Levels of Socio-Economic Development of Osmanabad District

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Abstract:
Development is a multidimensional phenomenon. Real development upholds the supremacy of man as a member of human community which aims at promoting an individual’s welfare. To the geographer, development constraints consist of the measures adopted to deal with the anomalies in the spatial allocation of resources. Development is not merely a question of how much is produced, but what is produced and how it is distributed. The process of development has to be seen in the context of the nature of resource distribution, the level of technology and the distributive systems.

Mankind is facing a problem of growing disparities in socio-economic development both within and between the different geographic scales such as settlements regions and countries. These inequalities create tensions and conflicts in the society. Ameliorative measures have to be taken to minimize the disparities at all levels to the maximum extent possible. One of the basis pre-requisites for moving towards this goal is to acquire a precise knowledge of the spatial disparities in their various dimensions. This is a challenging task which eminently fits into the philosophy and methodology of geography. The geographer’s findings with regard to spatial disparities in spheres of social activity or the total development and the causal factors associated therewith, surely lead him to make prescriptive recommendations for future planning.

Key words: Social, Economic Transformation, Development, Causal factors

Introduction:
Regional disparities in socio-economic development have been a myth of reality in Indian context since the British times. That exist even today in spite of implementation of a planned economy for the past 60 years. One of the main objectives of our national planning had been to narrow down regional inequalities at all levels. The task cannot be attained without identifying the comparatively laggard areas and probing into their levels of socio-economic development. In India, all plans are formulated for implementation at the block level and so it is useful to assess the levels of development on the basis of block.

Study Region:
The district of Osmanabad is the southern most districts in Aurangabad division of Maharashtra state situated between 17°37’ to 18°42’ North latitudes and 75°17’ to 76°47’ East longitudes. The district has an area of 7484 square kilometers. About 7271 square kilometers (96.79%) is known as rural area whereas only 241.4 square kilometers (3.21%) area comes under urban categories.

Objectives:
The following are the main objectives of the study:
1. Find out the regional disparities in the social development of the study area.
2. To provide the base for planners, administrators and politicians for the developmental planning.

Database and Methodology: Various methods have been deployed in the past to measure regional disparities with varying degrees of success. The selection of indices is of paramount significance in this respect. The indicators selected should clearly reflect the social selected should clearly reflect the social picture of the component areal units of the study area.
Considering all the facts of the study area twenty one economic and indicators have been selected in the present study which are as below:

**Social Indicators:**

1. Density of population per sq.km.
2. Percentage of urban population to the total urban population
3. Percentage of literacy
4. Percentage of male literacy
5. Percentage of female literacy
6. Number of primary school per 10,000 population
7. Number of primary school per 100 sq.km.
8. Number of secondary school per 20,000 population
9. Number of secondary school per 100 sq.km.
10. Number of junior colleges per 50,000 population
11. Number of junior colleges per 100 sq.km.
12. Number of primary health centres per 50,000 population
13. Number of rural hospital centres per 50,000 population
14. Number of medical stores per 50,000 population
15. Number of post offices
16. Number of post offices per 50,000 population
17. Number of public call centres
18. Number of telephone connections per 10,000 population
19. Number of cable connections per 10,000 population
20. Number of bio-gas plants
21. Number of saving groups
22. Number of population per police station
23. Number of street lamp posts
24. Length of roads per 100 sq.km.

The data regarding the indicators have been taken from the secondary sources at tahsil level. The data for the social indicators is collected for the year 2014-15. The tahsils have been awarded proportionate weights on the basis of the data of the indicators.

The lowest value of the indicator in the tahsils $X_1, X_2, X_3 \ldots \ldots X_n$ (say in $X_5$) has been awarded the score of 1. The weights of the indicator in remaining tahsils have been determined on the basis of the following formula:

$$W_iX_1 = \frac{iX_1}{iX_5}$$

Where,

- $W_iX_1 = $ Weight of $i$ indicator in tahsil $X_1$
- $iX_1 = $ Numerical value of $i$ indicator in tahsil $X_1$
- $iX_5 = $ Numerical value of $i$ indicator in tahsil $X_5$

On the basis of the above formula, the weights of all the indicators in each tahsil have been computed and the composite scores have been obtained for all tahsils on the basis of the following formula:

$$CX_1 = W_1X_1 + W_2X_1 + \ldots \ldots + W_nX_1$$

Where,

- $CX_1 = $ Composite score of tahsil $X_1$
Weights Social Indicators

By applying the formula \( W_i = \frac{X_i}{\sum X} \), weights of all social indicators are calculated.

