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Road Infrastructure Development in Haryana: Challenges and Opportunities

Kuldeep Singh[1] and Dr. Ravinder Panday[2]
Research Scholar, Department of Economics[1]
Professor, Department of Economics[2]
NIILM University Kaithal, Haryana, India
NIILM University Kaithal, Haryana, India

Abstract: *This study focuses on the development of road infrastructure in Haryana. Roads are crucial for economic development and social connectivity. The objective of this study is to analyze the importance and challenges of road infrastructure development. The study discusses issues related to road construction, maintenance, and safety. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The study collected data from various sources, including government reports, academic journals. The findings suggest that road infrastructure development can lead to economic growth and improvement in people's lives. Additionally, the study highlights the importance of proper maintenance and safety measures to ensure the sustainability of road infrastructure. The results of this study can inform policy decisions and infrastructure development strategies in Haryana and similar regions.*

Keywords: Road Infrastructure Development, Haryana, National Highways, Transportation Development, Economic Growth

I. INTRODUCTION

The transportation system is the backbone of any economy, facilitating the movement of resources like labor, machinery, goods, and services. A well-developed transportation system expands market size, boosts productivity, and enables economies of scale. Roads are the lifeline of a transportation system, connecting states and supporting national capitals. Haryana's extensive road network plays a vital role in its economic development. Haryana's road infrastructure comprises a total road length of approximately 80.40 km per 100 sq. km of area and 122.68 km per lakh of population. The state's road network has been developed to ensure connectivity to all villages and districts. However, there is variation in road length across districts, with some districts having above-average road length and others facing challenges. Understanding the road length and connectivity in Haryana is crucial for identifying areas of improvement and promoting sustainable economic growth.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Road infrastructure plays a crucial role in the economic development of a country. Several studies have highlighted the importance of road infrastructure in facilitating trade, commerce, and economic growth. This review aims to summarize the existing literature on road infrastructure development, focusing on its impact on economic growth, transportation, and safety.

Economic Impact: Numerous studies have shown that road infrastructure development has a positive impact on economic growth. For instance, a study by the World Bank found that investments in road infrastructure can lead to increased economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction (World Bank, 2019). Similarly, a study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) found that road infrastructure development in India has contributed significantly to the country's economic growth (IIT, 2018).

Transportation and Safety: Road infrastructure development also plays a critical role in improving transportation and safety. A study by the Transportation Research Board found that well-designed roads can reduce traffic congestion,

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improve travel times, and enhance safety (TRB, 2020). Another study by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that road infrastructure improvements can reduce the number of accidents and fatalities on roads (NHTSA, 2019).

Challenges and Opportunities: Despite the benefits of road infrastructure development, there are several challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed. A study by the International Transport Forum found that road infrastructure development in developing countries faces several challenges, including lack of funding, inadequate maintenance, and environmental concerns (ITF, 2019). However, the same study also highlighted the opportunities for sustainable and innovative road infrastructure development, such as the use of green technologies and public-private partnerships.

III. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this study are:

1. To assess the impact of road infrastructure development on economic growth: This objective aims to investigate the relationship between road infrastructure development and economic growth, including the potential benefits and challenges.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of road infrastructure projects: This objective aims to assess the effectiveness of road infrastructure projects in terms of their impact on transportation, safety, and economic development.
3. To identify the challenges and opportunities in road infrastructure development: This objective aims to identify the challenges and opportunities in road infrastructure development, including issues related to funding, maintenance, and sustainability.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The methodology section outlines the research design, methods, and procedures used to collect and analyze data. Here's a possible methodology for a study on road infrastructure development:

Research Design

- **Descriptive research:** This study aims to describe the current state of road infrastructure development in a particular region or country.
- **Exploratory research**: This study aims to explore the relationship between road infrastructure development and economic growth, transportation, and safety.

Data Collection Methods

Secondary data: Existing data from government reports, academic journals, and industry publications will be collected and analyzed.

V. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This section presents the analysis and interpretation of the data collected for the study on road infrastructure development. The analysis focuses on identifying trends, patterns, and relationships between variables to understand the impact of road infrastructure development on.

5.1. Road Infrastructure in Haryana

Haryana's road network is a crucial aspect of its infrastructure. According to the data, the state has a road length of 80.40 km per 100 sq. km of area and 122.68 km per lakh of population.

