



Determinants and Indices of Human Development in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

The concept of development should be extended to be more comprehensive and go beyond the mere material dimension of increase in per capita income, complemented by the non-material dimension like levels of education, status of health and access to basic amenities. The results show a wide disparity between the Mandals of Guntur district. The causes for disparities show the need of how to take necessary steps to improve literacy rate, health conditions and reduce per capita disparities among the districts of Coastal.

Key words: Human Development, capita income, Basic amenities, Disparities

Introduction

Many statistical investigations carried out in the western countries have shown that output increased at a much higher rate than can be explained by increase in physical inputs like labor and physical capital. The reason is that the quality of human beings as a productive source has been consistently improving due to improvement in education and health services, skills development etc. Therefore, side by side with

physical capital formation, human resource development has also been playing a useful role in economic development. In the recent, economists have shifted from economic growth to human development. It is a fact that many of the developed nations are backward in human development compared with the less developed nations. Thus, now the economics of all the nations are giving priority to human development along with GDP growth of the



nations. In India, state level calculations have also taking in this regard. The accepted notion of what constitutes economic development has undergone a paradigm shift in recent times.

The concept of development has been extended to be more comprehensive and go beyond the mere material dimension of increase in per capita income, complemented by the non-material dimension (like levels of education, status of health and access to basic amenities).

Thus development, apart from income, relates to general well-being and economic capabilities of the people. Sen (1999) says that besides income and wealth we have reason to value many things which ensure real choices and opportunities to lead the kind of life we would value living. It is argued that development should facilitate every human being to live, as she/he likes: expanding the potential capabilities of every human being (HDR, 1990). He says that development is a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy. Therefore, development can be seen in terms of expansion of the real freedoms where the expansion of

human capability can be seen as the central feature of the process of development. After consistent debates and discussions, this development approach has been converging with the notion of human development

Objectives

The main objective of this paper is to discuss and highlight the importance of human development in economic development with help of some eminent studies of philosophers and economists. Further, factors involved in measuring the HDI, GEMI, Guntur district coefficient of variations and its reasons have also discussed.

Methodology

Secondary source of information has used in the analysis. Coefficient of variation (CV) method is operated to find out inter state variation in HDI, GDI and Gender Empowerment Measure Index

Human Development Index

It is fact that human development is determined by many factors. Education including adult education, primary education, enrolment ratio of girls and boys,



health indicators like infant mortality rate, birth rate, fertility rate, hospital deliveries, immunization etc. On the economic front, per capita income has also one of the important indicators in this regards. On the other hand, the human development index is a simple composite measure that gauges the overall status of a region in terms of three basic dimensions - long and healthy life, knowledge and decent standard of living - of human development.

- long and healthy life: Life expectancy at birth
- Access to knowledge: Mean years of schooling and Expected years of schooling
- A decent standard of living: GNI per capita

Basing on the three parameters, human development has been measuring in the nations. These factors have also influences by different factors such as socio economic conditions of the area.

Following the methodology of UNDP and Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, Human development Indices (HDI) are

calculated for 360 households in 12 mandals obtaining data on the basis of field survey. The survey is carried out in 4 mandals in each of the three revenue divisions - Narasaraopet, Tenali and Guntur Divisions - by selecting two villages in each mandal. 30 households have been selected in each mandal from the two sample villages.

Human Development indices have been calculated for each household and an analysis has been made household-wise and mandal-wise and division-wise in order to examine the intra-district variations in Human Development. Also the Human Development Indices have been analysed for different caste groups both mandal and division wise.

An analysis of Human Development Index for different mandals and the respective ranks reveals wide variations. It may be observed from the data that Guntur mandal of Guntur Revenue division occupies the first rank with a HDI value of 0.724 followed by Narasaraopet mandal of Narasaraopet division which has (second rank) an HDI value of 0.705.



Similarly, Kolluru mandal of Tenali revenue division occupies the third rank with a HDI value of 0.698 while the last three ranks are bagged by Bellamkonda, Nuzendla and Karempudi scoring HDI values of 0.641 and 0.647 respectively.

