

Rural Development and Bus Based Public Transport

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Introduction:

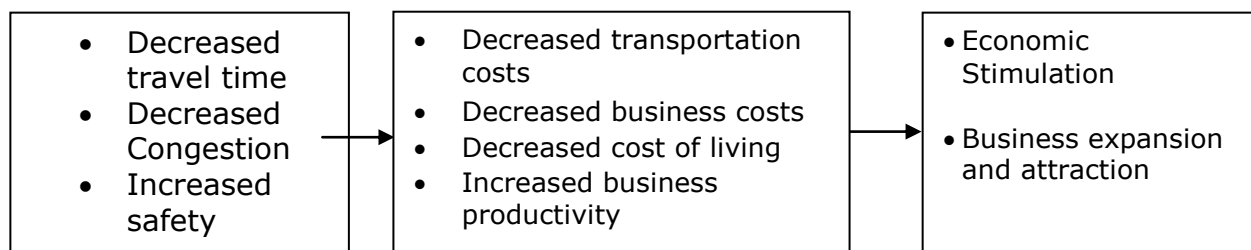
Public transport still remains the primary mode of transport for most of the population, and India's public transport systems are among the most heavily utilized in the world. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, developments in transportation have been linked to growing economic opportunities. The entire economic, social and political life of a modern country depends on an efficient system of public transportation. Efficient Bus based Public Transport redresses the imbalance between public transportation and private personalised modes involving free use of the road network by reducing external costs, facilitates access to essential socio-economic services and provides necessary mobility to resident communities.

Transport scenario:

Agriculture is still the single largest employer in the world with 1.3 billion farmers & agricultural worker in total. India is not just about cities, the real India lives beyond the cities and urban landscape, about 60% of Indian population mainly depends on agriculture. In rural areas, they are mainly dependent for their livelihood on their ability to produce and market agricultural products; it incurs high costs in terms of time and money to gain access to transport for traded inputs.

Road Transport in India occupies a prime position not only for rural and urban mobility but also for accelerating social and economic development in the country. Public transport is a vital solution of various problems afflicting our small cities, towns and rural areas. The bus based Public Transport is very significant to our economies, it provides affordable mobility to millions of our people especially in rural folk, and it is a source of varied jobs and plays a role of social cohesion and inclusion.

Impacts of bus based public road transport:



Bus Based Public Road Transport Vs Rural Development:

Rural transport – A Life line for villages in India: connecting to social services and markets. In rural areas, they are mainly dependent for their livelihood on their ability to produce and market agricultural products; it incurs high costs in terms of time and money to gain access to transport for traded inputs.

The real India lives beyond the cities, **60%** mainly depend on agriculture, living in **6,00,000** villages. More than three quarters of India's population live in 6,00,000 villages throughout the country. Life in villages is not equipped with modern day facilities which the urbanites consider as necessities. Transportation plays vital role in bringing village people to mainstream providing them an access to education, health, business and socializing. Road Transport occupies prime position in transport sector

Road Transport system is an essential part of 21st Century multi-modal transportation system empowering economy and increasing quality of life. Buses take up over 90% of Public Transport in Indian cities.

Rural Bus based Public Road Transport in Southern part of Karnataka with a case study of Mandya District: Mandya District is having 1480 villages, out of this 1349 villages having Public bus based road transport system, rest of the villages still not able to have public transport service due to many issues. The overall development of villages closely connected with efficient transport system.

Conclusion:

Rural Bus based Public Road Transport – Way to go

- People are being ‘pushed’ from rural areas and ‘pulled’ toward the cities.
- Linkage towards rural and urban transport (small cities and towns)
- Lack of Public Transport System, high proportion of 2-wheelers, Auto-rickshaws and other para-transit modes.
- This has led to high vehicular congestion, resulting in overall poor mobility in these areas.
- Rural Transportation should enhance life & living
- Finally, challenge is to sustain the initiatives and channelizing its energies for improving the services and continue to set a benchmark in the sector for Rural Development.

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