equipped School and Colleges
- (g) Inadequate hospital etc

Besides, the study area is basically a flood affected area. Soil erosion and flood are the chief problems of the people of the area. Almost every year most of the house is over flooded. So, they have to shift habitation under the rehabilitation scheme of the govt. in 1990, 120 families were established in Rampur Bhakat Gaon in Teok under Jorhat Sub-division from Kaniajan villages. Under the same scheme 86 more families from the same village were shifted to Panikhaiti near Nagaland Border in Tibabar Sub-division. At present the villagers have to under-shift their homes to each other village because of flood and soil erosion. After-flood effects becomes acute almost every making all the govt. schemes destitute.

Table

Opinion of the respondents regarding utilization of govt. schemes and policies age group 18 to 60 year

Sl. No	Particulars of Items	Male60		Female40	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
1	Are you fully aware of govt. schemes and policies	3 5%	57 95%	0 --	40 100%
	For the development of rural infrastructure				
2	Do you somehow get benefit from such scheme and policies?	6 10%	54 90%	4 10%	36 90%
3	Do you think that corruption is the chief factor for backwardness of yours infrastructure?	56 99.33%	4 6.67%	39 97.5%	1 2.5%

Major Finding and analysis:

- Only 5% male views that they are aware of the govt. schemes and policy for the development of rural infrastructure, while 100% female are not aware of the same.
- 6% male and 4% female say that they are benefitted by the govt. schemes and policies.

93.33% male and 97.5% female respondents agree with the view that corruption at all level is the chief factor for their backwardness.

While the investigator entered upon personal interaction with a few people, it is noticed that only a few educated youth are aware of the govt. policies. It is because of their lack of knowledge that they are cheated by the govt. officials. So, only a few people, both male and female, are able to exploit the benefit of govt. policies. Besides, though and animal husbandry methods. Lack of big market or storage and govt. initiative to buy their surplus product at reasonable rate is another reason of their backwardness.

Remedial Measures:

Having investigation the different aspects of the problem, a few remedial measure are put forward.

(a) Some steps should be taken to make the people fully aware about the govt. schemes and policies. It will enable the people to get benefit of govt. policies, on one hand reduce corruption on the hand.

(b) Some zones should be created in rural areas, according to the stage of their economic development and special attention should be paid accordingly.

(c) Corruption should be tried to minimize.

(d) Welfare bodies can be established at grass root level to look after the implementation of govt. schemes for infrastructural development.

(e) Flood and problem of soil erosion should be tried to control.

Conclusion:

Thus, it is seen that though govt. has been making and implementing a number of schemes, though GDP has been increasing which has turned India into one of the fastest growing economy of the world. Yet the infrastructural development of the remote areas has failed to achieve the goal. So Emphasis should be given on the proper implementation of the govt. found for the improvement of rural infrastructure.

Bibliography and References:

1. Dr. Kuli, Jawaharjyoti, Ed. The Mising, theory history and culture: A Compilation of critical Essays, Ghy, 1998
2. Basam, A.L., The history of medieval Assam, Ghy-1984
3. Boruah, S.L., The comprehensive History of Assam, 1995
4. Gait, E.A., A History of assam, 1994
5. Nath, R.M., Background of Assam Culture, Ghy, 1978
6. Nath, D.D., AsomBuranji, 2ndEd. Ghy, 1991
7. Borgohain, M., Population pattern of Jorhat (Article published in Jorhat, 2000)