In other words two mandals from Narasaraopet and one mandal from Guntur revenue divisions occupy the last three ranks. Thus gross disparities are found in HD within each revenue division and also within the district. Simon Kuznets pointed out that this is an essential feature of a developing economy. Tracks of high levels of human development and low levels of human development are found within each of the revenue divisions in Guntur district.

Further analysis of PCI shows that the mandals of Bellamkonda Nuzendla and Karempudi are having index less than the district average. Similarly the mandals of Karempudi, Veldurthi and Nuzendhra in Narasaraopet division and Tadepalle and Bellamkonda mandals in Guntur revenue division are having education index less than the district average. This implies that a special strategy is

needed to develop education in these mandals.

The revenue division wise analysis of HDI reveals that the PCI index values varies between 0.608 of Sirigiripadu village and 0.799 of Narasaraopet the division average being 0.693. The education index varies between 0.548 and 0.647 for different villages and averages at 0.593 for the revenue division as a whole. It may be observed that the villages of Petasannigandla, Voppicherla Sirigiripadu Kambampadu for having human development indices less than the division average indicating the need for special focus.

In Tenali revenue division the PCI is 0.725. the education index for the Tenali revenue division averages at 0.637 while Kuchinapudi, Balusulapalem, Kolluru and Muttupalli are having PCI less than the division average the villages of Kondavudi Balusudpalem Kuchinapudi and Nuhupalli have obtained education indices less than the division average. These villages may be given thrust in the overall economics development and



specifically education development of education.

An analysis of Human development indices in Guntur revenue division shows a HDI value for the Guntur revenue division at 0.680. The villages Rajupalem, Kolanukonda, Bellamkonda and Bodanam have Human development Indices less than the division average. Similarly the villages of Rajupalem, Kolanukonda, Bellamkonda and Bodanam have less than the division of PCI while the villages of Rajupalem, Kolanukonda, Penumaka and Bodanam have less than the division average index.

The caste-wise Human development for the three revenue divisions have recorded considerable differences in the HDI values across three revenue divisions. It is to be noted that in all the three revenue divisions Open Category households obtained first rank of Human Development followed by Backward Class households, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households respectively. It is pertinent to note that not only the households belonging to BCs, SCs, and STs are lagging behind in that order

compared to the OC households. The HDI scores of SC and ST households are much below the divisional averages which needs to be corrected through a suitable policy by the district authorities. The HDI analysis among different mandals revenue divisions and different caste groups reveals wide disparities in Human Development in Guntur District. This may be due to disparities in income levels and levels of educational attainment.

The indices of HD revenue division - wise obtained on the basis of field data reveal that the Tenali division is faring better than Guntur and Narasaraopet divisions in that order by having values 0.687, 0.680 and 0.662. Similar variations are also evident with reference to PCI and education index. This implies that there is a need to improve the HD in the revenue divisions of Narasaraopet and Guntur, by initiating more economic development projects.

Determinants of Human Development

Though HD is a comprehensive term encompassing the level of income, education and



health conditions of the people and at the same time it is a complex phenomenon. It is influenced by various factors like heredity, social environment, caste, religion, sex, income levels, education levels, medical and health facilities, drinking water, housing facilities, freedoms of various types which are necessary for the well being and dignity of the people. But all these factors are not quantifiable to be used in an analytical and empirical study. Therefore, the UNDP, the Planning Commission in India and several research organizations have estimated HD indices and indentified the determinants of HD in the framework of the three dimensions of HD viz., per capita income, literacy and life expectancy. In view of the existence of considerable differences in HD indices at mandal, revenue division and district levels in Guntur district, an attempt is made to identify the determinants responsible for these differences by using a regression dummy variable model. In this model the HDI is hypothesised to depend upon both qualitative and quantitative factors. Education Index, Income Index and >60 population are

chosen as quantitative variables and caste and drinking water facilities are taken as qualitative variables. For the qualitative variables of caste and drinking water facility OC and tap water variables are chosen as benchmark categories and all the other caste (BC, SC and ST) and drinking water variables (bore-well, well) are compared with these variables etc., On a priori it is expected that positive and increasing values of these variables in the regression analysis indicate increased importance and is considered as a determinant of HD. The analysis has been carried out for all the 12 sample mandals, three revenue divisions and for the District. The results of the determinants analysis are presented below.

