

What happened to village infrastructure and public services during the economic crisis in Indonesia?

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Abstrak

Infrastructures play a crucial role in economic development and poverty reduction. The economic crisis in 1997-98 severely curtailed the government's capacity to maintain the existing infrastructures, which could adversely affect the prospects for future economic development and poverty reduction in the country. This study provides an overview of the changes in the availability of village-level infrastructures and public services during the economic crisis. The findings indicate that there were mixed trends in the availability of different types of infrastructures and public services. Furthermore, the changes in the availability of certain infrastructures or public services differ across urban and rural areas as well as between Java-Bali and the outer islands. In the era of regional autonomy, it is essential to involve the regional governments in infrastructure development planning, management, and maintenance. This would relieve some burdens from the central government.