


Civil Society's Role in Ensuring Quality Infrastructure



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Preface

Over the years, Infrastructure has become an important pathway for development and to deliver upon the ambitious development priorities. When aligned with international commitments and national agenda, infrastructure becomes the quintessential tool to fulfill economic and social aspirations. From catering to boosting a country's economy and generating other positive factors like enhancing trade, contributing to enhanced connectivity and good service delivery-it has a diverse role to play.

As a new conception Quality Infrastructure has been identified as a critical indicator for measuring and guiding national and global infrastructure spending and investment. All the governments nationally and globally are actively focusing on Infrastructure for development, India is no exception. Being an active participant of the G20 process, India has a chance to set the agenda with the opportunity of hosting G20 in 2022. However, Government also needs to include civil society to raise voice regarding socio-development challenges that have been growing over the years.

In this context, this study attempts to analyze the theoretical aspects of Quality Infrastructure, the engagement processes with civil society and MDBs and India's infrastructure requirements with qualitative analysis of case studies that call for creating quality infrastructure. For completing this report I would like to extend my thanks to Ms. Shruti Sharma, Programme Officer, VANI for compiling and drafting and Mr. Arjun Phillips, Programme Manager, VANI for overall guidance. I would also like to thank Heinrich Boll Stiftung for supporting this study.

Harsh Jaitli

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Summary

Globally infrastructure is increasingly getting emphasis as a critical instrument to realize development objectives and assist in increasing the economical productivity of a country. The rationale for this emerges from the positives it can generate down the supply chain in terms of employment, increasing aggregate demand, adjusting short-term imbalances and arrest underdevelopment. It is widely attested that infrastructure development has a direct impact on increasing the GDP of a country based on which there has been a pitch for scaling infrastructure spending across the world. At current levels of infrastructure development, the world is facing annual deficit of 2 trillion. However, countries in efforts to increase their portfolio of infrastructure spending are surrounded by fallouts which have potentially disturbed socio-development indicators. Abundant research demonstrate how unchecked infrastructure spending is responsible for causing pollution, contributing to Green House Gases (GHGs), destroying livelihoods, disturbing ecology, injecting financial exclusion and overstepping on the rights of communities. This was evident in developing countries like India, China and Brazil where infrastructure has been majorly responsible for causing debilitating effects on human and environmental indicators. Challenging this, CSOs across the world have been raising concerns over the disastrous effects' infrastructure can reap and their potential to mar the cause of sustainable development. In order to maintain a critical balance between economic growth and development a common understanding was agreed in various series of Summits and declarations on producing infrastructure that is compatible and factored inside environment protection and sustainable development paradigms. However, it was felt that infrastructure could not be relegated to a subset in preservation of environment and ecology and there was a need to unfold it as long-term economic catalyst with caveats and safeguards. This was important because of the observable failure of governments in responsibly acting against climate change and their policy orientation towards promoting commercially driven infrastructure. Additionally, there have been no stand-alone frameworks or roadmaps developed by the international community which would provide a reference to responsibly produce infrastructure. As such the concept of Quality Infrastructure was born when global multilateral development banks came together and signed a joint declaration towards a holistic and doable framework which ensures the development of infrastructure capacities that are aligned to the various global instruments such as Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030 etc. Quality Infrastructure Investments (QII) seeks to address the critical issues facing infrastructure development in terms of bringing a human-centric approach, sustainability factor, environmental protection, safety of labour and employment and so on. G20's assent to it as a priority area and subsequent defining its core principles will demand that countries adopt these in their infrastructure policies. Civil Society has an immense role in ensuring that Quality Infrastructure is implemented at the country level. Thus, the study makes the effort to unpack the concept Quality Infrastructure Investment and enable civil society to utilize it at their country level with government, private sector and multilateral development banks. It also addresses the gaps in engagement process of MDBs with civil society and makes it impending on development institutions to increase their dialogue and project implementation with civil society.

Abbreviations


ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
ConSoc	Civil Society Consultative Group
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DOWR	Department of Water Resources
ESF	Environmental and Social framework
FEE	Framework for Enhanced Engagement
FPIC	Free and Prior Informed Consent
G20	Group of 20
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
JICA	Japan International Cooperative Agency
MDBs	Multilateral Development Banks
MFF	Multi-tranche Financing Facility
MMRCL	Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd
NDB	New Development Bank
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PIL	Public Interest Litigation
PPP	Public Private Partnership
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SRA	Slum Rehabilitation Authority
UNFCC	United Nations Framework for Climate Change
VANI	Voluntary Action Network India

Quality Infrastructure

Introduction

Infrastructure is an enabler for achieving crucial indicators of economic growth and acquires a positive correlation with GDP and development of a country. Its criticality in development is underpinned by the central role it is accorded in the Agenda 2030 with Goal 9 specifically pivoted on scaling national and international commitments on infrastructure as a policy instrument. The current patterns of infrastructure investment have been largely inclined towards producing infrastructure on commercial and competitive lines, leaving little space for considering sustainability, environmental and qualitative optics. At this rate the target of creating sustainable infrastructure investments under the aegis of Agenda 2030 will be far-fetched. Therefore, it is imperative to develop sustainable infrastructure that promotes economic growth and address socio-development gaps which have until now been negative fallouts of existing infrastructure. The IDB Group defines sustainable infrastructure as “infrastructure projects that are planned, designed, constructed, operated, and decommissioned in a manner to ensure economic and financial, social, environmental (including climate resilience), and institutional sustainability over the entire life cycle of the project”. Sustainable infrastructure is required because of the huge necessity emerging from the plummeting levels of environmental and development indicators. Additionally, sustainable infrastructure is necessitated in helping preserve, restore, integrate and promote the natural environment including biodiversity and ecosystems, efficient use of natural resources including energy, water and materials and so on. Moreover, it is expected that sustainable infrastructure contributes to a low-carbon, resilient and a resource efficient economy. Institutionally sustainable infrastructure is in alignment with national and international commitments, (such as the Paris Agreement) and based on transparency and open governance systems. Robust institutional capacity and clearly defined procedures for project planning, procurement and operations are important factors that build into its sustainability.

Currently, infrastructure spending and development around the world is confronted with herculean challenges. The world is facing an annual infrastructure investment gap of \$2 trillion that calls for bridging the infrastructure gap by attracting finance especially from various public, private and international sources. To address this, various efforts at the country level have been made to scale-up investments. A large share of financing is being preferred through private investors by offering attractive rate of return on infrastructure bonds, credit facilities, loans etc. This has raised concerns over the primacy accorded to private investors over public financing which is restricted in terms of being available as public goods. Associated with infrastructure development is the mammoth forms of external factors responsible for causing negative externalities. For example, it is estimated that infrastructure currently faces \$314 million annual loss due to natural disasters and \$6 trillion loss attributed to corruption, mismanagement and inefficiency.



- Global infrastructure gap stands at \$ 1 trillion annual investment
- \$314 million annual loss estimated to be produced by natural disasters
- According to World Economic Forum- infrastructure is responsible for more than 60% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The construction of large infrastructure assets, such as dams and railways, can disrupt and displace communities
- US\$ 6 trillion loss to infrastructure is attributed to corruption, mismanagement and inefficiency.

Defining Quality Infrastructure: According to the definition adopted in June 2017 by World Bank, “Quality Infrastructure is the system comprising the organizations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes”. Quality Infrastructure represents a fundamental prerequisite for the cooperation between economic entities. Thus, the adequacy, affordability and resilience against natural disasters can bridge the gap to support country's growth and development. It also emphasizes on open governance, public participation and multi-stakeholder participation.

