**INFRASTRUCTURE**

1. What is infrastructure?

Infrastructure refers to core elements of economic & social change which serve as a support system to production activity in the economy. Eg : Transport, Irrigation , Education etc.

1. What is economic infrastructure?

Economic Infrastructure refers to all such elements of economic change like- power, transport, communication etc. it serves as a support system to the process of economic growth. It fosters economic growth which results in increase in the standards of living of the people.

1. What is social infrastructure?

Social Infrastructure refers to core elements of social change like- schools, colleges, hospitals, banking etc. It serves as a support system to the process of social development of a country. Social infrastructure focuses on human resource development, implying the development of skilled personal as well as healthy & efficient human beings. It accelerates the process of human development.

1. Mention the importance of infrastructure in economic development.
2. Infrastructure enhances productivity
3. Infrastructure induces investment.
4. Infrastructure generates linkages in production.
5. Infrastructure enhances size of the market
6. Infrastructure enhances ability to work.
7. Infrastructure facilitates out sourcing.
8. Infrastructure induces FDI
9. What is health?

Health is a state of complete physical, mental & social well-being. A persons ability to work depends largely on his good health. It enhances the quality of life.

1. Explain the development of health services in India after independence

Development of Health services in India after Independence:-

1. Decline in death rate from 27.4 per thousand in 1951to 7.4 per thousand in 2006-07.
2. Reduction in Infant mortality rate from 146 per thousand in1951 to 55 per thousand in 2007.
3. Rise in expectancy of life from 50 years in 1951 to 63.5 years in 2006-07.
4. Deadly diseases like malaria, TB, cholera & small pox have been brought under control.
5. Reduction in child mortality rate from 57 per thousand in 1951 to 17 per thousand in 2006.
6. What are the challenges of health services in India?
7. Unequal distribution of health services.
8. Control of communicable diseases.
9. Poor management of health care.
10. Privatization of health care services.
11. Poor upkeep & maintenance.
12. Poor sanitation level.
13. How do infrastructure facilities boost production?

Infrastructure-social and economic, facilitates production. If agriculture is devoid of irrigation facilities, then it would entirely depend on the monsoon that may hamper its production and productivity. As irrigation is essential to enhance productivity of agricultural sector, in the same manner, infrastructure is essential for smooth and efficient production of all sectors of the economy. Similarly, industrial production in the absence of proper means of transportation may lead to delays in the movement of raw materials, capital goods and finished goods. This,in turn, leads to delays in the production process and, thereby, hampers industrial production. Thus, infrastructure is the necessary condition for higher productivity and higher production.

1. Infrastructure contributes to the economic development of a country. Do you agree? Explain
2. Infrastructure Increases Productivity: improvement in social and economic infrastructure improves production. The availability of quality infrastructure guarantees increase in production and productivity. Infrastructure ensures easy movement of goods and raw materials, thereby reduces inefficiencies and lead to efficient utilization of scarce resources and eliminate wastages.
3. Infrastructure Encourages Investment: Infrastructure provides an environment conducive to investment. Lack of facilities discourages investment. For example, an investor will not invest in absence of basic infrastructure such as transport and communication.
4. Infrastructure Generates Linkages in Production: Infrastructure promotes economic development by way of various linkages forward and backward linkages. In other words, infrastructure provides scope for expansion of one industry due to the expansion of the other by way of forward and backward linkages. The process of economic growth becomes a dynamic process in the presence of sufficient infrastructure facilities. This can be explained with the help of a forward linkage. For example, if irrigation facilities boost agricultural production, then the related industries that depend on agriculture for the supply of raw materials simultaneously experience increased production.
5. Infrastructure Enhances Size of the Market: Infrastructure widens the size of the market. The fast and cost-effective movement of raw materials and finished goods in bulk enables a producer to offer his products across the country and even across international boundaries.
6. What is the state of rural infrastructure in India?

