

THE RURAL TRANSPORT: AN ESSENTIAL NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract:

Transport generally involves the movement of people and goods from one place to another. The rural villages are either scattered at a long distance from each other. The roads are damaged due to non-repairs and in many places, the roads are washed away due to flood waters, avalanches, landslides heavy snow. Due to the weak transport system, the students in villages have to walk several kilometers to reach the school and college. In an emergency, there is no ambulance transport system available. No new business can start due to a weak transport system. Many times, environmental laws do not permit road construction or road widening. The government must allocate maximum funds to road connectivity of the villages. In the scenario of globalization and the world trade concept, it is important that rural roads and transport system should be made available.

Key Words: Village, Rural, Transport, Development.

Transport generally involves the movement of people and goods from one place to another. Transport usually involves roadways, railways, and air travel. The role of transport is to facilitate the access people have to goods, services, and information.

The need for rural transport is essential because it reduces isolation. People need to have access to a wide variety of goods, and services to live a productive economic and social life. Low rural population density makes viable public transport difficult, though people in rural areas usually have a greater need for transport than urban dwellers.

Rural Locations:

The rural villages are either scattered at a long distance from each other. These villages are many a time located in the forests nearby or in hilly regions. Several villages are either tribal villages or with features of the old pattern of infrastructure. Due to this, the population in these villages is affected adversely in all aspects of education, farming, and health opportunities. The villages which are isolated are always neglected in all developments. The rural villages in coastal areas are also having adverse effects on development because of their geographical locations.

Weak Road Transport System:

The villages in many states today are deprived of good quality road systems and transport systems. Thereby leading to huge human life due to accidents. The concrete roads have not even reached their areas. The nearby villages are not well inter-connected through tar roads. The road made of mud still is used for transportation. In many places, the roads are either broken due to digging for various reasons. The roads are damaged due to non-repairs and in many places, the roads are washed away due to flood waters. Therefore there is a very weak transport system in villages wherever such conditions prevail.

Weak Transport System (Vehicles):

The majority population living in villages are either poor or not economically advanced. Hence, they are not having their vehicles. The farmers do not have their tractors or tempo vehicles to carry the agricultural products to the nearby markets or villages. The state government buses are not available on these village routes regularly. Even, the buses which pass nearby villages are several kilometers away from the actual village location. Many rural communities use public transport buses as the primary vehicle for their public transportation systems, operating fixed-route service on a regular schedule

Impact on Education and Health:

Due to the weak transport system, the students in villages have to walk several kilometers to reach the school and college. Thereby, affecting the health of students. Several students leave education forever or are either not able to continue with further education due to transport problems although sometimes transport is available with limited frequency college, and school students are not allowed to board state transport vehicles because they are given concessional passes of one particular, they miss school, and college and lack getting an education, especially the female students are in great difficulty due poor access to mobility.

For government health facilities the villagers have to travel to taluka or district hospitals at a longer distance. Which, they have either no money or have to wait for the government buses for a long time. Hence, the villagers avoid going to far-located hospitals. This has an adverse effect on the health of senior citizens and small children. In an emergency, there is no ambulance transport system available. This lead to people suffer from medical aids.

Impact on the Economy of the Village:

Due to weak roads and no development, the farmers and the villagers are not able to connect to external markets of nearby villages. The villagers have to face a lot of difficulties in supplying their raw materials agro produce to the processing factories and companies. The handicraft and cottage industry workers suffer a loss of economy. There is a lack of access to markets for sale and getting new contracts. As a result, the young population migrates to nearby cities permanently. Thereby, causing a burden on nearby cities with more population. No new business can start due to a weak transport system. Thus, the standard of living of the villagers is affected. Due to less or low income, their houses are still the old ones without development. Poor road infrastructure leads to the loss of human life by road accidents, either by death or becoming disabled.

Challenges:

There are various challenges in the path of development of transportation systems in rural areas. If the population in the villages is less, then the political leaders do not pay attention to these villages because they will have very less voting in these villages. Hence, political un-willingness is a challenge. The next challenge is that the development funds are many times diverted to other places or no funds are allocated to the village transport system. The bureaucracy responsible for the village transport system and village and roadways never considers the villager's problems. The next challenge is that there is less awareness among the villagers and rural people regarding their several rights related to village development. Hence, the problem remains pending without being solved. Many times, environmental laws do not permit road construction or road widening and due to this, the rural transport system of goods and people remain

neglected. Due to heavy rain in certain parts of the country, it is essential to build strong long-lasting roads as per the geographical location

Ways to Solve:

The government must allocate maximum funds to road connectivity of the villages. These village roads should be well connected to the state highways and the national highways. Multi-National Corporations should be invited to start their companies at rural areas. This will bring a better transport system to villages and rural areas. Thereby, helping to generate employment in rural areas itself. This will help to control migration from rural to cities. The government should initiate schemes of smart villages and smart roads for villages. This will help in improving the transport system in rural areas. There should be a contribution of funds from both the State and Central governments for improving the rural transport system. Public Transport can be improved in rural areas by providing an easy and efficient way for community members to access public transportation. Transit Agencies can do this by taking a data-driven and cost-effective approach when implementing a Demand-Responsive Transport system that moves away from fixed-route services.

Conclusion:

Taking into consideration the above facts about the village roads, we conclude that, modern time is a platform for the advancement of villages. In the scenario of globalization and the world trade concept, it is important that rural roads and transport systems should be made available. The transport system is the backbone of the villages for its sustainability at all levels. On one hand, we talk of global being local and local to global, then the rural transport system must be made strong and connect to different villages. Thereby, bringing national economic interest by developing the rural transport system. The political leadership in various villages should give priority to village roads. Thus, thereby bringing better standards in the life of people living in the village and rural areas. Public Transport consequently lowers air pollution and therefore heightens air quality. The country has diverse terrain/topography and different climatic conditions. This issue has to be addressed while making road infrastructure.

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