Background of Quality Infrastructure

At the 2016 G20 Summit in Hangzhou, G20 leaders agreed to 'stress the importance of Quality Infrastructure investment (QII) which aims to ensure economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost, safety, resilience against natural disaster, job creation, capacity building, and transfer of expertise and know-how on mutually agreed terms and conditions, while addressing social and environmental impacts and aligning with economic and development strategies.'³⁶ In addition to this agreement, in December 2018, G20 leaders endorsed the 'Roadmap to Infrastructure as an Asset Class' and the 'G20 Principles for the Infrastructure Project Preparation Phase.' They also agreed to make progress on 'quality infrastructure' in 2019. This was realized via a set of principles that have been forward as voluntary and involuntary for G20 countries to enact-

Economic Growth: The aim of pursuing quality infrastructure investment is to maximize the positive economic, environmental, social, and development impact of infrastructure and create a virtuous circle of economic activities, while ensuring sound public finances. This virtuous circle can take various forms. New jobs are created during construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure, while positive spillover effects of infrastructure stimulate the economy and lead to

more demand for jobs. Advanced technology and know-how may be transferred voluntarily and on mutually agreed-upon terms. This can result in better allocation of resources, enhanced capacities, skills upgrade and improvement of productivity for local economies.

Maximizing Resource Portfolio: Infrastructure development will not drive economic growth unless it is fully aligned with the country's economic, industrial, social and environmental priorities and is delivered efficiently and effectively. Further, the infrastructure financing has been emphasized as it has been observed that investment in transportation, energy, digitalization and connectivity enhances access and boosts growth and productivity. But there is a global financial crunch due to decline in private infrastructure investment in many countries especially the developing ones. The public sector still accounts for almost two-third of investment in infrastructure while the progress in engaging the private financing in infrastructure investment has been comparatively slow. To increase and support infrastructure investment it will require enhanced participation from the private actors. Albeit, there are concerns over having an enhanced participation of private financing which is more costly, less sustainable and less accountable to citizens than public financing. However, public financing is currently starved of funds because of a lack of action at international level and because the G20 is promoting private financing for development through PPPs and its 'Roadmap to Infrastructure as an Asset Class'.

Positive Spillovers: While there has been emphasis on infrastructure financing, it is equally important to focus on the quality aspect of already developed and developing infrastructure. The reason behind; is that low quality infrastructure might prove less expensive in current period but will cost more in future due its un-stability. The investment and promotion of infrastructure is not enough, the quality needs to be a focal point too for yielding better result and impact. It is evident that for closing the infrastructure gap there is a need to transform the ways infrastructure is planned, developed and operated. Maintaining the existing infrastructure and optimizing its use will reduce the social and environment risk factor of creating a new one which in itself is a complex process. Hence Quality Infrastructure is envisaged as a multiplier for spilling over positives at the ground level. For example, in the principles underlining quality infrastructure it is expected to be inclusive, enabling the economic participation and social inclusion of all with relevant economic and social impacts as an important component when assessing the quality of infrastructure investment.

Human Rights Approach: It is evident that inefficient infrastructure has a negative impact on people's lives and have a high risk of violation of their rights especially workers/ laborers, women, children, disabled, marginalized etc. Thus, it is highly important that while promoting quality infrastructure the human rights aspects should be mainstreamed. There is a need to integrate human rights framework to be adopted throughout infrastructure lifecycle. There are protocols and mechanisms available such as Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) that allows the communities and groups to actively engage with investors and can safeguard them from unwanted displacement or migration. Adopting such policies and frameworks will ensure that issues of people are not diluted during the project.

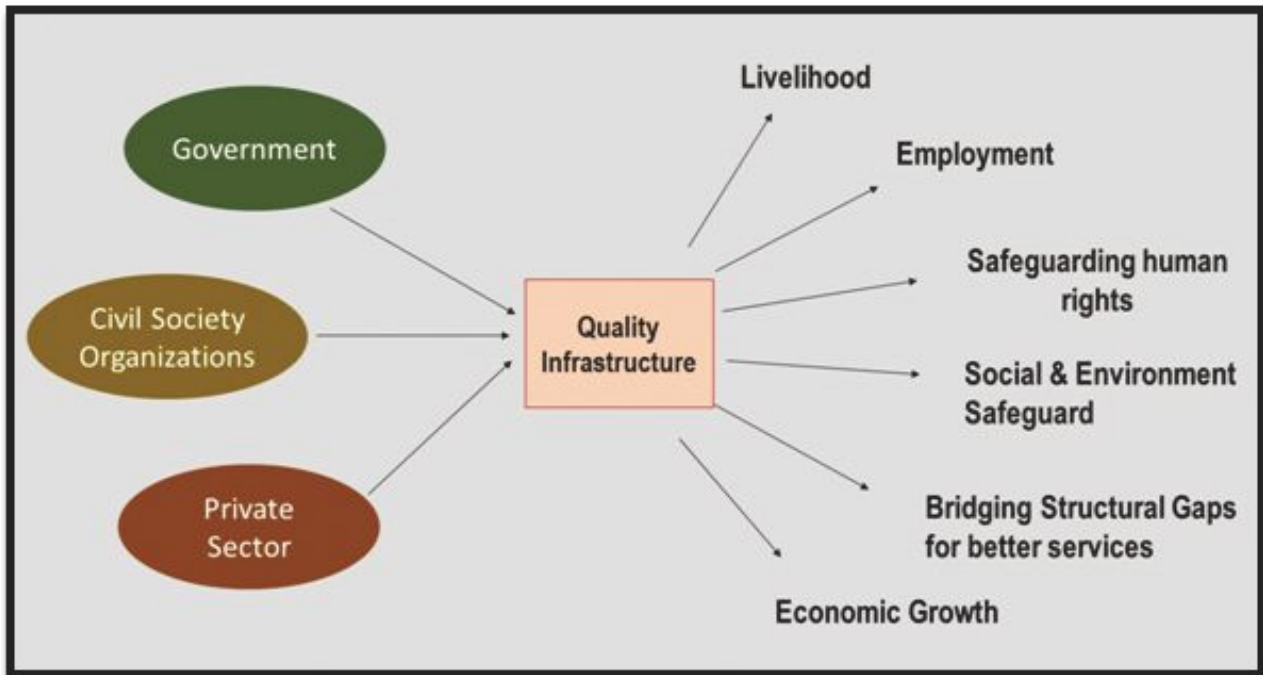
Environmental and Social Aspect: Both positive and negative impacts of infrastructure projects on ecosystems, biodiversity, climate, weather and the use of resources should be internalized by incorporating these environmental considerations over the entire process of infrastructure investment, including by improving disclosure of these environment related information, and thereby

enabling the use of green finance instruments. Infrastructure projects should align with national strategies and nationally determined contributions for those countries determined to implement them, and with transitioning to long-term low emissions strategies, while being mindful of country circumstances. While the Environmental and Social framework (ESF) aims at managing and addressing risks, there have been instances of failure at the national level. Even some multilateral development banks fall short of its commitment to do no harm as an objective of the ESF. One such example is AIIB, which aims to be lean, *green and clean* and calls themselves Post-Paris and SDG bank. Within 3 years of its operation, India received \$1.2billion for projects related to transport, energy and infrastructure. However, it has been evident that most of their projects i.e. 25% of their approved projects in India belong to the social and environmental (category A)¹. This category projects are the worst as they are likely to have significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are irreversible, cumulative, diverse or unprecedented. Thus, it is imperative for MDBs to have socially relevant green projects with no 'Category A' projects, prioritize low carbon emission infrastructure investment aligned with SDGs.