Table No. 1.1: Composite Scores of Social Indicators of Tahsils

| Sr. No. | Tahsil      | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19  | Composite Score |
|---------|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------------|
| 1       | Osmanabad   | 2.78 | 9.80 | 1.04 | 1.14 | 1.17 | 2.34 | 1.04 | 2.22 | 1.67 | 1.93 | 19.77 | 3.5 | 15.25 | 1.5 | 6.25 | 1.30 | 14.31 | 1.24 | 89.33           |
| 2       | Bhum        | 1.04 | 1.50 | 1.00 | 1.01 | 1.58 | 1.40 | 1.34 | 1.67 | 1.01 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.67 | 1.75 | 1.00 | 2.93 | 1.76 | 2.75 | 1.08 | 27.5            |
| 3       | Washi       | 1.22 | --  | 1.01 | 1.03 | 1.03 | 1.38 | 1.00 | 1.39 | 1.45 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.81 | 1.52 | 4.5  | 1.6  | 4.83 | 1.43 | 6.81 | 1.10 | 35.11           |
| 4       | Kalamb      | 1.00 | 2.30 | 1.07 | 1.11 | 1.23 | 1.88 | 1.35 | 2.74 | 1.11 | 1.58 | 3.44 | 1.37 | 3.12 | 1.8  | 3.70 | 1.34 | 5.29 | 1.03 | 37.5            |
| 5       | Paranda     | 1.27 | 1.51 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.01 | 1.59 | 1.31 | 1.16 | 1.39 | 1.27 | 1.41 | 3.09 | 1.32 | 3.68 | 1.7  | 1.50 | 1.37 | 5.09 | 1.01 | 32.68           |
| 6       | Tuljapur    | 1.61 | 4.65 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.08 | 1.37 | 1.23 | 1.33 | 1.56 | 1.20 | 1.40 | 4.88 | 2.78 | 10.75 | 1.8  | 1.00 | 1.27 | 5.02 | 1.00 | 45.97           |
| 7       | Lohara      | 1.07 | --  | 1.00 | 1.01 | 1.04 | 1.17 | 1.22 | 1.06 | 1.01 | 1.20 | 1.45 | 1.49 | 1.17 | 3.5  | 1.3  | 1.73 | 2.27 | 4.25 | 1.00 | 27.94           |
| 8       | Omerga      | 1.01 | 4.98 | 1.01 | 1.02 | 1.04 | 1.10 | 1.88 | 1.08 | 2.22 | 1.01 | 1.44 | 1.28 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.3  | 1.91 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.02 | 27.3            |

*Source: Compiled by the Researcher.*
Composite Scores of Socio-Economic Development

To determine the levels of socio-economic development in the study region composite scores of economic and social indicators are combined together and total composite score for each tahsil is calculated and shown in the table no. 1.1.

The composite scores of all tahsils in the study region have been arranged in the descending and on the basis of break in the progression of the scores of the tahsils have been grouped into five levels of socio-economic development as follows:

i) Areas of Very High Development

ii) Areas of High Development

iii) Areas of Medium Development

iv) Areas of Low Development

v) Areas of Very Low Development

vi) Table No. 1.2 : Composite Scores of Economic and Social Indicators of the Tahsils

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Tahsils</th>
<th>Composite Score of Economic Indicators</th>
<th>Composite Score of Social Indicators</th>
<th>WiX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Osmanabad</td>
<td>212.08</td>
<td>89.33</td>
<td>301.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bhum</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>97.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Washi</td>
<td>49.22</td>
<td>35.11</td>
<td>84.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kalamb</td>
<td>45.9</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>83.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Paranda</td>
<td>37.97</td>
<td>32.68</td>
<td>70.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tuljapur</td>
<td>67.56</td>
<td>45.97</td>
<td>113.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lohara</td>
<td>23.14</td>
<td>27.94</td>
<td>51.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Omerga</td>
<td>87.25</td>
<td>27.3</td>
<td>114.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled by the Researcher.

Table No. 1.3 : Descending Order of Composite Scores of the Tahsils

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Tahsils</th>
<th>Composite Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Osmanabad</td>
<td>301.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Omerga</td>
<td>114.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tuljapur</td>
<td>113.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bhum</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Paranda</td>
<td>70.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Lohara</td>
<td>51.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled by the Researcher.

To distinguish the role of the indicators operating behind the existing status of socio-economic development of the tahsils, the weights of all the indicators have been arranged in descending order and Q1 has been determined. The weights of the indicators in the tahsils above Q1 have been treated as dominant ones responsible for the existing status of socio-economic development.

Conclusions:

From the above discussion, it is apparent that the disparities in social development are very marked within the district. This situation is not conducive to proper development of the district. A majority of tahsils (Bhum, Washi, Lohara and Paranda) require immediate attention.

Spatial analysis of the levels of social development clearly indicates that only 14 percent area of the study region comes under relatively very high development area, 32.30 percent area comes
under relatively high development area, 29.59 percent area comes under medium development area, 19.28 percent area comes under low development area and 4.83 percent area comes under very low development area. Area under low socio-economic development is about 25 percent. To devoid the spatial disparity in the socio-economic development special attention of govt. and non-govt. agencies is essential. As the economy of the region has agrarian base priority in developmental process should be given to agricultural sector through modern measures. Social development automatically takes place in association with the economic development.

References: