

Infrastructure Development in the Border and Non-Border Districts of Punjab : A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract

Infrastructure Development is regarded as a prerequisite for rapid transformation of an economy. Some regions on account of their location disadvantages face some inherent problems regarding development. The present study is an effort to compare the infrastructure development in the border and non-border districts of Punjab. The study compares the infrastructural development in terms of health, education, economic, physical and social sector parameters. The study covers time period from 2002 to 2012. The study revealed that the with the passage of time, the gulf between border and non-border districts with respect to infrastructural development instead of narrowing down, appears to have widened further. Though government introduced many programmes for the development of border areas too, yet the development is very slow in comparison to Non-Border areas.

I. Introduction

THE CONCEPT OF equity and justice is based upon the principle that all the regions should develop equally leading to efficiency in allocation and distribution of resources in the economy. Some regions on account of their locational disadvantages face some inherent problems regarding development. The areas/ districts which fall on international border face lots of locational disadvantage. In the state of Punjab there are three districts i.e., Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozpur which lie on the international border and of these Gurdaspur has maximum area along the international border. These districts in the past faced two Indo-Pak wars and faced a long spell of cross border terrorism. Dawn to dusk curfew, lack of stability, fear of evacuation, intermittent firing across the border area are some important factors leading to uncertainties and hardship of the masses and ultimately causing poor overall socio-economic development of a region. The

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VI. Conclusion

The result of the study revealed that the gap between border and non-border districts with respect to infrastructure development has not declined. Meaning thereby, that with the passage of time, the gulf between border and non border districts with respect to infrastructural development instead of narrowing down, appears to have widened further. In spite of Government has introduced many programmes for the development of the border areas. In order to achieve the optimum resource allocation the border districts require efforts with a vital force. Further, "Border Factor", which appears to be more determinant factor behind infrastructural development of a district.

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