Developing Precedents of Good Practices: Developing countries will have to take action to build the infrastructure they require and the decisions they make, will have lasting economic, social and environmental impact. Infrastructure that fails to meet the standards of efficiency, safety and economic sustainability might be less expensive in the short term but impose huge costs on future growth and development. A positive example of a high value infrastructure project was Delhi Metro, since its inception it has been running without any major defaults and providing services to lakhs every day. Observing through its success, the same infrastructure project was replicated in other cities like Jaipur and Mumbai as well, to enhance the mode of public transport and solve the issue of pollution and traffic. The high-quality infrastructure also provides direct positive impacts including higher efficiency, increased safety, decreased environmental impact and more effective delivery of public goods and services. It also has positive spillover effects that range from job creation and increased foreign direct investment to improved tax revenue.

Linking grassroots to international: Local governments, bilateral development agencies, MDBs, CSOs and private companies all have a critical role in promoting the high-quality infrastructure in developing countries. But most importantly building recognition for the importance of quality infrastructure is required. Although there are approaches to promote the quality infrastructure, but most challenging aspect remains identifying concrete steps and action for relevant stakeholders to implement them at the ground level around the world. There is no single country or organization that will be able to fill the gap alone. There need to be practical incentives for people, companies and governments to meet a higher standard in the infrastructure space. Multilateral development banks must play a huge role in providing technical assistance, training and capacity building to help officials in this space.

¹ According to the AIIB's Environment and Social Framework- A Project is categorized A if it is likely to have significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are irreversible, cumulative, diverse or unprecedented. These impacts may affect an area larger than the sites or facilities subject to physical works and may be temporary or permanent in nature.



G20

The G20 has been consistently taking forward the agenda on filling the infrastructure gap mandated by the 2015 meeting on Financing for Development (FfD) at Addis Ababa. It is understood and acknowledged that the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change cannot be reached without investment in sustainable infrastructure. Yet there is a need to reconcile the above two for which the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors have encouraged the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to push forward joint actions to foster infrastructure investment, including formulating quantitative ambitions for high-quality projects, encouraging multipartite cooperation financing models, catalyzing private resources, fostering collaboration between new and existing MDBs, and strengthening project preparation to improve quality and bankability. Investment is a crucial complement of structural policy reforms to enhance potential growth and job creation. This resulted in the adoption of the Principles governing Quality Infrastructure Investment; a comprehensive and ambitious voluntary, non-binding principles that reflect G20's common strategic direction and aspiration for quality infrastructure investment.

Year	G20 Presidency	Declaration on Quality Infrastructure
2016	China	Importance of QI for development strategies
2017	Germany	Alignment of infrastructure to climate change instruments
2018	Argentina	Increasing private financing towards infrastructure
2019	Japan	Adoption of Quality Infrastructure principles

Source: From Various G20 documents

Recommendations from CSOs for promoting Quality Infrastructure

The C20 in its recommendations to G20 emphasized the following key concerns for making Quality Infrastructure an effective policy instrument-

1. Consistency with key international goals and agreements including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement
2. Consistency with national strategies and priorities for sustainable development
3. Create social inclusion through projects mostly for vulnerable groups, marginalized and women to derive benefits from infrastructure projects
4. Adoption of Social and environmental safeguards
5. Establish labour standards for protection of workers rights
6. Incorporate Anti-Corruption mechanisms
7. Open and accountable database of projects and investments with disclosure policies
8. Have an effective and primary public financing mechanism for infrastructure investments

Role of CSOs in promoting Quality Infrastructure

For achieving developmental transformation, the establishment of quality structures involves the joint action among the government, private sector and civil society that can work together to facilitate the development process especially in the domain of quality infrastructure. The cooperation and collective efforts of all the sectors are essential to simplify an otherwise arduous partnership process. Over the years, a tripartite framework of development has been recognized as an integral component in the multidimensional tasks of nation-building and in addressing issues of development. The partnership between the three sectors is based on a few assumptions – One is that cooperation and collaboration between the sectors presume parity between the three sectors of society. Civil-society organizations are in a better position to lead local development programs by virtue of their size, reach, capacity and rootedness in the community. They are not burdened by large state bureaucracies; and are part of society that enables people to bargain for equity vis-a-vis economic growth and development. The nature, characteristics and functions of civil society make it integral to social and local development processes of quality infrastructure.

Contribution/ Services	Type of CSOs	Value added by CSOs
Community interaction and mobilization	Local CSO (possibly from the region in which the project was implemented)	CSO experience and local knowledge can facilitate outreach to communities to enhance awareness, support, participation, results, and sustainability.
Coordination, capacity building, and monitoring	National CSO (or one with greater capacities or outreach than a local CSO)	Larger or more experienced CSOs can provide a management and support function to increase the effectiveness of local or smaller CSOs.

Special initiatives to strengthen implementation strategies	National or specialist CSO with expertise relevant to loan objective(s)	Such special initiatives allow small-scale exploration of issues or delivery methods that can inform approaches to loan implementation and provide a means to learn from and build on the experience of CSOs.
Delivery of social services	Local or national CSO or other CSO that specializes in delivering the services covered by the loan	CSO expertise often includes community outreach, particularly to poor communities. Their expertise and field presence can allow for rapid expansion in service provision in underserved urban areas.
Support to implement Involuntary resettlement	Local CSO (preferably from the project-affected area) with resettlement experience	CSO experience and local knowledge can facilitate outreach to communities to enhance awareness, support, and participation

Source: World Bank's "working with CSOs: A practical guide to operational collaboration between the World Bank and Non-Governmental Organizations, 1995

MDBs can adopt a consultative and collaborative approach with CSOs that can help improve development outcomes and prevent negative impacts of projects. This can be done by having operational collaboration and partnerships with CSOs in strategy consultation, policy dialogues etc. Achieving high-quality, economically efficient infrastructure is far more than a financing challenge. The main gaps in many developing countries are effective rule of law, consistent regulatory norms, land tilting issues and the capacity of public officials to plan and manage large-scale infrastructure. These issues are relevant at the national level, but also at the provincial and municipal level, where officials are on the front lines of infrastructure procurement and management. Thus, engagement with CSOs can help MDBs achieve their goal effectively. The following matrix shows the role of civil society throughout a project cycle.

