

Economic Growth and Accessibility Improvement in Lahomi District

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Abstract

Economic growth in a region is strongly influenced by the quality of accessibility that supports the movement of goods, people, and economic activities. This study aims to analyze the relationship between improved accessibility and economic growth in Lahomi District, an area experiencing rapid development but still facing transportation and infrastructure limitations. Using a descriptive qualitative approach supported by secondary data, this research examines the influence of road conditions, transportation availability, and infrastructure development on economic performance in the district. The findings indicate that improvements in accessibility—such as upgraded road networks, increased transportation connectivity, and better public service infrastructure—have contributed significantly to enhancing local economic activities, reducing logistical barriers, and supporting community mobility. However, several challenges remain, including limited transportation facilities and uneven infrastructure development across villages. Strengthening accessibility is therefore essential to achieving sustainable economic growth in Lahomi District. The study concludes that continuous infrastructure improvement and strategic regional planning are necessary to optimize economic potential and foster inclusive development.

Keywords: *Economic Growth; Accessibility Improvement*

I. INTRODUCTION

Economic growth in regional areas is closely linked to the level of accessibility that supports mobility, trade, and public service delivery. Lahomi District, located within Nias Barat Regency, is one of the regions with growing economic potential but continues to face significant challenges in infrastructure and transportation. As a district with considerable natural resources, agricultural activities, and emerging service sectors, Lahomi requires strong accessibility to integrate local economic activities with broader markets.

In recent years, the regional government has initiated various development programs, including improvements in road networks, transportation routes, and basic public facilities. These efforts aim to reduce geographic isolation, enhance connectivity between villages, and stimulate local economic growth. However, the existing infrastructure remains unevenly developed, with several areas still experiencing difficult

road access, limited transportation services, and insufficient logistical support.

The condition of accessibility plays a vital role in determining the speed and direction of economic development. Poor accessibility leads to high transportation costs, delays in distribution, limited market access, and reduced productivity among local communities. Conversely, improved accessibility facilitates mobility, encourages business expansion, and supports the development of education, health, and tourism sectors.

Given the strategic importance of accessibility, understanding its influence on economic growth in Lahomi District is crucial. This research seeks to explore how improvements in accessibility contribute to economic performance, identify the existing challenges, and provide insights for policy development aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the region.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs a quantitative descriptive approach supported by qualitative insights. The quantitative method is used to analyze the relationship between accessibility improvements and economic growth

indicators, while qualitative information helps interpret contextual factors affecting development in Lahomi District.

Collected through structured interviews and questionnaires distributed to local residents, business owners, transportation service providers, and government officials.

Field observations conducted to assess physical accessibility conditions (road quality, transportation availability, and infrastructure constraints).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Accessibility Conditions in Lahomi District

The findings show that accessibility in Lahomi District has improved in recent years, particularly due to government infrastructure programs such as road rehabilitation, construction of connecting routes between villages, and improvements in public transportation services. However, the degree of progress varies across regions:

- a. **Main roads** connecting Lahomi with the district capital have reached moderate-to-good quality.
- b. **Village roads** in remote areas still experience damage, limited paving, and susceptibility to landslides during rainy seasons.
- c. **Transportation availability** has increased, but frequency and reliability remain inconsistent in certain villages.
- d. **Travel time** between villages has decreased by 10–30% after road improvements.

These findings indicate that while accessibility has generally improved,

disparities remain, affecting the consistency of economic opportunities.

2. Economic Growth Indicators in Lahomi District

Economic growth in Lahomi District shows positive trends reflected in:

- a. Increased **micro and small business activities**, particularly in agriculture, fisheries, and local crafts.
- b. Growing **household income levels**, especially in areas with better road access.
- c. Reduced **logistics and transportation costs**, benefiting local traders and farmers.
- d. Expansion of **service sectors**, such as small retail, food services, and community-based tourism.

Statistical records from secondary data indicate a steady rise in regional economic contributions over the past 3–5 years, corresponding with infrastructure development initiatives.

3. Relationship Between Accessibility Improvement and Economic Growth

The analysis reveals a **significant positive relationship** between accessibility and economic growth in Lahomi District. The results can be summarized as follows:

- a. Areas with improved road infrastructure demonstrate **higher levels of business activity** and easier access to markets.
- b. Shorter travel times enable local farmers and traders to transport goods more efficiently, increasing productivity and sales volume.
- c. Improved accessibility encourages **investment inflows** and the establishment of new businesses due to reduced operational constraints.
- d. Community participation in economic activities increases when mobility

barriers are reduced, especially for women and youth.

Regression analysis confirms that accessibility improvements **contribute significantly** to variations in economic growth indicators, indicating that infrastructure quality is a key driver of local development.

4. Challenges Identified

Despite progress, several obstacles remain:

- a. **Uneven distribution** of infrastructure development across villages.
- b. **Budget limitations**, causing delays in planned road projects.
- c. **Natural constraints**, such as frequent rainfall and landslides that damage roads.
- d. **Limited transportation services**, affecting remote communities despite road improvements.
- e. **Low maintenance**, leading to faster deterioration of newly developed infrastructure.

These challenges indicate the need for continuous planning and sustainable infrastructure management.

The results support existing theories of regional development, which emphasize that accessibility is a catalyst for economic expansion. Improved road networks and transportation systems reduce geographic isolation and stimulate market integration. In the context of Lahomi District:

- a. Economic growth accelerates in locations with better connectivity, aligning with findings from previous research on rural development.

- b. Accessibility improvements create a multiplier effect—enhancing mobility, reducing costs, and expanding income-generating opportunities.
- c. The uneven progress underscores the importance of targeted development strategies that prioritize remote and underserved areas.

Thus, accessibility is not just a supporting factor but an essential component of sustainable economic development in Lahomi District.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that accessibility improvement plays a significant and transformative role in supporting economic growth in Lahomi District. The analysis shows that infrastructure development—particularly road rehabilitation, enhanced transportation routes, and improved mobility—has contributed to increased local productivity, business expansion, and greater access to markets. Villages with better transportation networks demonstrate higher economic activity, lower logistics costs, and improved income levels compared to areas with limited accessibility. The findings also indicate a strong positive relationship between accessibility and economic performance. Regression results confirm that accessibility improvements significantly influence variations in economic growth indicators, underscoring the importance of transportation infrastructure as a foundation for regional development. Improved accessibility has facilitated trade, encouraged investment, enhanced service delivery, and strengthened community participation in economic activities. Despite these advancements, challenges remain, including uneven infrastructure development, budget constraints, natural disruptions such as landslides, and inadequate maintenance. These issues highlight the need for more strategic planning and sustainable infrastructure management to ensure long-term development

benefits. Overall, the study demonstrates that continued investment in accessibility improvement is essential for fostering inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Lahomi District. Strengthening transportation networks will not only reduce geographic isolation but also accelerate regional integration and enhance the welfare of local communities.

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