

The Role of Recent Trends in Social Development for Disparities in the Social Development of Chamoli District

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ABSTRACT

In India disparities in the development of rural areas have been widely observed. They are also the causes of ill-conceived results of the efforts made by regional planners as a matter of fact; there has been no judicious consideration of emphasis to be laid on various developmental activities. Therefore, there are widespread signs of mal-development and is showing no sign of improvement. The problem of regional development in a national context did not get adequate attention of the policy makers. The present study attempts to investigate into the patterns of regional disparity in Chamoli district of Grahwal region of Uttarakhand, keeping the above postulations in the center of the analysis. Research suggests that recent trends in social development like use of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and Mass Awareness Programs by some NGOs and role of private sector can play a vital role for improving the scenario over there.

1. INTRODUCTION

The prosperity of the region depends directly upon the development of not only agriculture and industry but also on social development. The social factors provide the requisite social climate in which the seed of economic development can germinate to full bloom. Therefore due importance should be given to the social factors. Agricultural production however requires power, credit, transport facility etc. industrial production requires not only machinery and equipments but also skilled manpower, management, energy, banking and insurance facilities marketing and transport services, Similarly to trace out the levels of social development, the density of population, male-female ratio, male population, female population, percentage of total literates, percentage of male literates, percentage of female literates, number of population in village having safe drinking water in the region are considered as the indicators in the current research. All these facilities and services constitute collectively the level of development of an economy and expansion of these facilities is an essential precondition for the progress of an economy. Unfortunately, the overwhelming emphasis of the government has been on the provision of these facilities mainly for the urban areas, the rural areas lagging behind this respect.

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In India, regional imbalance has been one of the major concerns before policy makers and planners. There had been a huge gap between active and vibrant regions and hinterland during pre-independence period in terms of availability of facilities and this has resulted in the form of unequal levels of development both in terms of economic and human. After independence, reduction in inter-state disparities has been emphasized during successive Five Year Plans, but the menace continued unabated.

In India it has been a major concern of government since II five year plan. It has attracted discussions, empirical research and especially political concern in recent years. But the problem of regional imbalances still continues to be an urgent and sensitive strategic issue (Tiwari, 1981).

For instance, the World Bank (2006) in its reported entitled, “India-Inclusive Growth and Service Delivery: Building of India’s Success” has observed sharp differentiation across states since the early 1990s reflects acceleration of growth in some states but declaration in others.

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In India, regional disparity started widening because of ill-conceived investment programmes affected under the colonial rule and also due to the lack of attention paid to the micro-level planning. Since the nature and causes of backwardness are not the same in all the regions, a single micro-level approach will not be an ideal solution. The strategy that is required is one of promoting that sector which is backward and which backwardness is hindering the overall progress of the region.

The development of backward regions and reduction in regional disparities, thus, depends upon the micro-level plans formulated on the basis of the assessment of the local needs, potential priorities and realized level of development. The micro-level plans can be effectively implemented and can be made to realize the desired objectives only when the constituent regions are systematically identified according to their level of development, the extent of disparities among the regions are assessed and the various regional characteristics like topography, climate, socio-economic dimensions, demographic features and so on are distinctly understood.

Since 1951, when concerted efforts at planned development were intensified in India, the problem of regional disparities in development attracted the attention of the policy makers. However, in spite of the increasing awareness of these aspects, very little has been

done in this direction. A systematic attempt at the identification of the backward regions has not been done on a scale that could be of some operational significance.

During the fourth five year plan the need to bring in the concept of planning from below into operational term was emphasized. Accordingly, the village, block and district level plans were sought to be prepared which were to be integrated at the state and national level. But in the absence of proper identification of problems of these areas more inventory of resources and potentialities at the block and district level, did not result in fruitful plan formulation. However, this gave impetus to a number of studies regarding the regional disparities within the district (Ramana & Sarma, 1979).

The analysis of classification of regions done till now, leads one to conclude that the causes of backwardness are the same for the entire district. This leads to formulation of policies with blanket approach which is common to all the blocks in the district. But an analysis of the causes of backwardness at the block-level reveals that all the blocks are not the same. Hence, a general policy like the construction of roads does not lead to optimization of the benefits as the expenditure for the provisions of particular service might be superfluous for some blocks.

If the expenditure on priorities is decided with specific reference to lagging sectors in each block, will lead to optimum utilization of resources and accelerate development and at the same time help to reduce intra-block disparities. This requires identification of lagging sectors in each block or block-level planning. The present study is an attempt in this direction.

The present study attempts to investigate into the patterns of regional disparity in the chamoli district of Grahwal region of uttarakhand, keeping the above postulations in the center of the analysis.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE ANALYSIS

- To find out the extent of regional disparities in the levels of social development of chamoli district
- To suggest for a blue print in order to plan for balanced regional development of chamoli district

METHODOLOGY

Standard score (z-score) technique will be used for the analysis as pal (1975) and Singh (1978) and many others applied this technique.