CSO's Role in Project Cycle

Stage in Project Cycle	Potential CSO Involvement
Project Identification	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide advice / information on local conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in environmental and social assessments <input type="checkbox"/> Organize consultations with beneficiaries/ affected parties <input type="checkbox"/> Transmit expressed needs/ priorities of local communities <input type="checkbox"/> Act as a source, model of project ideas <input type="checkbox"/> Implement pilot projects
Project Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Consultant to the Government, local communities or to the Bank <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in promoting a participatory approach to project design <input type="checkbox"/> Channel information to local population

Financing	<input type="checkbox"/> Co-finance (in money or in kind) a project component <input type="checkbox"/> Source of fund for activities complimentary to the proposed Bank-financed project
Implementation	<input type="checkbox"/> Project contractor or manager for delivery of training, services, construction etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Promote community participation in project activities <input type="checkbox"/> Financial intermediary role <input type="checkbox"/> Supplier of technical knowledge to local beneficiaries <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor to local community on how to take advantage of project financed goods and services <input type="checkbox"/> Implementor of complementary activities <input type="checkbox"/> Beneficiary of an NGO funding mechanisms established by the project
Monitoring and Evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/> CSOs contracted to monitor project progress or evaluate project result <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate participatory monitoring and evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Independent/ unsolicited monitoring and evaluation

Source: World Bank's "working with CSOs: A practical guide to operational collaboration between the World Bank and Non-Governmental Organizations, 1995

Making MDBs deliver on Quality Infrastructure

Multilateral Development Banks

Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) are important providers of financial and technical assistance to various development projects of developing countries. Financing infrastructure investment is one such key area of MDB support and has been preferred as a route for implementing development financing. The role of MDBs is especially important in this paradigm of infrastructure development with the combination of technical and policy support, low-cost long-term financing and risk mitigation services that these institutions offer. It is recognized they can be instrumental in leveraging substantial increases in flows of private finance to infrastructure and lowering its cost. This leveraging role will be in high demand especially in middle-income developing countries. The fact that MDBs play a significant role in deploying infrastructure, in both developed and developing countries, they are therefore more well versed for laying standards of practice for national governments and private investors. A major push for instituting Quality Infrastructure has come from MDBs. It is recognized that MDBs have an influential role in terms of supporting the institutional and legislative reforms needed to encourage the rule of law and ensure that projects are sustainable and welfare enhancing.

MDBs	Commitment for Infrastructure Development from 2016-18
African Development Bank (AfDB)	\$ 22 Billion
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	\$ 70 Billion (till 2020)
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	\$ 7 Billion
The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)	\$4.7
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD)	\$8 Billion
European Investment Bank (EIB)	\$45 Billion
Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDBG)	\$31 Billion
New Development Bank (NDB)	\$ 17 Billion

Source: Joint Declaration by MDBs on Quality Infrastructure

As MDBs are determined to work together to maximize the quality of infrastructure investments, they should (?)commit to include and consider— economic efficiency throughout project life-cycles, sustainable job creation, capacity building of local communities, social and environmental impacts, alignment of economic and development strategies at the national and regional levels and lastly create effective channels for resource mobilization. The MDBs can also endeavor to improve the quality of the infrastructure projects by:

- ❖ introducing and promoting procurement systems that take account of value for money and quality of infrastructure, as well as timelines and effectiveness to implement projects;
- ❖ promoting green infrastructure;
- ❖ sharing good examples of high-quality projects with client countries; and
- ❖ monitoring the implementation and operation of projects.

CSOs and MDBs

The relevance of having CSOs at the level of multilateral development banks is to have a better understanding of the implications of projects on wider society. The partnership and engagement with civil society is needed due to their expertise in varied areas that can help in the development process. As known civil society organizations since a long time have been connected to not only grassroots but also have a major presence at international arena. The issues at grassroot and regional level can be effectively raised which can expand the body of the development agenda. Working for the interest of people and country, civil society play a major role in quality infrastructure as they themselves are one of the development agent. The projects developed by MDBs through the help of civil society can produce a fruitful result with long term benefit. As explained earlier due to their experience, civil society play a vital role in policy decisions as the policies made needs to be inclusive and benefit the target.

Civil society work for the interests of people and fulfil its role by being transparent and accountable and promote citizen engagement in the development process. The public and quasi-public function of civil society is expressed in the way that local organizations serve as the means for ordinary citizens to participate more meaningfully in public life. Civil society offers alternative forms of popular participation outside formal state structures. Policy advocacy, dialogues, mass actions, public assemblies and fora are examples of such public and quasi-public functions which aim to keep state and market ascendancy at reasonable levels. Civil society's representative and functions are exemplified through the way that civil-society organizations give voice to the interests of their constituents and serve as watchdogs that hold government and businesses and MDBs accountable. However, there is a need for MDBs to interact with civil society organizations (CSOs) at country, regional and global front due to their expertise and knowledge of local context and communities and impact of any intervention made. They can provide valuable inputs which can be beneficial for the MDBs in long term. The MDBs cooperation with CSOs established a broad framework of cooperation and address a range of operational and institutional implications. The policy at MDBs level, enhances the effectiveness of the Bank's operations as it employs the special capabilities and expertise that CSO possess. CSOs can critically monitor the MDB's work and engage in policy discussions and actively collaborate with the MDB in operational activities. The Bank can also engage with them through information sharing, policy dialogue, strategy consultation, operational collaboration, and

institutional partnerships. These interactions of MDBs will not only strengthen its engagement with civil society but also strengthen its efforts, effectiveness, quality, and sustainability of its operations. CSOs can look at the work done by the banks and actively advocate to engage them at various stages of project and policies of bank. At various stages of a project, CSOs have a crucial role to play – starting from project identification to its design, implementation to financing to monitoring and evaluating. CSOs have the ability to play varied roles at same time thus, increasing the efficiency of any project. This ability of CSOs make them important and MDBs need to understand the value addition they will be bringing to bank projects and overall bank's working.

MDBs cooperation with CSOs can establish a broad framework of cooperation and addressed a range of operational and institutional implications. The major MDBs that are involved in quality infrastructure are World Bank, ADB, NDB, AIIB etc. The study will be looking at these institutions and their policy framework for involving CSOs in their endeavors and decision making in Infrastructure development.

World Bank	Asian Development Bank	Inter-American Development Bank
<p>World Bank's approach with civil society is based on the principles of engagement and information sharing during the project lifecycle.</p> <p>CSOs are engaged on policies, country strategies and at the operation level. World Bank is implementing a new commitment to obtain beneficiary feedback on all World Bank Group projects that have clearly identified beneficiaries.</p> <p>World Bank country offices have Civil Society Focal Points responsible for engaging CSOs and there is also a civil society team at the headquarters level.</p> <p>World Bank includes CSOs in some of its advisory council and also has a few facilities to fund CSOs, including Global Partnership for Social</p>	<p>Asian Development Bank (ADB) has a policy on Cooperation between ADB and Non-Governmental Organizations ADB also has a CSO Sourcebook. A staff guide to cooperation with Civil Society Organizations.</p> <p>Numerous other ADB policies require engagement with civil society organizations in ADB funded activities.</p> <p>ADB's policy promotes the participation of CSOs at project level, directly through ADB's loan, grant and technical assistance in respective areas and sectors, CSOs throughout ADB's project cycle.</p> <p>It also promotes engagement with CSOs at the policy level and country strategy levels. As per ADB's Strategy 2020, it's partnership CSOs would</p>	<p>IDB has a CSO network known as Civil Society Consultative Group (ConSoC) in each of 26 member countries.</p> <p>IDB has its own program namely "Civil Society Institutional Capacity" to add human capital and train CSOs. IDB's strategy includes citizen participation in development of policies, country strategies and operations. It uses the platform on ConSoC to implement these consultations.</p> <p>IDB started working with CSOs in 1994 and incorporated CSOs in mainstream of its lending to governments in 1995-96.</p> <p>It further held series of consultation meetings with CSOs on national development agendas. Additionally, the program "Civil Society</p>

World Bank	Asian Development Bank	Inter-American Development Bank
Accountability (GPSA) created in 2012 to fund CSOs on issues related to transparency and accountability.	<p>become more central to the planning, financing and implementation of ADB operations.</p> <p>ADB has an CSO Civil Society Centre and Inter-departmental network of CSOs/ CSOs with the aim to keep the civil society engaged in bank procedures and projects.</p>	Building Knowledge” is aimed at achieving shared value through webinars and thematic approach addressed to civil society that encourages different organizations to contribute to IDB's work.