District-wise Analysis

A district-level analysis reveals that 10 out of 19 districts have above-average metalled road length, while 9 districts have below-average metalled road length. Kaithal district has the lowest road length, with 66.71 km per 100 sq. km of area.

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Road Connectivity in Haryana

One notable feature of Haryana's road infrastructure is that all villages are connected with metalled roads, ensuring seamless connectivity across the state.

Table 1.1: Road Length in Haryana

Type of Roads	Length in Kms. (upto 31.03.2023)	Length in Kms. (upto 31.10.2023)
National Highways	State PWD - 330	State PWD - 330
	NHAI - 2886	NHAI - 3061
State Highways	1676	1659
Major District Roads	1375	1375
Other District Roads	24996	24997
Total	**31263**	**31422**

Source: PWD (B&R), Haryana.

The table 1.1 provides insights into the road infrastructure in Haryana, including the density of roads in relation to area and population, and identifies areas that may require improvement.

5.2 Upgradation of Road Network

Roads are the fundamental means of communication for the development of any economy. To further strengthen the road network and make it more efficient according to traffic requirements, the main emphasis has been laid on the improvement/upgradation of existing road networks, construction of bypasses, bridges/ROBs, and completion of road construction works.

Road Upgradation Program 2023-24

During 2023-24, a program for road improvement was undertaken, which included widening, strengthening, reconstruction, raising, cement concrete, pavements/blocks, premix carpet, construction of side drains, and culverts/retaining walls. The financial and physical progress achieved up to October 2023 is detailed in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: Progress under Roads Improvement Programmes (Financial Progress)

(A) Financial Progress (₹ in crore)

Sr. No.	Head of Account	Budget Allotment 2023-24	Expenditure (up to October, 2023)
1.	Plan-5054 (Roads & Bridge) including NABARD Loan & PMGSY	2555.00	1714.75
2.	Non Plan-3054	965.31	453.39
3.	Central Road Fund	150.00	58.30
4.	NH (Plan)	300.00	168.68
5.	NH (Non- Plan)	0.00	0.00
6.	Deposit works (Roads & Bridges)	190.00	31.25
Total		**4160.31**	**2426.37**

(B) Physical Progress

Sr. No.	Item	Length in Kms. (up to October, 2023)
1.	New Construction	209
2.	Premix Carpet (State Roads)	1180
3.	Widening &Strengthening (State Roads)	640
4.	Cement Concrete Blocks/Pavement	179
5.	Reconstruction & Raising	57
6.	(a) Widening } National Highways	0.00
	(b) Strengthening	86.09

Source: PWD (B&R), Haryana.

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5.3 Repair and Maintenance

Several road and bridge projects were sanctioned during the year 2023-24. The details of these sanctioned works are provided in Table 1.3. The allocation for repair, maintenance, and original works of buildings is detailed in Table 1.4. The department has taken steps to construct ROBs/RUBs and bridges to enhance passenger safety and reduce delays. The progress of completed and ongoing ROBs/RUBs and bridges is given in Table 1.5.

Table: 1.3 Road/Bridge works sanctioned during 2023-2024

(₹ in crore)

Sr. No.	Head of Account	No. of Works	Amount (upto October, 2023)
1.	Plan -5054	86	155.32
2.	Non Plan-3054	188	536.95
3.	NABARD - Roads - Bridges	07 00	122.57 0.00
4.	Central Road Fund	11	724.46
5.	PMGSY/Bharat Nirman -Roads	00	0.00
6.	NH	02	182.73
7.	ROBs/RUBs (Plan 5054)	10	50.83
8.	Bridges – Plan 5054 Non Plan 3054	23 03	183.74 3.81
	Total	**330**	**1960.41**

Source: PWD (B&R), Haryana.

Table1.4 Allocation for Repair, Maintenance and Original Works of Buildings

(₹ in crore)

Sr. No.	Head of Account	Budget Allotment 2023-24	Expenditure during 2023-24 (upto October, 2023)
1.	Revenue Buildings	179.98	112.16
2.	Capital Buildings	230.98	81.99
3.	Deposit Buildings	1118.00	179.58
	Total	**1528.96**	**373.73**

Source: PWD (B&R), Haryana.

