8.1 Recap

This chapter highlights some of the important findings based on both primary and secondary data, pertaining to rural infrastructure and economic development of the region. This study was undertaken to examine, the development of rural infrastructure in Chamarajanagar District using taluk as a category of analysis. In economic infrastructure roads, irrigation, electricity, banking facilities are considered and in social infrastructure health, education, drinking water and sanitation have been taken in to account. The study gives both macro and micro insights into the different aspects of infrastructure development and provision in Chamarajanagar district. In the following section, the important findings based on both primary and secondary data analysis are presented. The analysis has helped to locate many problems and bottlenecks from policy making to implementation stage and to indicated a few measures to address the problems in development of infrastructural facilities, economic growth and regional imbalances.

8.2 Statement of the Problem

Given the crucial role of infrastructure in the development process, the main emphasis of this study is on the development of infrastructural facilities in rural areas of the region with the aim of access of various infrastructural facilities to the rural areas over the past 13 years. The study highlights the perspective on infrastructural development, reviews the regional trends in the creation of infrastructural facilities in rural areas and focuses on the emerging issues in the development of infrastructure facilities in the rural areas.

8.3 Importance of the Study

The study presented a geographical analysis of the provision and use of economic and social infrastructural services in rural regions of Chamarajanagar District of Karnataka state, India. The study has examined the demographic, spatial, and functional features of the study region. It has also identified service center hierarchies in the study region based on the provision of both economic and social rural infrastructural services. It also identified the gaps in the provision of these rural infrastructural services within the study region. The major findings are drawn separately based on both primary and secondary data. The study has made several observation based on primary and secondary data in the infrastructural facilities provided in the region of the Chamarajanagar district.
8.4 Methodology

The research study is based on both primary and secondary data and has employed appropriate statistical tools like, percentages, average, compound annual growth rate, annual growth rate, index value and simple regression analysis. The primary data have been collected through direct interview of 400 respondents of the sample villages of the study region. In this direction, an effort has been made to examine the effects of decentralized economic infrastructure, such as roads, electricity, irrigation and banking on the emergence and development of social infrastructural services, such as the distribution of housing, health, education, sanitation and other supportive facilities. The study intends to examine their combined impact on regional development.

8.5 Findings Based on Secondary Data

1. At the beginning as well as the terminal period of the study, there were variations in infrastructural facilities between the taluks of Chamarajanagar district. The study has shown variations in all economic and social infrastructural facilities such as roads, banking, irrigation, electricity, health, education and drinking water facilities.

2. Road transportation is the major means of transport in the study region. Chamarajanagar district is not known for well maintained roads. The poor state of the roads has hampered the development of this district to some extent. The district is connected by national and state highways and other major district roads. The Bangalore-Nilgiris, and Mysore – Manadavadi highway is passes through Gundlupete taluk. The existing network of roads is connecting taluk headquarters with district headquarters and hoblis. Out of total road length of 4806.44 kms, 186.66 kms (3.88%) national highway, 339.26 kms (7.05%) state highways, 998.21 kms (20.70%) is major district roads, 3285.71 kms (68.37%) is village roads (including municipality roads, irrigation department roads, forest roads), with 6 major bridges. Mysuru district to Chamarajanagar broad gauge railway line covers a distance of 18 kms only.

3. The study has observed that there are significant variations in the total road length per square kms across the four taluks of the study region. It depends on the two variables, that are total road length and total geographical area of the region. Among all the taluks, Yelandur taluk has the highest road length of
166.72 per sq kms, followed by Chamarajanagar i.e., 131.37 per sq kms, Gundlupete having 89.76 per sq kms and Kollegal has 53.86 per sq kms.

4. The construction and maintenance of all weather roads is under the control of public sector. Public sector’s role is more critical in the development and provision of the roads. However, in the district there are no public private partnership initiatives with respect to road development and maintenance.

5. Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation is the main provider of transport services to the people of Chamarajanagar district. However, private transport sector is also playing an important role in providing transportation facilities to the rural areas of the region.

6. The district is not connected by air transport. There is a need for the development of air transport facility.

7. Even though banking facilities have made progress in the district, the number of bank branches is not equally distributed between the four taluks of Chamarajanagar district. Even within the taluks also we can find wide gaps between rural and urban areas. However, Regional Rural Banks and co-operative banks have contributed to the economic development of this region. 99 total bank branches in the district include RRBs and Co-operative banks, 71 commercial bank branches, 23 RRBs and 5 co-operative bank branches. Critically speaking they are not in a position to cater to the needs of the people, particularly in rural area. Even today, the local bankers play an important role in this region in meeting the financial needs of the people because of their easy access in the region.

