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Infrastructure As a Catalyst for Economic Growth: A Quantitative Analysis of Padma Bridge of Bangladesh

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Abstract

In this study, the impact of the Padma Bridge on the local economy, supply chain and agricultural sector in Sreenager Upazila of Munshiganj District of Bangladesh was analyzed. The launch of the Padma Bridge in June 2022 was one of the major infrastructural achievements of Bangladesh, directly connecting the south-western region with the country's capital. The main objective of the study was to determine how improved communication led to improved business performance, increased revenue and improved market linkages. Usually, the initial 400 pieces of data are collected from respondents, including farmers, businesses and small entrepreneurs. The OLS model is used to analyze data. According to the results, a positive correlation of income with the education sector, reduced transportation costs and time for better communication, makes the local supply chain more efficient and increases market access. The study found that 70% of merchants experienced an increase in sales and 43% an increase in revenue after the opening of the bridge. However, local infrastructure creates new challenges for restrictions and markets. The study concluded that the Padma Bridge acts as an economic catalyst, which accelerates business diversification and agriculture. To ensure long-term sustainable development, it is necessary to develop skills, financial support for small and medium entrepreneurs and adopt policies. In substance, the study shows that the Padma Bridge, a large infrastructure project, can play an important role in the growth of the local and national economy.

Key Words: *Padma bridge, Local economy, Supply chain, Agriculture activity, Market Accessibility*