Table 1.5: ROBs/RUBs & Bridges Completed and in Progress

Sr. No.	Description	2023-24 (upto October, 2023)
1.	ROBs/RUBs (i) Completed and opened to traffic (ii) Under construction	 5= (3 HSRDC+ 2 NH) 37= (18 HSRDC+ 15 PWD State Scheme+4 NH)
2.	Bridges (i) Completed and opened to traffic (ii) Under construction	 1= (1PWD State Scheme) 21= (18 PWD State Scheme+3 NH)

Source: PWD (B&R), Haryana.

5.4 New Road Network

Haryana's road network has undergone significant development in recent years, with the construction of new highways, expressways, and other roads. The state's road infrastructure development has focused on improving connectivity between Haryana and neighboring states, particularly Delhi.

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National Highways

NH-44, NH-352, NH-9, and NH-709: Connect Haryana to northern India
NH-48: Connects Haryana to northern Rajasthan
NH-919: Connects Haryana to central and southern India
152D National Highway: Shortens travel time from Jind to Ambala and Chandigarh
Rohtak-Jind and Narwana National Highway 352: Eases travel from Jind to Rohtak, Delhi, and Punjab

Expressways

Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway: Leads to Jaipur
Eastern Peripheral Expressway: A 135 km, 6-lane expressway built to improve traffic flow between Haryana and Delhi
Western Peripheral Expressway (KMP): A 135 km expressway under development

Other Roads

Sonipat to Jind 352A National Highway: An 80 km highway connecting Sonipat and Jin
Jind-Panipat State Highway: A highway connecting Jind and Panipat
Panipat-Dabwali National Highway: An upcoming project connecting Karnal, Jind, Panipat, Fatehabad, and Sirsa

5.6 Challenges and Opportunities in Road Infrastructure Development

Challenges:

- Funding and Financing: Securing sufficient funding for road infrastructure projects can be a significant challenge.
- Maintenance and Upkeep: Regular maintenance and upkeep of roads are essential to ensure their safety and durability.
- Traffic Congestion: Managing traffic congestion and reducing travel times are ongoing challenges in road infrastructure development.
- Safety: Ensuring road safety is a major concern, particularly in areas with high accident rates.
- Environmental Impact: Road infrastructure development can have negative environmental impacts, such as air and water pollution.
- Land Acquisition: Acquiring land for road infrastructure projects can be a challenge, particularly in areas with complex land ownership or environmental concerns.
- Corruption and Governance: Corruption and poor governance can hinder the effective development and maintenance of road infrastructure.

Opportunities:

- Economic Growth: Road infrastructure development can stimulate economic growth by improving access to markets, employment, and services.
- Increased Connectivity: Road infrastructure development can improve connectivity between cities, towns, and rural areas, promoting social and economic development.
- Job Creation: Road infrastructure projects can create employment opportunities in construction, maintenance, and related industries.
- Improved Safety: Well-designed and well-maintained roads can reduce accidents and fatalities, improving road safety.
- Sustainable Development: Road infrastructure development can be designed and implemented to minimize environmental impacts and promote sustainable development.
- Technological Innovations: The use of advanced technologies, such as intelligent transportation systems, can improve road safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

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- Public-Private Partnerships: Collaborations between public and private sector organizations can provide opportunities for innovative financing and delivery of road infrastructure projects.

Future Directions:

- Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure: Developing road infrastructure that is sustainable, resilient, and adaptable to changing environmental and economic conditions.
- Intelligent Transportation Systems: Implementing intelligent transportation systems that use advanced technologies to improve road safety, efficiency, and sustainability.
- Green Infrastructure: Incorporating green infrastructure, such as green roofs and green spaces, into road infrastructure development to minimize environmental impacts.
- Community Engagement: Engaging with local communities and stakeholders to ensure that road infrastructure development meets their needs and priorities.

VI. CONCLUSION

This study on road infrastructure development highlights the critical importance of roads in facilitating economic growth, transportation, and safety. The development of road infrastructure not only promotes economic growth but also improves the quality of life for individuals. The study also reveals that road infrastructure development faces several challenges, including funding constraints, maintenance issues, and safety concerns. However, it also presents opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and improved safety. Therefore, it is essential for governments and relevant agencies to prioritize road infrastructure development and take necessary steps to improve it. This will not only boost economic growth but also enhance the lives of individuals. By investing in road infrastructure, we can create a safer, more efficient, and more sustainable transportation system that benefits everyone.

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