AN ASSESSMENT OF ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: THE CASE OF AKWA IBOM STATE

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ABSTRACT

Road infrastructure is a fundamental requirement for facilitating industrial, agricultural and other socioeconomic development. Analysis of road infrastructure in Akwa Ibom State became expedient in order to x-ray the trend of development in the sector against the background of the ripple effects it could have on other developments. To achieve this data on the total length of all the roads in the state and total area of all the 31 Local Government Areas in the state were obtained and analyzed while the levels of road infrastructure development in the rural areas were assessed using field observations conducted in 50 spatially sampled rural communities in the state. The result shows that the quality of road infrastructure in the state is poor and thus, indicates that the state is still backward in road infrastructure development despite its huge revenue profile from the federation account as an oil producing region. Against the background of the gains of improved road quality in reducing poverty and enhancing good standard of living, it is recommended that the development of the road infrastructure be given priority attention in order to increase the inter-linkage effects between urban and rural areas and thus, reduce rural – urban disparities in development.

Keywords: Agriculture, Road Infrastructure, Development, Akwa Ibom.