The standard score involves standardizing sets of observations in a way which makes two important properties of their distributions, the same for all variables the mean and standard deviation. The mean are set at zero and the standard deviation at unity (smith 1975). The standard score is found out thus-

$$Z = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}$$

Where:

Z = Z-Score for ith Block

X = X variable in the ith Block

μ = Mean of variable X

σ = Standard deviation

4. SELECTION OF INDICATORS

Indicators should encompass the maximum possible domain of the factors that are relevant to the study. In order to trace out the levels of regional disparities, the following indicators have been undertaken in the current study:

1. Density of Population
2. Male-Female Ratio
3. Male Population
4. Female Population
5. Percentage of Total Literates
6. Percentage of Male Literates
7. Percentage of Female Literates
8. Number of Population in Village Having Safe Drinking Water

5. SOURCE OF DATA

Present study is based on secondary data collected from the statistical handbook of chamoli district form district planning office.

6. ABOUT THE STUDY AREA

Chamoli district is the second largest district of Uttarakhand state of India. Chamoli hosts a variety of destinations of pilgrim and tourists' interest. Badrinath, Hemkund Sahib, valley of Flowers and Auli. Chamoli also happened to be a birthplace of "Chipko movement". In 2006 the Ministry of Panchayati Raj named Chamoli one of the country's 250 most backward districts (out of a total of 640). It is one of the three districts in Uttarakhand currently receiving funds from the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF).

7. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A review of studies on regional disparities in India suggests two fold facts-first, such studies are traceable since early 1960's and secondly most of the studies are undertaken at national level. Micro and macro level studies have taken their expression in the form of articles published in magazines or in articles, edited and bounded in the form of books. Bhattacharya (1972) made observations about the dual nature of regional disparities. He found that some disparities are coterminous with the regions physically and the other culturally. Ganguly and Gupta (1976) attempted the identification of the levels of development in India on the basis of primary and secondary components of the standard of living. Rao (1977) attempted a study of Indian states based on principal component analysis. She had selected 24 indicators from four specific sectors for analysis. Four indicators related to agriculture, eight to industry, six to banking and five to education. Moonis Raza (1978) used 109 indicators related to

agriculture, rural economic base, of urban centers, economic infrastructure and social amenities for 58 National Sample Survey regions of India to expose the levels of regional development. He used standard score, ranking and composite score techniques in his study. Regional disparities within individual states have attracted the attention of only a few social scientists. Alam (1974) studied spatial patterns of regional development of Andhra Pradesh with the help of 30 indicators, Dubey(1981) measured regional disparities in the level of socio- economic development of Uttar Pradesh he selected tehsil as the basic unit of investigation and 89 indicators belonging to four dimensions of development: agricultural, industrial, social, and demographical. A Paper presented at IARIW 31st General Conference, St- Gallen, Switzerland, in August 22-28, 2010, By Dr. Achal Kumar Gaur says that inter-state disparity in total as well as per capita SDP for 20 major Indian states for the period 1980-2002 has been examined with the help of inequality index that are based on properties of Lorenz Curve, Atkinson's social welfare function. Herfindahl's concentration indices etc. Inter-state inequality trend has also been examined through 'convergence-hypothesis' as β -convergence and σ -convergence. Empirical results revealed disparity among states in terms of total/per capita SDP has risen sharply as inequality index like Gini, Theil's index, RMD, Kakwani's as well as Atkinson's indices have shown surge, especially after the economic reforms of 1991. Widening gap in terms of income among rich and poor states, especially after 1991 has also been established through empirical results based on β - convergence and σ -convergence. This is indeed an alarming situation and a potential threat for stability of a federation like India. Redressel of horizontal economic disparity happens to be an important objective in any scheme of federal devolution of funds among federating states. In India, this task is done by the Planning Commission and Finance Commission. The Thirteenth Finance Commission, Government of India (2010-15) should assign due weight age to this factor in its scheme of devolution of taxes/grants for states such that inter-state economic disparities may be rectified effectively.

