



Importance of Infrastructure for Socio-Economic Development of Assam with Special Reference to the Development of Power sector.

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Abstract

Assam is one of the 28 states of the country with a geographical area of 78438 sq. km, i.e about 2.4% of the country's total geographical area, Assam provides shelter 2.57% population of the country. As on 31 March 2011 there are 27 districts in Assam with 56 subdivisions and 26395 villages. The importance of infrastructure development for sustained economic development is well recognized throughout the world. A number of recent initiatives has been undertaken to augment the rural infrastructure level by the various Government and non-government agencies, which could contribute positively in this regard. Infrastructure development is also likely to contribute in improving the poverty scenario of Assam. Inadequate and inefficient infrastructure can prevent the economy from realizing its full growth potential regardless of the progress on other fronts. Physical infrastructure covering transportation, power and communication through its backward and forward linkages facilitates growth, social infrastructure including water supply, sanitation, sewage disposal, education and health, which are in the nature of primary services and has a direct impact on the quality of life. The performance of infrastructure is largely a reflection of the performance of the economy. In this paper, the overall growth and performance of infrastructure services has been examined partially on the basis of the different parameters such as trends in growth of physical output in infrastructure sectors, telecommunications, power, ports, railways, civil aviation, and post so as to examine whether there is a negative or positive association between infrastructure development and Assam's economic growth. The paper will give special emphasis only on the development of Power sector of Assam.

Key words: *Infrastructure, Power and Development.*