8. In the study region, out of 2,44,198 households, 83.44 percent (2,03,748) are in rural areas and 15.56 percent (40,450) are in urban areas. In the district, out of total number of households, only 34.80 percent (84,983) are availing bank accounts and remaining 65.20 percent (1,59,215) are not availing any type of bank accounts and they are completely excluded from banking services in the district.

9. In Chamarajanagar district, out of total 74,978 hectares of irrigated land, 67.34 percent (50,496 hectares) of agricultural land has been irrigated through bore wells. This explains predominance of private investment in irrigation. 18.54
percent (13,902 hectares) has been irrigated by canals, and only 7.13 percent (5353 hectare) by tanks, and 0.70 percent (528 hectares) by lift irrigation. Much of the cultivated area is in need of proper irrigation facility. The total area served by channel irrigation is comparatively less in Chamarajanagar district.

10. Out of 5,69,901 hectares of total geographical area of the district, the proportion of net area sown is 34%. The area under forest is 48%, and the proportion of fallow land is 4%, barren land is 4%, trees and groves account for 1% and cultivable waste is only 2%. It indicates the scope for increasing cropping intensity in the district.

11. Out of the total population 10,20,791 lakhs, the district has a total workforce (both main workers and marginal workers) of about 4,81,693 lakh persons with a work participation rate of 47.18%. And the remaining 52.81% are non workers in Chamarajanagar district.

12. The occupational pattern clearly indicates the agrarian nature of the district. Out of 4,81,693 lakhs workers, the percentage of cultivators is 23.48%, agricultural laborers is 44.48%, workers in household industries is 2.90%, and other services is 29.14%. The economy of the district mainly depends on agriculture.

13. According to Agricultural Census 2010-11, Chamarajanagar district has 2,12,196 cultivators. Among them 1,87,194 (88.21 percent) are small and marginal cultivators with less than 2 hectare and own 62 percent of the total operational land holdings in the region. And the remaining 11.79 percent are medium and large farmers and they own 38 percent of the total operational holdings. This shows imbalances in land distribution across different size class cultivators in the district.

14. Chamarajanagar district is rich in mineral resources, especially black granite. Building stone is also found in abundance. The Department of Mines and Geology had given 58 leases for black granite in the district; out of this 44 are currently working. But now the government is not giving license to undertake the mining activities in the region.
15. With respect to electricity supply and consumption there are considerable improvements in the district. Out of 509 villages 428 villages are inhabited and remaining 81 villages are uninhabited. Out of 509 villages 420 (82.51 percent) villages are electrified, in this nearly 169 (91.84 %) villages are in Chamarajanagar taluk, 140 (88.60%) in Gundlupete, 83 (59.71%) in Kollegala and 28 (100%) in Yelandur taluk. And 48,673 irrigation pump-sets were electrified at the end of 2012-13. The per capita consumption of electricity has gradually increased.

16. The State Government is playing a major role in providing primary and secondary education by establishing a number of schools even in rural areas. In addition to government schools there are also a good number of private schools concentrated mainly in urban areas. These indicate the preference of the public towards private schools.

17. The private colleges are playing a major role in providing higher education in Chamarajanagar district. However, recently the Government of Karnataka has established a few first grade colleges in the taluks of the district. But, these colleges lack the necessary manpower and infrastructure facilities and also facing competition from private colleges.

18. The overall public healthcare system is not adequate enough to meet the requirements of people. The spread and availability of healthcare services is not uniform. There is an acute shortage of doctors and other staff particularly in rural areas. Further the district also lacks super specialty hospitals.

19. Inadequacy is noticed in drinking water facility in many places of the district. Particularly in rural areas during April-May every year many people have to walk long distance with their pots for water. Even in municipality and city municipal council area drinking water supply is irregular in many places.

20. Between 2001-02 and 2012-13 the volume of infrastructural services and their coverage has increased in Chamarajanagar district, but the quality of delivery, spread, coverage are not satisfactory in the district.

21. The volume of outlay for infrastructure development shows increasing trend, but many of the schemes are incomplete and partially completed due to lack of
co-ordination between different agencies and departments involved in the particular schemes. Therefore, benefits are not realised by the region.

8.6 Findings Based on Primary Data

The findings based on the analysis of the primary data are as follows.

All the sample villages are multi caste villages with a population above 4000.

8.6.1 Profile of Kesthur village

- Kesthur is a village in Yelandur taluk of Chamarajanagar district.
- It is located 35 kms from district head quarter Chamarajanagar and it is 10 kms from Yelandur taluk.
- The total population of the Kesthur village is 6805, in that males are 3419 and females are 3386 living in 1650 houses.
- Literates in the Kesthur village are 3548 which is about 52 percent in the total population of which males are 1987 and females are 1561. There are 3257 illiterates in the village which comes to around 48 percent of the total population.
- There are 2789 workers in the village of which 2058 are male workers and 731 are female workers. Further 1365 are main workers and 1424 are marginal workers.

8.6.2 Profile of Kempanapura village

- Kempanapura is a village in Chamarajanagar taluk of the district.
- The total population is 4722, out of which males are 2347 and females are 2375 living in 995 houses with a total area of 860 hectares.
- The total scheduled caste population is 930, which is about 21 percent of the total population.
- The total scheduled tribe population is 180, which comes to 4 percent of the total population.
- The literates in Kempanapura village are 2019, which is about 46 percent of the total population of which males are 1097 and females are 922. There are 2334 illiterates in this village, which is about around 54% percent of the total population.
• Total workers in the village are 2042, which constitutes 47% percent of the total population of which males are 1370 and 672 are females. Further 1512 are main workers and 530 are marginal workers.

8.6.3 Profile of Palya village

• Palya is a village in Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar district.
• The population of Palya village is 6002, out of which males are 3127 and females are 2878 living in 1182 houses with a total area of 1262 hectares.
• In Palya village, the total number of scheduled caste population is 1243 and works out to 20.70 percent of the total population.
• Scheduled tribe population is 3103 and works out to 51.69 percent of the total population. 45.7 percent of the population in Palya village is literates.
• Work participation rate is 55.4 percent.

8.6.4 Profile of Begur village

• Begur is a village in Gundlupete taluk of Chamarajanagar district.
• Total population of Begur is 3884 of which males are 1963, who represents 51 percent and 1921 are females i.e. 49 percent living in 916 households.
• In Begur, total number of scheduled caste population is 450, which comes to 12 percent of the total population and scheduled tribes are 113, which comes to 3% percent of the total population.
• Literates in the village are 2183, which is about 56% percent in the total population of which males are 1216 and females are 967. There are 1701 illiterates in this village, which comes to around 44% percent of the total population.
• Total number of workers in the village is 1732, which is 45 percent of the total population of which males are 1185 and females are 547. Further, 1481 are main and 251 are marginal workers.

8.6.5 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

1. Among the sample households of the study region, 70.3% of the respondents are males, and remaining 29.8% are females.
2. At the time of field study 48.3 percent of the respondents were aged above 46 years, and 38.3 percent of the respondents were aged between of 36 and 45 years, 13.5 percent of the respondents were aged between 26 and 35 years.

3. The educational level of the respondent households is poor in the region. In all the villages out of the total respondents 41.8 percent of the respondents have completed primary education, 16 percent of the respondents have completed high school level of education, 17.3 percent of the respondents have studied college education, and the remaining 25 percent of the respondents are illiterates.

8.6.6 Socio-economic Conditions of the Respondent Households

1. The study has noticed that nearly 57.8 percent of the respondents are farmers. Out of total respondents daily wage laborers constitute 18%, 14.8% are involved in petty business (small tea shop, cycle repairing shop, small hotels, and other petty shops). Further 9.5% of the respondents are working as Government employees.

2. The study has revealed that 56 percent of the respondents’ annual income is in the range of Rs 10000 to Rs 12000, 15.3 percent of the respondents have an annual income between 12001 to Rs 25000, 12.5 percent of the respondents annual income lies between Rs 25001 to Rs 50000. 16.3 percent of the respondents are earning above Rs 50001. Hence the economic status of these respondents is poor.

3. The study has indicated that 33.3% of the respondents are semi medium farmer with 2-4 acres of land holdings. Likewise, 32% of the respondents are small farmers with 1-2 acres, 16.5% of the respondents are medium farmers with 4-10 acres, and 9.8% of the respondents are large farmers with more than 10 acres. Whereas 8.5% of the respondents are marginal farmers with less than 1 acre of land holding and they are also working as agricultural labourers.