The empirical analysis at mandal level reveals that education and income variables have emerged as important determinant of HD in almost all the 12 sample mandals. >60 years population variable has emerged as significant only in Veldurthi and Ponnur mandals and has becoming insignificant in the remaining mandals. This implies that health dimension needs to be



improved in all the 10 mandals other than Veldurthi and Ponnur mandals. The caste variable BC has emerged as a significant variable in Nuzendla, Cherukupalli and Bellamkonda mandals while the SC factor has become a significant determinant in Nuzendla mandal only. The ST factor has become significant factor of HD in Narasaraopet, Veldurthi, Ponnur Cherukupalli Kollur, Nizampatnam and Pedanandipadu mandals and has become insignificant in Karempudi, Nuzendla, Guntur, Tadepalle and Bellamkonda mandals. The variables of Bore-well, well water not been significant determinants of HD in any of the 12 mandals. The only exception is Ponnur mandal in which well water has become a significant determinant.

The empirical analysis at the revenue division level reveals that education and income variables have emerged as significant determinants of HD in all the three revenue divisions. The variable >60 population has become an insignificant factor in all the three revenue divisions.

In all the three revenue divisions the castes of SC and ST have become significant while the

variable well water is significant only in the Guntur division while insignificant in the other two revenue divisions. This implies in order to improve HD in Guntur district protected safe drinking water facility needs to be provided.

The results of the empirical analysis at the district level reveal that the education and income variables have become significant determinants while the variable >60 years population has become insignificant. Similarly the quantitative variables of BC, SC, and ST caste have emerged as significant determinants while the water variables have become insignificant. This implies that the district needs to provide more and more medical and health and drinking water facilities to increase the HD further.

Policy Suggestions

The following suggestions are made in view of the findings of the study.

1. The study reveals that several households in some sample mandals have obtained incomes less than 20000 per annum. As income is considered to be an



- important indicator that influences Human Development, it is necessary to augment the income levels of these households by providing wage employment opportunities as well as encouraging them to participate in self help-groups.
2. It is necessary to apply corrective measures through public expenditure programmes in all the backward mandals in view of the glaring disparities found in the study across mandals. The mandals of Nuzendla, Bellamkonda and Veldurthi need special attention.
 3. Similarly, the target group approach with regard to implementation of governmental projects benefits the SC and ST households in view of substantial disparities in social-economic indicators comparative to the other communities in the district.
 4. More than 64 per cent of the households depend on agricultural and allied activities. This may be the reason for the low level of household's incomes in some of the backward mandals. Non-agricultural activities such as small scale and tiny industries, agro-based and food processing units may be encouraged in these areas.
 5. The proportion of BC, SC and ST communities the employment of organized sector is less in comparison with OC communities. The government and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) can undertake skill developed programmes targeted at these communities so that they would get more opportunities.
 6. A large proportion of households belonging to BCs, SCs and STs are deprived of the basic minimum household amenities. There is a need to empower these communities especially STs by undertaking income and employment generating programmes.
 7. It has been observed in the field study that there are no schools for primary and secondary education level in the some villages in the mandals of Nuzendla, Bellamkonda and Veldurthi. As a



- result the households are not sending their wards. Therefore at least primary schools need to be established which will increase the enrolment ratio in those backward mandals.
8. In view of the glaring intra-district Human Development Indices, it is necessary to gear up the provision of rural amenities in the mandals of Bellamkonda, Veldurthi, Karempudi, Nuzendla by channeling more funds.
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