During the colonial rule, the British aimed at developing infrastructure to facilitate their trade affairs. At the time of independence, Indian government found lack of sound infrastructure to realize their dream of economic development and growth. Most of the infrastructural development concentrated in the urban areas. The infrastructural development in the rural areas is still very meager as compared to the size of the rural population. The women in the rural areas are still making use of bio fuels like cow-dung and fuel wood to meet their energy needs. The census of 2001 states that only 56% of the households has electricity connection, whereas 43% still use kerosene. About 90% of the rural households use bio fuels for cooking. Tap water is used by only 24% of the rural households and improved sanitation is available to only 20%. As the infrastructure is an essential element of economic growth, so, it becomes a need of the hour to address the problem of infrastructure. The government of India invested only small proportion of GDP on infrastructure i.e. only 5% that is lesser than that of China and Indonesia. The economists see India as the third biggest economy in the world. For that to happen, India will have to boost its infrastructure, especially rural infrastructure. This will not only promote economic development of our country but also enhance economic welfare.

1. What is a global burden of disease?

Global Burden of Disease (GBD) is an indicator used by the experts to measure the number of people dying prematurely due to a particular disease. This also includes the number of years spent by them in a state of disability due to various diseases. India bears a frightening 20 % of the GBD. More than half of the GBD is accounted by communicable diseases such as diarrhea, malaria and tuberculosis.

1. Discuss the main drawbacks of Indian health care system.

In recent years, India has embarked upon the development of vast health infrastructure. This is evident from the fall in the death rate, infant mortality rate and rise in life expectancy. But more need to be done in the field of health care. The following are some of the deficiencies in the Indian health care:

1. Unequal Distribution of Health Care Services: The health care services are unequally distributed across rural and urban areas. Rural areas that supports 70 % of the population, has only of the hospitals. Further, the doctor-population ratio is as worse as 1:2,000. This implies that for every 2,000 people, there is only one doctor in India. Only half of the dispensaries are set up in villages. Most of the health care facilities have been confined mostly to the urban areas.
2. Communicable Diseases: various communicable diseases like AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), HIV (Human Immune Deficiency Syndrome), and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)have made their way to India.. All these deadly diseases pose serious threat to t human capital reserve, thereby,impeding economic growth.
3. Poor Management: The health care centres lack trained and skilled personnel in the rural areas. Therefore, rural people have to rush to the urban health care centres. This becomes worse in the absence of proper roads and other cost-effective means of transportation.
4. Lack of Modern Techniques and Facilities:The government health centres are usually devoid of the basic facilities like blood testing, X-rays, etc. These centres lack modern techniques and medical facilities like, CT-scan, sonography, etc. In order to avail these services, people need to depend on the private hospitals that charge exorbitant fees.
5. Privatisation: The inability of the government to provide sufficient health care centres and other medical facilities paved the way for the private sector to step in. The private sector is governed by price signals, thereby, catering to the need of the higher income group, leaving the low income group and the poor at their own mercy. This is due to the privatisation of the health care sector The private hospitals are attracting more patients than the government hospitals as the government hospitals are devoid of facilities
6. How has women's health become a matter of great concern?

Half of the total population in India constitutes women. Women are lagging behind in education, health care, and economic participation as compared to men. The child sex ratio has declined from 945 in 1991 to 927, showing the growing incidents of female foeticide in the country. The married women population close to 3,00,000 have already given birth to one child. About 50 % of the married women between the age of 15 and 49 suffer from anemia. This resulted in 19 % of maternal deaths. The major cause of maternal morbidity and mortality in India is abortions. These factors point towards the women's health due to which it has become a matter of great concern.

1. Differentiate the six systems of Indian medicine.

The following are the six systems of medicines constituted by ISM (Indian Systems of Medicines).