8. ANALYSIS

Social indicator				
Distt. Chamoli				
(1) Population Density/sqr. Km				
S. No.	Z-scores	Level of development	No. Of blocks	Name of blocks
1	0.69 - 1.36	Very high	2	Narayan baggad, tharali
2	0 - 0.68	High	3	Karanprayag, ghat, gersed
3	0 - -0.91	Low	1	Pokhri
4	0.92 - -1.82	Very low	3	Joshimath, dasholi, dewal
(2) Male - Female Ratio				
S. No.	Z-scores	Level of development	No. Of blocks	Name of blocks
1	1.22 - 2.41	Very high	1	Joshimath
2	0 - 1.21	High	2	Dasholi, ghat
3	0 - -1.33	Low	5	Karanprayag, narayan baggad, gersed, tharali,

				pokhri
4	1.33 - -2.65	Very low	1	Dewal
(3) Male Population				
S. No.	Z-scores	Level of development	No. Of blocks	Name of blocks
1	1.20 - 2.38	Very high	1	Gersed
2	0 - 1.19	High	2	Karanprayag, dasholi
3	0 - -0.66	Low	4	Ghat, narayanbaggad, tharali, pokhri
4	0.67 - -1.32	Very low	2	Joshimath, dewal
(4) Female Population				
S. No.	Z-scores	Level of development	No. Of blocks	Name of blocks
1	1.19 - 2.35	Very high	1	Gersed
2	0 - 1.18	High	3	Dasholi, pokhri, karanprayag
3	0 - -0.61	Low	4	Ghat, narayanbaggad, tharali, dewal
4	0.62 - -1.21	Very low	1	Joshimath
(5) Percentage of Total Literates				
S. No.	Z-scores	Level of development	No. Of blocks	Name of blocks
1	0.50 - 0.98	Very high	4	Karanprayag, dasholi, tharali, pokhri
2	0 - 0.49	High	2	Joshimath, narayanbaggad
3	0 - -1.13	Low	2	Gersed, dewal
4	1.13 - -2.25	Very low	1	Ghat
(6) Percentage of Male Literates				
S. No.	Z-scores	Level of development	No. Of blocks	Name of blocks
1	0.55 - 1.07	Very high	4	Karanprayag, narayanbaggad, tharali, pokhri
2	0 - 0.54	High	1	Dasholi
3	0 - -0.99	Low	3	Joshimath, gersed, dewal
4	1.00 - -1.98	Very low	1	Ghat
(7) Percentage of Female Literates				
S. No.	Z-scores	Level of development	No. Of blocks	Name of blocks
1	0.52 - 1.02	Very high	4	Karanprayag, dasholi, tharali, pokhri
2	0 - 0.51	High	2	Joshimath, narayanbaggad
3	0 - -1.15	Low	2	Gersed, dewal

4	1.16 - -2.30	Very low	1	Ghat
(8) No. Of Population in Village Having Safe Drinking Water				
S. No.	Z-scores	Level of development	No. Of blocks	Name of blocks
1	1.17 - 2.34	Very high	1	Gersed
2	0 - 1.17	High	2	Dasholi, karanprayag
3	0 - -0.64	Low	4	Ghat, narayanbaggad
4	0.65 - -1.27	Very low	2	Joshimath, dewal

9. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE TABLE

The analysis shows that, on the basis of **Population Density per Sqr. Km.** is very high in Narayan baggad and Tharali blocks are very good, Karanprayag, Ghat and Gersed are better. The condition of Pokhri block is not good while Joshimath, Dasholi and Dewal are worst in this indicator.

Second indicator is **sex ratio**, it is very high in Joshimath and high in Dasholi and Ghat. Though it is low in five blocks i.e. Karanprayag, Narayan baggad, Gersed, Tharali and Pokhri while very low in Dewal.

Male population is very high in Gersed and high in Karanprayag and Dasholi. It is low in Ghat, Narayanbaggad, Tharali and Pokhri while very low in Joshimath and Dewal.

Female population is very high in Gersed and high in Dasholi, Pokhri and Karanprayag it is low in Ghat, Narayan baggad, Tharali and Dewal while very low in Joshimath.

Percentage of total literates is very high in Karanprayag, Dasholi, Tharali and Pokhri while high in Joshimath and Narayan baggad. Literacy rate is low in Gersed and Dewal and very low in Ghat.

Percentage of male literates is very high in four blocks named Karanprayag, Narayan baggad, Tharali and Pokhri and high in Dasholi. No. of males is low in Joshimath, Gersed and Dewal while very low in Ghat.

Percentage of **female literates** is very high in four blocks named Karanprayag, Dasholi, Tharali and Pokhri and high in Joshimath, Narayan baggad. Female literacy rate is low in Gersed and Dewal while very low in Ghat.

No. of population is village having safe drinking water is very high in Gersed and high in Dasholi and Karanprayag, low in Ghat, Tharali, Narayan baggad, Tharali and Pokhri while its very low in Joshimath and Dewal.

10. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

There are 9 blocks in chamoli district out of which only three blocks are good in social development and rest blocks are lagging behind though two blocks are worst in social development. Research suggests that use of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and Mass Awareness Programmes can play a vital role for improving the scenario over there. Migration of people should be stopped by providing employment opportunities there for which private sector can also play an important role. Private schools, colleges and health care centers should be established in remote areas as well, which can help in improving literacy rate as well as employment and educational opportunities in these areas.

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