Southern Banks

African Development Bank	New Development Bank	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
<p>African Development Bank (AfDB) has a Framework for Enhanced Engagement with civil society organizations. The frameworks aim to improve its interface and collaboration with civil society organizations by strengthening participation and partnership mechanisms.</p> <p>Inputs received directly from AfDB mention that since 2016 AfDB is reinvigorating its effort to engage civil society and to update the CSO framework</p> <p>AfDB Framework for Enhanced Engagement (FEE) is meant to achieve a triple focus of outreach, dialogue and partnerships with the CSOs. The FEE has provisions to build staff capacity and</p>	<p>NDB engages with representatives of CSOs and recognizes the importance of regular communications with CSOs. However, till now there are no policies and mechanisms to institutionalize civil society engagement.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised regarding Bank's transparency, accountability and access to information, the Bank's policies, environmental and social management, gender aspects of operations, the NDB's General Strategy: 2017-2021, sustainable development, exchange of knowledge as well as other issues.</p> <p>The Bank intends to engage with CSOs and benefit from their knowledge and</p>	<p>There is still no established regular cooperation and communication of CSO representatives in the AIIB, and public information on engagement with the AIIB is almost inexistent.</p> <p>No policy for CSO engagement to enhance effective participation of CSOs and ensure information disclosure and briefings on AIIB policies, investment strategies and projects.</p> <p>Though AIIB engages with entities such as think tanks and CSOs that provide advice to the bank.</p> <p>CSOs who have been tracking the process, attending the engagement meetings and raising concerns and</p>

provide operational guidance to interact with CSOs, including at the policy, country and operation levels.	experience – particularly those organizations closely connected to infrastructure and sustainable development. They mentioned in their strategy report of 2017-2021 – Greater openness to NGOs, and more broadly to civil society, will encourage public discussion of the Bank's activities, improving the quality of its operations and enhancing institutional credibility.	<p>suggestions regarding the bank's policies and governance, including its environmental and social framework, energy strategy and project implementation.</p> <p>Lack of formal spaces for CSOs at AIIB and holding only informal dialogues with CSOs could indicate that the bank may not be willing to offer more CSO participation other than at the level of lip service only.</p>
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Source: From various MDB civil society engagement strategy documents

Enhancing Cooperation with CSOs

Involving CSOs in consultations: The MDBs could include civil society in their consultation process in policies and strategies. It has been stressed that civil society engagement helps in bettering development results and in bridging the gap by ensuring transparency and social accountability. The MDBs could encourage CSO engagement platforms like has been done by the ADB and IDB - which has programs acting as a platform for consultation and collaboration between the bank and CSOs. MDBs could also consider developing open procedures and decision-making processes for direct participation of individuals, communities and CSOs from various regions where the bank is operating or investing.

- ❖ **Strategy Consultation:** Engaging in strategy consultations with CSOs is a key component of an effective development process. Involving civil society at this stage can be critical for understanding the needs of the country and poor communities in particular, but also for helping in early prevention and adopting mitigating strategies for any social or environmental risks associated with the banks' operations. This is of particular importance in sectors or countries where social tensions exist, and especially where land rights are concerned.
- ❖ **Project-level consultation:** Many of the MDBs have requirements for project-affected communities to be consulted, particularly where communities may be involuntarily resettled. This is done to ensure that projects are actually benefitting the intended communities and that risks are managed appropriately. Consulting at the project level is crucial because in cases where indigenous communities are involved, banks should ensure a free, prior and informed consent of communities.

Forming a network of CSOs: It would be useful for the MDBs to have an inclusive network of CSOs. They should ensure that the network not only consists of the well-known, big, internationally connected CSOs, but importantly the grassroot CSOs with close ties to communities.

Creating spaces for CSOs to engage with Bank officials: Many of the MDBs have forums through which CSOs can have their own space to organize events, meet with delegates and bank officials. A platform is required for discussion regarding the issues of bank in engaging with CSOs. The policy level dialogue can also take place among members of different sectors which can help facilitating the exchange of experiences, innovative practices, and lessons learned.

Operational Collaborations and Institutional Partnerships: Over the years, collaboration with CSOs has become an increasingly important feature of MDBs. This has come through research, project delivery, participation in advisory bodies, and capacity building among others. There are certain banks that have been working regularly in collaboration with CSOs and encourage institutional partnerships. The collaboration is majorly motivated by the policy commitment towards enhancing the project delivery, accountability and an understanding of the knowledge and access that CSOs can offer. As part of its framework, certain banks can have a training program for CSOs to build their capacities in providing structured inputs for their financed projects. The bank can also offer scholarships to CSOs to participate in this program. The initiative aims to make CSOs more informed and build their capacities as watchdogs to assess impacts of development projects.

Policy Dialogue: All MDBs have institutional policies which guide their governance and operations. These include policies related to accountability, transparency, procurement, social and environmental safeguards, etc. These policies are updated to reflect internal or external changes. MDBs have often engaged CSOs extensively in these policy reviews and updates. For example, the WB's new environmental and social framework (ESF) underwent a very extensive consultation from various stakeholders including CSOs. The revised Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) of the ADB was also developed through a similar comprehensive exercise of stakeholder consultations. As another example, the AfDB revised its' Disclosure and Access to Information Policy (2012) and (as mentioned in the policy) held broad-based consultations internally within the AfDB Bank Group and externally with key stakeholders, including the Regional Member Countries, the Regional Economic Communities, the private sector, development partners and civil society. While these consultations are rarely, if ever, perfect, they are predictable and transparent opportunities for CSOs to shape policies that impact them and the communities they are close to in a very real way.

Gaps in MDBs Engagement with CSOs

Despite the existence of relatively strong policies and norms on civil society participation by the MDBs, there are certain limitations to how this is implemented in practice. For example, the World Bank made extensive efforts to consult with civil society on its ESF review over multiple years, there were several limitations, such as short notice periods to provide inputs; lack of clarity on who was invited to participate in consultations; and a feeling that the process was for show rather than genuinely taking comments into account at times. This limits the involvement of an inclusive CSO group that is well prepared with informed inputs.

A recent study showcased the ADB's process of identification of civil society actors and political opportunities provided to them to influence the Bank's policies and project decisions to be shallow (Uhlin, 2016). Further there have been some concerns on the categorization of CSOs which limits participation of civil society. It had been observed that though there was access to ADB's CSO Forums, the inclusion of CSOs and their suggestions in policy advocacy and review had been limited to selected CSOs.

Additionally, it has been observed that even though such policies provide space and opportunity, they are lacking in political purpose as they are poorly institutionalized i.e. they are limited by staff and resource availability. The dependency on the government to identify and suggest CSOs also limit the depth of the engagement at times as the inherent biases between the State and certain civil society groups or CSOs are a popular phenomenon in regions like South Asia for example.

Thus, unless these gaps are addressed by the MDBs, the collaboration among them will not yield the expected result. For MDBs to reach its aim of quality infrastructure development, it is extremely important for the banks to eliminate these gaps with the help of civil society. CSOs also need to work on advocating and highlighting the issues that pose a challenge in their engagement with MDBs. While MDBs should consider the existing and new restrictive elements. Identifying and addressing these gaps will help strengthen the engagement between the actors and contribute towards the successful implementation of project and development of country.