8.6.7 Impact of Rural Infrastructural Facilities in the Sample Villages

1. All the sample villages, (Kempanapura of Chamarajanagar, Beguru of Gundlupete, Kesthur of Yelandur, and Palya of Kollegal taluks) are connected with state highway and major district roads. In Kempanapura and Kesthur village the major district road and state highway are not directly...
connected with the villages. Hence, the respondents are travelling around 6 kms of distance through other village to reach the state highway and major district roads. And the respondents of Beguru and Palya village are directly connected with the major district road and state highway. The highways are around 0-3 kms of distance from these two villages.

2 The study has noticed that among the 400 respondents, 75% (300) of the respondents are having accessibility to three roads. And the remaining 25% (100) respondents i.e. of Kempanapura village are having access to two roads.

3 In the sample villages out of total 400 respondents, 81.3% of the respondents are using both public and private transport services, which are rendering services in the villages. And the remaining 18.8% of the respondents are using only public transport as their major means of transport.

4 At the time of conducting survey, the respondents expressed their unhappiness over the sorrowful neglect of the national highways and other major and village roads. There is need for proper maintenance of roads which is not frequently done. The road quality is very poor which reflects departmental apathy, dishonesty and also lack of timely funds. Corruption has become an inevitable component of all projects. It is also observed that there is an overall shortage of adequate all weather roads.

5 In the sample villages all the 400 respondents’ houses are electrified. It is also observed that though the villages are connected to the grid and electrified they are not getting sufficient and regular electricity in the required voltage to carryout agricultural operations and other economic activities.

6 The study has explained the different sources of irrigation of respondents in the sample villages. 48.3% of the respondents are using bore well as their main source of irrigation which explains the predominance of private investment. 27% of the respondents main source of irrigation is rain water. 17.3% of the respondents are using both canal and bore well as their main source of the irrigation. And only 7.5% of the respondents are using canal water.

7 In sample villages, 35.5% of the respondents are growing food crops like Jowar, Zeamaize, Paddy, Ragi etc. Another 33.3% of the respondents are
growing both food crops and commercial crops (Sugarcane, Turmeric, Cotton, and Sunflower). And 17% of the respondents are growing vegetables and only 14.3% of the respondents are growing commercial crops in the villages.

8. Further 53.3 percent of the respondents are selling their products in APMC and the remaining 46.8% of the respondents are selling their agricultural products like commercial crops and food crops to the mills and industry which are located in the neighbouring taluks and villages.

9. The distribution of the total transportation cost of agricultural crops to market places in the sample villages shows variations. 54.3% of the respondents are incurring Rs 201 to Rs 400, 34% of the respondents are incurring above Rs 801, and 11.8% of the respondents are incurring Rs 401 to Rs 800 to transport the cultivated crops to sell in the preferred market in the study region.

10. In Beguru and Palya villages the respondents are having the availability of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, grinding mills and other equipments within the village. And the respondents of other villages i.e., Kempanapura and Kesthur are not getting any agricultural inputs in their village. Hence they have to go to other places to purchase agricultural inputs in the region.

11. 86.8% of the respondents are living in pucca houses which are built by good quality materials like cement, stone, concrete, bricks etc and the remaining 13.3% of the respondents are living in semi-pucca houses which are made with partly low quality materials including the floor, roof and exterior walls.

12. Drinking water is the basic necessity of the households. Similarly among the sample villages of the study region, 76.3% of the respondents are having piped drinking water facility and the remaining 23.8% of the respondents are having drinking water from the public taps or stand pipes. Out of 400 respondents, 238 respondents are getting sufficient water in the village and remaining 162 respondents are not getting sufficient water in the villages which are distributed by the concerned gram panchayats of the villages.

13. In the sample villages of the region, variations were noticed in the fuels used for cooking by the respondents. 45.8% of the respondents are using both kerosene and firewood. And 34% of the respondents are using LPG, 15% of
the respondents are using both LPG and firewood, only 3% of the respondents are using firewood and the remaining 2.3% of the respondents are using kerosene for cooking.

14 78.8 percent (315) of respondents are having toilet facility in their houses; among them 72 respondents are from Kempanapura village, 83 respondents are from Beguru, 85 respondents are from Kesthur village, 75 respondents are from Palya village. The facility is within the residential premises in the villages. The remaining 20.8% (83) respondents are not having toilets in their premises. Hence, they are using field, bushes and other areas, which are away from the premises in their villages.

15 The current education scenario in the study region is beset with plethora of problems ranging from poor quality of infrastructure to shortage of man power. Beguru of Gundlupete taluk, Kesthur of Yelandur taluk, and Palya of Kollegala taluk are having primary and secondary schools in their villages. And Kempanapura village of Chamarajanagar taluk is having only 1 to 8th standard level school education in the village. For further studies parents are sending their children to the neighbouring villages.

16 In the schools, classrooms are adequate and also in satisfactory condition. The basic facility in the schools like table, chair, benches, black board, and other facilities are in satisfactory condition. And the conditions of the drinking water in schools of the sample villages are very poor. The student participation in sports and extracurricular activities is satisfactory. However, library facilities in the schools are very poor and the playground condition is also very pathetic. The programme of mid-day meals is being implemented and it is satisfactorily and uniformly managed in the schools of the sample villages.

17 The study has examined the availability of health services among the villages in the study region. In Beguru of Gundlupete and in Palya of Kollegala taluks, primary healthcare facilities are available along with doctors and nursing facilities. And in Kempanapura village the sub-centre healthcare facility is available and there is no doctor in this village. And Kestthur village of Yelandur taluk is not having any type of healthcare facility. Hence, the people of this village are going to taluk head quarter Yelandur to get the healthcare
services. The ASHA workers are visiting frequently to provide some basic healthcare services in the villages. And there are no higher order healthcare facilities. Hence, the respondents are going to district hospitals to get treatment for all major diseases.

18 In these villages, 59.8% (238) of the respondents are using mobile phone for their communication. And 22.5% (90) of respondents are using both land line and mobiles and the remaining 18% (92) of respondents do not have any type of communication facility.

19 It is observed that, among the 400 respondents 70% (280) of the respondents have participated in the school SDMC meeting, Gram sabha, and MGNREGA activities to make decisions for the selection of beneficiaries pertaining to developmental activities. And the remaining 30% (120) of the respondents have not participated in the meeting.

8.7 Policy Implications

On the basis of these observations a few policy implications can be articulated and they are presented below.

8.7.1 Measures to Reduce Regional Disparities

- Development of existing infrastructure and promoting local initiatives for small area network development for proper provision of these facilities.

- Encouraging small, private, informal providers (who are currently unlicensed) to legitimise their operations to intervene sparingly especially for small informal private providers.

The measures are meant to encourage local solutions to existing infrastructure problems. This results in solutions which are tailored to local tastes and help to generate incomes for local people. The infrastructure providers are also accountable to the local population.

8.7.1.2 Financing of Infrastructure

The government has a universal service obligation towards the rural population, but it is finding it difficult to mobilize required resources needed to finance the projects. Therefore, investments made in rural infrastructure should be recovered to the extent as possible; the existing sources of finance cannot sustain further development and expansion. Depending on the type of service, it would be
possible to go in for minimum sustainability, full cost recovery or cost recovery with exhaustible resource premium. This will ensure that new capital assets become financially sustainable and the areas not yet serviced will have more resources for investment.

8.7.1.3 Development of Competencies

While regulations vary across sectors and geographical areas, local governance institutions have to develop three types of competencies to promote effective rural infrastructure services such as legal and regulatory competence, institutional competence, and project development competence.

- **Legal and Regulatory Competence**: This refers to the legislations, policies and regulation that need to be in place to allow the creation and maintenance of infrastructure. Legal policies in rural areas have a socio-political dimension as they have to incorporate pro-rural and pro-poor strategies.

- **Institutional Competence**: It refers to the capacity of local governments and other statutory bodies to effectively monitor and implement the provision of infrastructural services. The local body will decide how stringently to implement policies and apply rules in their localities, so that the spirit of the law is not violated.

- **Project Development Competence**: This competence includes the ability to plan a project within the stated policy, set up an administrative mechanism to promote projects based on the needs of local clients and conditions and use economic criteria to evaluate new projects. A good way to strengthen the administrative and regulatory capacity is to make sure that project is based on local priorities arrived through a consensus. This level of consensus and effective planning and implementation of existing and future projects is absolutely necessary.

- **Self-reliance should be the Motto**: Zilla Panchayath especially at top should develop self-reliance among people and remove the dependence syndrome on official machinery for everything. The people possess abundant potentialities and the need is to translate the same into kinetic energy. Once this process of self-motion takes place, then the foundation of infrastructure development will be finally laid.
Need for autonomy with accountability: PRIs require functional and administrative autonomy to prove their worth. The functional autonomy would be based on the following principles.

- Principle of efficiency
- Principle of complimentarity
- Principle of clarity
- Agency functions should not dominate
- Local level planning of local resources

Effective decentralization of power, authority and responsibility: Chief Executive Officer of the ZP who is responsible for all activities in ZP needs to be provided with adequate authority, as one of the central principles of effective local governance.

8.7.2 Initiatives at District Level

- Transfer of Planning Techniques: There should be constant efforts by the planners and administrators to transfer the technology of planning from the portals of research institutions to the field functionaries and elected members of PRIs.

- Adoption of Cluster Approach: Any infrastructure projects should be completed within 2 or 3 years and should preferably be undertaken in a cluster approach. The assistance should be given as a package to ensure achievements of tangible results. Sufficient attention should be given to the maintenance of existing rural infrastructural facilities rather than creation of additional facilities.

- Micro level Planning: while preparing plan for rural infrastructure development programmes and schemes emphasis should be laid on personal contact between planners and the people for whom the plans are meant. PRIs should be given the liberty to mould the rural infrastructure facility schemes with the financial assistance rather than to stick to unrealistic standards of State or Central plans.

- Assessment of Development Potential: Each village has a development potential unique to itself. This development potentiality should be fruitfully
exploited by giving requisite allocation of funds under the various plans for rural infrastructure development as well as the credit plan for various sectors of the economy.

- **Spatial Planning**: The district plans need to identify and estimate disparities in rural infrastructural facilities in the district as a whole or in any part of it. The pattern of physical distribution of infrastructure and service and facilities would determine the nature of interdependence and also magnitude of disparities. Such facilities differ from taluk to taluk. Therefore district planning has to clearly identify the levels at which various facilities are needed.

- **Spatial Maps**: Spatial maps give a total picture of the existing rural infrastructure facilities like roads, banking, irrigation, electricity, education, health and drinking water etc. Accordingly required number of facilities can be identified and funds could be pooled in for providing the same on priority basis.

### 8.7.3. State Level measures

- **Strict Enforcement of the Status**: If Gram sabhas have to be conducted properly, people’s participation will ensure that the fruits of democracy are delivered by the policy related initiatives.

- **Institutionalizing Accounting**: A code of conduct should be prescribed for elected representatives otherwise the administrative machinery will either come to a standstill or be abused by the vested interests.

- **Skill Up-gradation**: The government should take appropriate measures for the up-gradation of the skills of both officials and non officials in the PRIs. Government should ensure that latest technological advancements are adopted by the field functionaries in order to enhance the pace of rural infrastructure development.

### 8.7.4. Private Public Participation Related Implications

- The benefits of all rural infrastructure development programmes of 12 years in Chamarajanagar district have not brought about the desired impact. The root cause is lack of public co-operation or participation in various rural
infrastructure development activities. This reflects the domination of certain privileged classes on whom the poor people are dependent. Thus there is an urgent need for reducing such dependencies through systemic empowerment of the poor and under privileged.

- The success of PRIs would depend on the political and administrative will to decentralise power at the grass-root level. The existing administrative machinery in the union and state government has to take up this challenging task in a war footing.

- Zilla Panchayats has to provide extension services to the people; therefore they must visit field areas frequently and interact with the people and other beneficiaries of rural infrastructure services. It also reduces clerical works in the office.

- The existing local organizations in Chamarajanagar district namely Chamarajanagar Rakshana Vedike, Veera Shaiva Heeta Rakshana Samiti, and Dalit Sangarsha Samiti and other Non-governmental Organization (NGO) should extend their activities for the development and provision of rural infrastructural facilities. These organizations should actively involve in educating the people regarding to the importance of rural infrastructure development.

8.8 Conclusion

Given the importance and wide ranging effects of infrastructure in economic and social development, infrastructural development is always a priority. The theoretical articulation of the effects of infrastructure on development is available in several models of development and studies on growth.