**Ayurveda** is one of the traditional systems of medicine that is still used in India. It is a holistic way to achieve health through body, mind and spirit. The ayurvedic practitioners recommend diet and lifestyle changes along with drug therapy. They have identified a number of medicinal preparations and surgical procedures for curing various ailments and diseases that cannot be completely curable in other medical systems. The methods of ayurveda such as applying herbs and massage can also be applied along with other systems.

**Yoga** as an art originated and was practiced in India from thousand years. It has references in 'Upanishads' and 'Puranas' composed by Indian Aryans in the Vedic period. The main credit for systematizing yoga goes to Patanjali who wrote 'Yoga Sutra', two thousand years ago. Yoga Sutra is the most important basic text on Yoga. It is through this means that the essential message of yoga is spread throughout the world. It is defined as an art of righteous living or an integrated system for the benefit of the body, mind and inner spirit.

**Siddha** comes from the word Siddhi which means an object to attain perfection or heaven. This is the oldest among the Indian Medical Systems. It is also known as Siddha Vaidya in India and also the oldest medical system in the world. As nowadays, people's preference to natural health remedies and herbal health remedies is increasing day by day, Siddha has emerged as an important and unique system of Indian medicine when compared to other traditional medical systems in existence.

**Naturopathy** deals with the healing power of nature as it assumes that all healing powers are within our body. This means that within every human organism there is a healing energy. Naturopathy regards that when we go against nature only then we fall ill. 'Fasting' has been described as Nature's way to recover. A thorough rest that includes fasting is the most favorable condition in which an ailing body can purify and recover itself.

**Unani** has a long and impressive record in India. It was introduced in India around 10th century A.D. with the spread of Islamic civilisation. Now Unanipathy has become an important part of Indian Systems of Medicine. India is one of the leading countries in terms of its popularity. It is very much similar to our Ayurveda. Unani established that disease is a natural process and that the symptoms are the reactions of the body to the disease.

Homeopathy consists of two words 'Homeo' meaning similar and 'Pathos' meaning suffering or treatment. In this system, a drug and a disease that produce similar symptoms cancel each other. It is popular among the people due to its remarkable healing capacity. Also, its remedies are free from side effects.

1. How can we increase the effectiveness of health care programmes?

Health is a public good and a basic human right. Therefore, it should be provided to all and no person should be deprived of health care facilities. These facilities can be provided to all if public health services are decentralized. It implies that the power of providing these services should be delegated from the central to the local authorities. The success of health care depends upon education, spread of knowledge, awareness and efficient health infrastructure. It is crucial to create awareness about health and hygiene among people. The telecom and IT sectors can further aggravate the effectiveness of health care programmes. Further, providing quality medical facilities at nominal costs can promote its worthiness and popularity. In order to enhance the effectiveness of health care programmes, the main focus should be on increasing the number of hospitals, modernisation of medical facilities, development of infrastructure, improving the doctor-population ratio and increasing the number of medical colleges in India. The availability and development of medical facilities in the rural areas is still a far cry. Further, there must be some regulation to check the exorbitant fees charged by the private medical centers to make health care facilities accessible and affordable to all.

1. Differentiate between Social and Economic Infrastructure

Economic infrastructure is the basic facilities which directly benefit the process of production and distribution in an economy.

Eg : Roads, railways, telecommunication systems, waterways, airways, financial institutions, electricity, water supply

Social infrastructure has the basic services that improve individual productivity and achieve social objectives. Social infrastructure contributes indirectly to the country's economic development.

Eg:  energy, banking, science, technology, health, education and other public utility concerns.

Both economic and social infrastructures are interdependent on and complementary to each other. While economic infrastructure fosters economic growth, social infrastructure enhances the quality of standard of living and thereby leads to the welfare of the economy as a whole.

Economic Infrastructure foster economic growth and Social infrastructure foster human growth.

Economic Infrastructure raises the standard of living, Social infrastructure improves the quality of human being.

Economic infrastructure influences directly and social infrastructure influences indirectly.