On the context of achieving quality infrastructure it is recommended to MDBs that they should engage CSOs

- ❖ at policy level for facilitating the engagement process with them, citizens and other stakeholders and to build an inclusive and participatory processes
- ❖ at various stages of project lifecycle: planning to implementation to monitoring and evaluation. They can help banks with the vast knowledge of the ground reality and community
- ❖ CSO's play the role of vocalizing people's concerns by which bank's engagement can help them to be transparent and accountable in their activities and can help to avoid any risk and violations during project
- ❖ Capacity Building of beneficiaries during the course of project lifecycle, operations and management etc
- ❖ Feeding human rights and entitlement concerns through a dedicated communication channel
- ❖ Supporting green projects attached with mega-investments innovated by CSOs
- ❖ Organizing FPICs and consultations with MDBs

India's Need to Develop Quality Infrastructure

India's Infrastructure

The Indian infrastructure industry has emerged as the key engine of the economy and the country's second largest employer. Along with the capital goods sector, it aids capital formation and boosts growth, adding around 2-3% to Indian gross domestic product (GDP) every year. With higher Government interventions in building infrastructure through a target of Rs 100 trillion in the next five years, the sector is set for a transformation. Public funded projects are going up, both by the Central Government and state governments. India to spend \$1.3 trillion on infrastructure: PM Narendra Modi

"From highways to metros, each sector is seeing massive investment and potential. Thus, if you want to be part of the largest growing infrastructure ecosystem, come to India."

Similarly Private sector infrastructure players have expanded their resource base and invest in public goods such as cement, steel, construction etc. In order to ensure high and sustainable growth, there has been a substantial step up of investment in infrastructure mostly on transportation, energy, communication, housing & sanitation and urban infrastructure sector. Enhanced investment on infrastructure sector will certainly help in creating jobs both directly and indirectly.

According to the Global Infrastructure Outlook rising income levels and economic prosperity is likely to further drive demand for infrastructure investment in India over the next 25 years. Around US\$ 4.5 trillion worth of investments is required by India till 2040 to develop infrastructure to improve economic growth and community wellbeing. The current trend shows that India can meet around US\$ 3.9 trillion infrastructure investment out of US\$ 4.5 trillion. The cumulative figure for India's infrastructure investment gap would be around US\$ 526 Billion by 2040. Additionally, by 2022, India aims to reach the \$5 trillion economy mark which will be inclusive of an expanding infrastructure component.

In 2022, India is also poised to hold the G20 in India. It will be interesting how India takes forward the agenda for Quality Infrastructure given the increasing focus it has received over the years under different G20 presidencies. As of now Indian infrastructure investments lack mechanisms that ensure sustainability and quality production. This is largely attributed to the lower levels of financing and the near-failure of flagship programs. Poor quality infrastructure has been responsible for causing large scale damage to the environment and livelihoods of local populations. Displacement of communities without adequate resettlement has always been a struggle for common people. The Sardar Sarovar Dam on the Narmada River in India eventually displaced over 200,000 people, far more than planned, while China's Three Gorges Dam displaced six times as many. Involuntary resettlement of people, unless mitigated, risks permanent loss of livelihoods and the breakdown of cultures and traditions. All these factors and experiences need to be integrated in India's framework for ensuring reduction and mitigation of adverse effects of infrastructure.

List of Projects of Government of India's Flagship Projects	Description
Sagarmala Project	Vision of the Sagarmala Programme is to reduce logistics cost for EXIM and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.
Bharatmala Project	For connecting the areas and maintaining smooth flow of traffic, the construction of new and developed roads are a must. The same will be achieved with the implementation of the Bharatmala project. Under the scheme, a host of new roads will be laid down in the nation.
Bharatmala Project Mumbai Trans Harbour Link	The proposed Mumbai Trans Harbour Link ('MTHL') has been planned to facilitate decongestion of the island city by improving connectivity between Island city and main land (Navi Mumbai) and development of Navi Mumbai Region.
Setu Bharatam Project	the Setu Bharatam programme for building bridges for safe and seamless travel on National Highways
Rashtriya Rajmarg Zila Sanjoyokta Pariyojna	entails development of 6,600 km of highways at an estimated cost of about Rs 60,000 crore.
Inland Waterways	Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), anticipating an increase in cargo traffic, plans to purchase 8-10 inland cargo vessels to operate on two key waterways – the Ganga and the Brahmaputra.

Source: Form various Government of India schemes

India's Environmental and Social Safeguards

Environmental legislation in India has been promulgated to respond to the impacts of land use change, infrastructure development and industrialisation. While major acts are legislated in the Parliament at both the central and state level, India has several executive led rules, guidelines and other orders that are passed by the central and state authorities, which have governed how environment and related social impacts can be assessed, regulated and managed. Some of these come under the central acts such as- Environment Protection Act, 1986, Coastal Zone Regulation, 2011, Hazardous and Other Waste Rules, 2016, Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 etc.

ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT NOTIFICATION, 2006 (EIA 2006) The EIA Notification 2006 lays out a detailed process for obtaining Prior Environment Clearance for any new projects or activities, or the expansion or modernisation of existing projects and projects seeking capacity addition with change in process or technology. Projects or activities are categorised as A and B, depending upon the extent of their capacity and size. For example, River valley projects of more than 50 MW hydroelectric power generation are Project A while river valley projects whose power generation is between 25 and 50 MW are Project B, as per the Notification. Approval process: Category A projects acquire their clearance from the MoEFCC Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change while category B projects apply for clearances to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). The environment clearance process consists of four steps of screening, scoping, public consultation and appraisal. Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs) are constituted at the Central Government and the State Government or Union Territory level (called the State Expert Appraisal Committee), which screen, scope and appraise applications for Category A and Category B projects respectively. Category B projects can be further broken down to B1 and B2, thereby determining which projects and activities will require an EIA before approval. Since January 2016, institutions have been created at the District level as well and they too have been included in the EIA Notification for approving certain instances of mining of minor minerals. These are the District Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (DEIAA) and District Level Expert Appraisal Committee (DEAC).

The Forest Conservation Act, 1980: lays down the provisions that regulate the diversion of forestland for non-forest purposes. This is with the stated objective of ensuring long-term conservation of the forests in India, and reducing forest degradation. Any user agency (both government and non government) has to seek prior permission from the Central Government before de-reserving any forest land, felling of trees or before diverting any forestland for non-forest use. The application for the same is moved through the Forest Department of the State Government, which is the final point of approval for forest diversion under this legislation. Non-forest use implies the breaking up or clearing of any forest land for the cultivation of tea, spices, rubber, palms, oil-bearing plants, horticultural crops or medicinal plants and for any purpose other than re-forestation. Approvals required: Permission is sought by applying for 'Forest Clearance'. The Forest Clearance will consist of an approval along with certain conditions that try to minimise the impact on forest land. The forest clearance consists of general conditions like that of compensatory afforestation, rehabilitation of project affected families (if any) and also has specific conditions depending on the type of project it is. Proposals involving forest land upto 40 hectares (not including activities related to mining and encroachments) are handled by the Regional office of the MoEFCC. Proposals involving forest land above 40 hectares and those related to mining and encroachments are handled by the MoEFCC.

While there are multiplicity of safeguards instituted under the law, administrative lapses and inefficient implementation has been majorly responsible for causing negative fallouts from infrastructure projects. Some of them have been documented below as case studies which articulate on the qualitative digressions that have emerged from the projects and provide suitable evidence for India to integrate Quality Infrastructure principles in its infrastructure policies.