Adequate and efficient rural infrastructural facilities can become the driving force of regional economy. The development of industries, agricultural and allied activities, and in tertiary sectors, priority has been accorded to investments in sectors such as electricity, roads, irrigation, health, education, housing, drinking water etc. The role of public sector continues to be strong in investment, delivery of services and in provision of services in the study region. The infrastructure services have been predominantly the responsibility of the state. However, participation of the private sectors is also been encouraged in the selected infrastructural facilities. Despite all
these, the role of the public sector continues to be strong in investment and delivery of services and in providing regulatory framework to safeguard the interests.

The road infrastructure in Chamarajanagar district, particularly in the rural areas, remains underdeveloped and is one of the major constraints for economic development in general and agricultural development in particular. It is also observed that there is no uniformity in the distribution of the road network among the four taluks of the study region. Chamarajanagar district is adjacent to forests of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Thus, there are all possibilities to develop interstate transport networking. There is a proposal to extend the railway broad gauge line from Chamarajanagar to Mettupalayam, a district of neighboring Tamil Nadu state. And another proposal is to extend the railway lane from Chamarajanagar to Bangalore via Yelandur, Kollegala, Malavalli and Kanakapura junction. These proposals are sanctioned by the central government and given an initial allocation of Rs 20 crores to acquire lands in the area of Chamarajanagar, Yelandur and in Kollegala taluk.

The poor state of road infrastructure presents many problems for poor households. It creates difficulties in accessing product and input markets, increases the transaction costs of all economic activities. Improving accessibility in rural areas reduces transport costs, facilitates access to markets and social facilities thereby stimulating agricultural production and non-farm activities and also promotes food security and improves the livelihoods of the rural population.

The financial sector in the district consists of a few players with branch networks confined mostly to urban and semi-urban areas. The financial sector has led to entry of new commercial banks, although all the new banks are operating only in urban centers of Chamarajanagar district. The bulk of the (82.85%) population is in rural areas and are making very little use of the banking sector. In the absence of formal banking services, the informal financial sector has proved inevitable for the rural population.

Commercial banks and other financial institutions are providing banking services to people who are living in that particular region. Most of these commercial banks and regional rural banks are located in the urban centers and a few rural areas. Commercial and regional rural banks typically offer services to agricultural and non-agricultural activities. Although, some of the banks are relatively new and
concentrating on consolidating their market position in urban markets, the extent to which the two long established commercial banks have expanded outreach into rural towns or areas is limited.

Irrigation is one of the important economic infrastructures, which determines the economic development of a region. There is a close relationship between irrigation development and agricultural development. Chamarajanagar district receives normal rainfall of 730 mm. The other important source of irrigation is small and minor irrigation projects. Major portion of cultivable land in the region even today depends on rainfall.

Social infrastructural facilities namely health, education, drinking water, and housing also play an important role in the economic development and human development of the region. The state government has taken some necessity remedial measures for providing health facilities to the rural area of the region. Though primary health centres and community hospitals are extending their service, hence, there is no super specialty hospitals are found in the district.

Inadequacy is noticed in drinking water facility in many places of the district. Particularly in rural areas during April-May every year many people have to travel long distance with their pots for water. Even in municipality and city municipal council area drinking water supply is irregular in many places.

The rural infrastructural sector has both backward and forward linkages with agricultural and industrial sectors and therefore the development of infrastructure sector is a prerequisite for the overall development of the economy. Infrastructure in general and decentralized rural infrastructure in particular contributes to economic development both by increasing productivity and by providing amenities, which enhance the quality of life. Chamarajanagar district has witnessed improvement in both economic and social infrastructural facilities in recent years, though the availability of and access to various infrastructural facilities has not improved significantly.
8.9 Scope for Future Research

The areas for future research are as follows.

- Future research could concentrate on analyzing the role of the government in the advancement of the rural infrastructural services. In this area financing of rural infrastructural services, technological support, intervention in the management process and other aspects of the involvement of the government can be measured.
- Analysis of the management structure and pricing of infrastructural services by assessing the strong and weak points of the rural areas and management system and developing a proper framework for good governance of infrastructural services.
- Comparative studies in the area of rural infrastructural services and assessment with other developed districts.
- Studies on the authorized laws, rules and regulations in providing rural infrastructural services to the rural areas in the context of globalization and the contemporary competitive environment.
- Private public participation in the developmental activities and to examine the role of government in the management and decisions making process of rural infrastructural services.
- Role of green infrastructure in sustainable regional development.