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## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

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**Abstract:** Social responsibilities are very important to understand while planning for infrastructural development because it will help in the development of the society and the country as a whole. In this way the development will not be restricted to a person or an organization but will take place on a large scale reaching common man.

**Keywords:** Infrastructure Development, Infrastructure Development Responsibilities, Ecological Infrastructure Development, Social Responsibility.

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**Introduction:** India is going through two different stages at the same time .One showing the bright part of India that is its rapidly developing infrastructure system and technology and other side, the dark part that resides in the core of India, hidden from the shine and glitter of India. We all are well aware of that part which contains poverty, unemployment, miserable life of villagers etc.

**Infrastructure** may be defined as the physical and organizational structures needed for the proper functioning of a society or enterprise for example roads, bridges, telecommunication, and electrical grids etc. It is impossible even to think about life and society without infrastructure and nowadays it works as a scale to measure country's development. Therefore, it is very important to give great emphasis on infrastructure development if we want to maintain our self in the league of developing and developed countries

But in today's scenario, in the never ending race of development (infrastructure) we are leaving behind our social ethics and responsibilities without which we may achieve fast development but that's not going to last very long.

In countries like India we need to understand where we lack, there are the problems like poverty, employable skill generation, health sector etc. which can be tackled to a great extent if we understand the social responsibilities in infrastructure development

In last few years, India has shown a great advancement in infrastructure development. In year, 2005 infrastructure contributed only 7.4 % to G.D.P. and now it contributes about 11% and in future the contribution of the infrastructure to our GDP is going to increase from here on. But will that make India a better place for the common man? That is the real question we need to answer. But if we merge the concept of social responsibilities with infrastructure development, it will definitely help us to gain something that we deserve for better living.

**Possibly, it may slow down the rate of development of infrastructure but it will make the development social and sustainable in all respects**

**Methodology:**

**Social responsibility** means those activities which an individual or an organization does as a part of society for welfare of society and its people.

**Types of Social Responsibilities in Infrastructure Development**

**Related to Health**– Mortality rate in India is much higher in comparison to countries like U.S.A due to poor health facilities .Infrastructure that may be private or public should not only help a person or an organization to attain maximum profit but also help a common man to have better health facilities. For instance, companies like **Reliance have opened many community health centers and initiated programs like "DRISHTI" with National Association of Blinds.** These types of activities are only possible if people think beyond their own benefits and work for self-actualization. Many other companies like A.C.C, N.T.P.C. have opened community health centers where poor people can get free treatment and live a healthy life. A Private – Public Health Model must originate out of these infrastructure development works.

**Related to Education**– India is not lacking in people who want to learn but lacking in resources needed for educating people. A person below poverty line hardly earns enough money to meet his daily requirements. Whenever there is installment of any new infrastructure, it creates an opportunity of employment for skilled as well as unskilled labour. However, as a social responsibility the organization working on that plant (infrastructure) should try to provide free education to the children of poor families of nearby area to benefit the society as a whole. Many organizations like A.C.C Barmana and NTPC Koldam etc. have come forward considering this as their social responsibility. **Other companies like P&G have helped to make the lives of more than 3 million children better by giving a part of their profit for providing education to children.** It's the most important social responsibility that any organization should consider and act upon while working for infrastructural development.

**Related to Environment Preservation-**

Environment has always given us what we wanted, directly or indirectly and that is why **as a law of give and take in human world we need to give back something to the environment and that something is "Preservation"**. It is self-evident that if we keep on destroying our environment and ignoring its preservation soon we will be left with nothing in the name of environment. It's not the environment that is changing and causing problems like Tsunami and Global Warming but we are forcing it to change it. A dam is must because we are a power starved nation, but that must not be built at the expense of local populace and wildlife. All we need to do is to understand our social responsibility toward environment while developing infrastructure. Hard steps must be taken to avoid any infrastructure activity to avoid any long-term effects on environment. For instance, the Himachal High Court quashed the construction of a cement factory in the Sundernagar region of Himachal Pradesh solely on the environmentalist grounds.

**Related to Sustainable Use of Resources-** With our limited resources, we need to use our resources efficiently. A great writer said that **"we haven't got this earth from our ancestors but we have borrowed it from our future generation"**. So we need to keep in mind that we have to pass it to them, while planning and actuating infrastructure development there will be a great use of resources

and we can't refuse or restrict ourselves for not using them. We have to use them in a sustainable way. We have already made many species of animals and plants extinct, many of our fossil fuels rare, and many of them are on the verge of getting extinct so we need to take this seriously before it is too late. The goal of sustainable use of resources can be achieved by following some simple points as follow-

- The policy of RRR (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) must be kept in mind while planning infrastructure development
- Advanced technologies like geopolymer, hollow concrete blocks must be used in construction which will eventually reduce the cost and time of construction and will save material
- Preservation and proper utilization of all our natural resources
- A fair communication system between Govt. bodies and common people
- Equal and fair distribution of income
- Contribute in research and development
- To make C.S.R a key business process for sustainable development

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