AMARAVATI PROJECT

About the Project:— In September 2014, the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu announced Amaravati as the proposed capital city, to be developed as after bifurcation of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh in June 2014, both the new states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were sharing Hyderabad as capital for ten years. The World Bank and AIIB were under consideration to finance the USD 715 million project. Even in its risk assessment, World Bank had assigned this Project category A, signifying the social and environmental impacts. The project was criticized for building the city on the floodplains of river Krishna, diverting fertile farmlands and forests, displacing around 20,000 families, forcefully acquiring lands, and favoring contractors for the construction of the city.

CSO Involvement :— The concerns were raised by the communities and civil society organizations regarding the project. A collective of over 90 people's movements and civil society organizations from across India, demand that the Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh immediately conduct an independent review of the Amaravati Capital City project to look into the socio-economic damage, land transactions and psychological trauma witnessed by agricultural, coastal, and pastoral labourers, tenants, landless families, and the most vulnerable communities due to the land acquisition and displacement process.

A complaint with the Inspection panel (Independent accountability mechanism) of the World Bank has been filed by the affected community in 2017 to investigate the project for violation of the World Bank's safeguard policies. This complaint was under process, and the Board of the Bank was waiting for the recommendation on the eligibility of investigation from the Inspection Panel.

The Inspection Panel visited the Amaravati Capital City site pointed out in its report about economic displacement; uncertainties regarding livelihood restoration of both landless labourers and landowners; lack of specificity of Project documents; strong assertions of the complainants and Bank Management; timeliness of implementation of Master plan; immediate assistance to the most vulnerable families; and lack of cohesive data and methodology of independent assessment and third party monitoring report.

Though the complainants, activists, peoples' groups and CSOs had raised other larger issues of this flawed project - namely lack of consultation and participation of affected people, multi-crop fertile lands getting converted to urban concrete jungles, food security issues, and most importantly coercion and intimidation by the previous government and the police, and at many instances by landlords too - all of these are shelved aside in the Panel's report explaining the rectifying actions and project design by the Bank Management.

As the World Bank is no longer financing the project, the Panel updated its report and withdrew its recommendation to investigate the projectSource: <https://www.cenfa.org/international-finance-institutions/inspection-panels-report-on-amaravati-project-only-validates-the-issues-raised-by-csos/>

AAREY FOREST

“Aarey forest” which is called as the last lungs of the Mumbai city is endangered due to the proposed car shed for the Mumbai metro. It is the only national park in the world within the city limits of a metropolis. Not only is this forest rich in biodiversity with 530 species of flowering plants, it is also home to the Warli Adivasi community who have been living here for generations. This community has borne the brunt of development projects which ended up displacing them and packing them into matchbox-sized, inconvenient Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) buildings.

In April 2019, the Supreme Court had dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Aarey Conservation Group seeking a direction to the Maharashtra government to not proceed with the metro rail car shed plan in the Aarey forest and look for an alternative site. However, the Supreme Court said that the alternative sites were found unviable, the court had then agreed with the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (MMRCL). There are huge implications of cutting down the forest on social and environment aspect. The project is being financed substantially by Japan International Cooperative Agency (JICA) and the project is registered with The United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The movement to save “Aarey forest” has grown into one of the prominent environmental campaigns in India. The movement has seen the involvement and participation of environmentalist, activists, city dwellers, civil society organizations, students etc. The issue raised by all the protestors is afforestation is the way forward to bring development endangering biodiversity and displacing communities. The Supreme Court has barred the government from cutting trees further in the forest, the issue is pending

Source: <https://act.airalert.in/petitions/save-aarey-forest-mumbai-s-green-lungs>

BANGALORE CLUSTER CITY DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The Bangalore Cluster City Development Investment Program (the Program) supported by the Asian Development Bank aims to increase the city's competitiveness, in a way that also promotes inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth. The program aims to provide physical and non-physical investment in selected clusters to: (i) improve regional and metropolitan planning, (ii) upgrade key economic and social infrastructure, and (iii) enhance urban governance (including service delivery) to create a better business and investment climate. The Program proposes to achieve the above objectives by: (i) ensuring that multi-stakeholder demand-based (cluster) infrastructure development is preceded by metropolitan economic and sector planning, (ii) promoting sectoral coordination and convergence, and (iii) establishing a strong partnership between public and private sectors. It has a total project outlay of US\$ 300 million

Benefits envisioned by ADB:

- a. Social benefits- Improved sustainable urban economic infrastructure developed in selected BMR clusters, Improved business enabling environment, Project management supported.
- b. Economic benefits- Strengthened economic planning and urban management in BMR.
- c. Ecological benefits- Inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic growth in Bangalore Metropolitan Region.

CSO Intervention

During the course of the project design many Nongovernment organization (NGO) and community-based organizations engaged as part of the social assessment undertaken by the PPTA. The project builds on the consultation and community participation exercises undertaken during the PPTA, with the support from consultants and NGOs. These include both community participation for subproject planning, design, and implementation.

Source: <https://www.adb.org/projects/45216-002/main#project-pds>

BUILDING & LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT OF POOR WATER USERS

The ADB along with the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction launched a comprehensive program worth US\$ 2.00 Million that seeks to improve the livelihoods of poor water users, including marginal cultivators, women, scheduled tribes, and scheduled castes of the subproject irrigation schemes, building on the multiple benefit potentials delivered by improved irrigation and its management system. It will additionally Strengthen participation and equal representation of women, scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, and marginal cultivators in the Pani Panchayats (or water users associations) of four subproject irrigation schemes for enhanced and equitable water distribution and better maintenance of water distribution structures to minimize water wastage and maximize income. Importantly it will improve the capacities of the Department of Water Resources (DOWR) and nongovernment organizations (NGOs) in the functional areas of training, consultancy, and information services for proportional and inclusive participation in Pani Panchayats, and to properly monitor this.

Benefits envisioned :

- a) Social benefits- Reduced poverty and better performance of Pani Panchayat in 4 irrigation schemes.
- b) Economic benefits- Improved livelihoods and increased equitable representation of disadvantaged people in the Pani Panchayat of 4 subproject irrigation schemes (Gohira, Sunei, Remal, and Taladanda).
- c) Equity –Who did the project benefit/ will benefit: Indigenous peoples are direct participants and beneficiaries of the project.

CSO Intervention details

In Orissa during the project design, CSOs participation was solicited for assessments on implications of solutions for poverty reduction were conducted. The role of service providers, people's willingness to contribute to operations and maintenance (O&M), and the scope of enhancing impacts of water interventions with others such as micro credit and extension services were also discussed. Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) were engaged to facilitate this process. The project preparatory technical assistance (Pani Panchayat TA) identified the future course of action and mechanisms to institutionalize community participation.

The project involved rural poor people, particularly disadvantaged people of scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, and women. The implementing agency worked with local community-based

organizations (CBOs) and district NGOs to directly reach the target groups. The project introduced a participatory budget allocation, transparent budget expenditure, and beneficiary scorecard systems under a public audit approach to ensure effective involvement of beneficiaries in deciding and monitoring of allocated budget. Participatory performance monitoring was undertaken to oversee implementation of delivery of quality training and skills programs, delivery of funds (livelihood support and income generation fund), and supply of equipment. The participatory systems ensured public accounting and increased transparency of financial management by the lead NGO and grassroots CBOs/NGOs.

