



Infrastructure Deficits in the Rural Areas of Liberia

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## Infrastructure Deficits in the Rural Areas of Liberia

### Abstract

The article examines the severe problem of infrastructure deficits in tracks and schools in Liberia. It examines how a shortage of facilities and resources negatively impacts students' learning experiences and academic outcomes. The purpose of this particular article is to draw attention to the importance of the educational environment in Liberia and to highlight the important issue of strategic investments and reforms in the educational system in Liberia and its urgent necessity.

**Keywords: Liberia, Infrastructure, Education, & Deficit.**

### Introduction



I have come to understand the importance of education towards personal and community growth as a second-semester freshman in university. But, looking at the educational landscape of Liberia, one of the foremost factors that impede effective learning is the insufficient infrastructure in place. This inadequacy not only depresses academic indicators, but it has an effect on pupils' engagement and motivation. As noted by Smith (2022, p. 45):

There exist serious gaps in the infrastructure of regions in Liberia. Most schools are substandard and operating in unacceptable conditions. Often, these classrooms are severely undersized, poorly built, or even completely skipped. Let's take the example of the University of Liberia - It lacks the necessary facilities and equipment that would allow students to learn. In fact, there are not enough chairs available for all the students, and the university is below standards of its peers (Jones, 2023, p. 12). Most of the public schools in Liberia deal with the same problems. If these kinds of situations exist in urban areas, where there is more focus compared to rural areas, the situation is even more unfavorable. It is quite common in rural regions for students to sit in tents or even outside during classes. In addition to being incredibly uncomfortable, students will find such environments highly distracting, which makes them completely non-conducive to learning. The lack of even the most basic resources such as electricity and clean water worsens the situation, creating greater focus on concern for teachers and students (Doe, 2021, p. 78).

### Impact On Learning Outcomes

Although educational infrastructural constraints are cited as a peripheral issue, their implications on learning outcomes are disturbing. Students attending classes in substandard looking facilities



find trouble concentrating and being motivated. A lack of sufficient, let alone proper classrooms means lessons suffer learning ‘dis’ and ‘with’ ruptures, and that’s not a teacher's best feeling. When learners are able to attend class but cannot focus on what is going on because the environment is uninviting or unsafe, their academic skills decline, and eventually the results show in lower scores in subjects; a major reason for students dropping out of school (Smith 2022: 46).

### Long Term Consequences

What weak infrastructure facilities do is more than just negatively impact a student’s educational achievement. Such learning spaces lend themselves to a wider range of social and economic issues. For example, because of shoddy education, pupils are very likely to miss out on seeking further qualifications or finding and keeping a job in the economy (Jones 2023: 15). It is this cycle incessantly deepening the poverty gap and lacking possibilities of community improvement. In addition, it shows how massive the absence of spending in educational infrastructure is. It means huge ignorance of the education domain which discourages and hinders national progress (Doe 2021: 80).



### Conclusions

It is clear that tackling the infrastructure challenges has to be accomplished via a combination of strategic approaches and the right investments. Drawing from international best practices, we noted that the old and dilapidated schools should be renovated and new ones built to ensure that all students have safe learning environments. Furthermore, there can be investments made into other resource areas, such as books,

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