Source: <https://www.adb.org/projects/42338-012/main#project-pds>

Infrastructural Interventions in Northeast India: Some Concerns

The North-Eastern Region (NER) has been identified as a 'development-deficit' region, where National Security Paradigm being dominant in the region. This development gap is being bridged through infrastructure. Due to this there is a huge push happening in Infrastructure development particularly through Government's "Act East Policy". Although, the policy making via Act East talks about 'stabilizing' the region by integrating it to the markets beyond the 'borders', the essential 'fluidity' of the region as a borderland continues. Moreover, there is mushrooming of Airports in the NER; National Highways, Bridges etc taking place in NER. The development raises the concern of accompanying ecological destruction. Many civil society organizations and youth groups are protesting mobilizing against these disastrous effects of mega-infrastructure. Building highways, roads etc has taken place through farmlands and fields, land acquisition The downgrading of livelihood of people due to the emergence of corporate companies, big industrial plants possess health hazards are a threat to traditional ecologically sensitive occupations (fishing, bee keeping, silk rearing etc.) The companies are in profit but the impact they are having over social and environment are not being questioned by the authorities. This is well recorded with the setting up of industrial plants like the Assam Gas Cracker Project of Brahmaputra Cracker & Polymer Limited (BCPL) at Dibrugarh which are threatening to traditional ecologically sensitive occupations and have failed to offer employment to the youth of the region.

Conclusion

With Quality Infrastructure Investments (QII) increasingly getting attention as the roadmap for developing and producing infrastructure in a sustainable, environmentally compatible and resource efficient manner it is highly important that it should imparted the necessary weight and teeth to become a viable governance framework. By utilizing its core principles, it should be used as transformative policy instrument to implement standards and technical regulations since it holistically covers essential aspects such as institutions, service providers, and the value-adding use of international standards and conformity assessment procedures. While the G20 has made it a priority, there is a need to observe its percolation at the country level. Past presidencies of China, Argentina and Japan have emphasized its criticality in being used as leverage and balance between economic growth and human centric development. Importantly, what concrete steps will be taken up by Saudi Arabia, Italy and India will be interesting to observe given that the daunting challenge of maintaining global temperature under 1.5 degree limit will be an overarching strategy requiring integration and affirmative action.

With the adoption of QII principles and advancement of its framework by MDBs there is a need for creating implementable and doable frameworks for infrastructure projects by MDBs. Currently, MDBs across the world have been investing a huge share of their resources towards expanding the infrastructure footprint albeit there is lack of capturing the positives generated. A conscious effort has to be made in studying and analyzing the various benefits accrued by MDB infrastructure projects in terms of job creation, inclusive practices and environmental safeguarding. By preparing a database on these lines, a nudge can be made by national governments to include these successes in their implementation strategies concerning infrastructure. Successful projects depend on successful institutions, MDBs play an important role in country's infrastructure by filling the gaps through financing and technical assistance. Additionally, MDBs should come forward and support national governments in preparing infrastructure projects with a consistent embedding of Quality Infrastructure principles within their frameworks. Strengthening the enabling environment and supporting institutions in building capacity are central to MDBs' infrastructure-related work with governments, both in terms of individual investment projects and at a programmatic level. MDBs can add value by working with governments on regulatory reforms, managing risks, by providing guidance on standards and best practices. They can also provide governments with hands-on support during the preparation, construction, and ultimate implementation of infrastructure projects. Therefore, a tripartite cooperation between MDBs, civil society and government is essential to advance collective efforts for building and developing quality and sustainable infrastructure. Infrastructure investments in developing countries may hold less appeal to some investors as they typically involve greater risks, but the presence of MDBs has helped instill investor confidence in emerging economies and their infrastructure development. Several countries face challenges in its pursuit of infrastructure progress, but MDBs are doing their bit in helping address the region's infrastructure gap with capital and by providing their technical expertise.

Infrastructurally, India needs to strengthen to explore and address the development pitfalls by utilizing advantages of infrastructure delivery. With the high reliance placed over increasing the share

of private investment there will be a future exigency in maintaining critical balances that ensure sustainability and provide qualitative benefits. A renewed emphasis and revision of legislation governing clearances and approvals need revisiting. As of now, India lacks any policy action towards adopting standards for quality infrastructure investments. It is hoped that through policy advocacy and influencing efforts, research based case studies a conscientious effort should be made towards instituting it as a separate law or reference for central and state governments. This will provide an essential way forward for developed and developing countries

With approaching G20 summit in 2022 in India, it is high time that civil society also gears up their efforts in advancing their contribution in the summit and highlighting the gaps and issues of the ground. The eminent role played by CSOs cannot be denied as they demonstrate their value as facilitators, conveners and innovators as well as service providers and advocates. Civil society can play a particularly powerful role in this process as an enabler and constructive challenger, creating the political and social space for collaborations. CSOs involvement in quality infrastructure with Government and MDBs can help in better understanding of the implications of various infrastructure projects. For this effectively civil society carries the responsibility to shape infrastructure development keeping rights, climate and participatory frameworks in mind.

Thus, to actively seek the solution and deliver the high-quality infrastructure to support the development- a new dimension of infrastructure development on the backdrop of quality and sustainable infrastructure needs to be designed. This should entail a focus on how infrastructure can act as a multiplier in generating positives at the ground level. In a nutshell, long term benefits of infrastructure should be examined. As a collective effort, a standard should be developed for mapping the extent of infrastructure produced and measuring it against the principles of QII. Importantly, decision makers and financiers of development must act quickly to reach ideal targets set by international frameworks.

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About Heinrich Böll Foundation

The Heinrich Böll Stiftung/ Heinrich Boell Foundation is a German foundation and part of the Green political movement that has developed worldwide as a response to the traditional politics of socialism, liberalism, and conservatism. We are a green think-tank and an international policy network, our main tenets are ecology and sustainability, democracy and human rights, self-determination and justice. We place particular emphasis on gender democracy, meaning social emancipation and equal rights for women and men. We are also committed to equal rights for cultural and ethnic minorities. Finally, we promote non-violence and proactive peace policies. To achieve our goals, we seek strategic partnerships with others who share our values.

Our namesake, Heinrich Böll, personifies the values we stand for: protection of freedom, civic courage, tolerance, open debate, and the valuation of art and culture as independent spheres of thought and action.

Our India Liaison Office was established in 2002 in New Delhi. Working with governmental and non-governmental local project partners we support India's democratic governance through informed national and international dialogue processes with a view to enhance the diversity of green thinking.

About Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

VANI is a national network of Indian Voluntary Development Organizations (VDOs). Currently VANI has 540 members with an outreach to around 10,000 VDOs across India. The membership of VANI ranges from grass roots to the national organizations. The members work on a range of priority development issues of the government including education, health, nutrition, integrated child development, livelihood, skill development, environment, natural resource management, climate change, water and sanitation, emergency response and preparedness, agriculture, poverty and so on, in some of the most remote areas of the country. In the year 2017-18, our network collectively reached out to over 32 million people belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups including children, disabled people, women, elderly, farmers, dalit, tribals, disaster survivors, unemployed, youth, LGBT, sex workers etc. VANI through its efforts and strategies aims to build a strong civil society sector not only at national but regional and local level as well.

VANI was set up with the mission to promote voluntarism, create space for the sector by fostering value based voluntary action. VANI's interventions are focused to strengthen the external and internal enabling environment. To ensure the external enabling environment, VANI conducts evidence-based advocacy which includes regulatory frameworks and resource generation. In order to achieve this VANI works with the government, private sector, bilateral, multilaterals and other stakeholders. For strengthening the internal enabling environment, VANI works towards building resilience and promoting accountability, transparency and compliance through the interactive educational events and information dissemination. VANI strives to become a resource centre by conducting evidence-based research; publishing studies, articles and reports not only at state level but national and global level as well.



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