CHAPTER V

LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT IN SIKKIM

Introduction

In the previous chapter we have examined the extent of inter district rural/urban and male/female disparities in education in the state of Sikkim at three different points of time i.e. 1981, 1991 and 2001. As the data for 2011 was not officially published during the time of completion of the thesis, we were unable to include the investigation for 2011 in the earlier chapter. The inter district variation in literacy is found to be higher among the females in both rural/urban and male/female disparities. The disparity/inequality in literacy rate was estimated by using Sopher's Index with modification of Kundu and Rao. In the last chapter we have also examined the educational scenario of Sikkim during the period of the *'Chogyl'* and after Sikkim became the 25th state of the Indian union. The educational system of Sikkim has gone a long way from the traditional monastic system to the present day modern education. The rise of literacy rate from 17.74% in 1971 to 81.40% in 2011 has indeed strengthened the state of Sikkim in the present time. In respect to Literacy rate Sikkim stands now

at seventh position in the overall ranking of the Indian states. In this section we attempt to look into the levels of economic development in Sikkim. The position of the South, East, North and West district of Sikkim will be clear in their respective levels of development that will be relevant in the present context. Hence, we can get a clear picture of the districts position in terms of its levels of development in the state. It was important to analyse the position of the districts in respect to industrial development, agricultural development and social development of the state prior to using sophisticated statistical tools in our analysis that is included in the second chapter.

Regional disparity in Sikkim was bound to take its place as it was under the rule of the *'Namgyl Dynasty'* till 1975 with paucity of resources. Hence the king was helpless to spend adequate amount for the purpose of sectoral development. Sikkim- the Himalayan kingdom of the then *Namgyal Dynasty*- merged with the Indian Union way back in 1975 and after its merger the state has taken rapid strides towards development. Prior to its merger the *'Chogyl'* had less choice to make in regard to its development schemes since the state could manage little internal resources that would have required for running them. Development process started very late in Sikkim in the absence

of any industries and good agricultural produce. The only resources that were found in the state were insufficient agricultural products and forests. The present chapter is an attempt to examine the levels of development in Sikkim- the most formidable mountain state in the Eastern Himalayan region. The area under investigation by and large refers to the four districts of Sikkim and therefore, their respective levels of development will be the prime focus of the present study.

Inequality in the quality of life has remained a focal theme for social scientists for the past few decades. Inequality has even threatened the very existence of many nations. In case of Sikkim, a number of rural development schemes have been launched to reduce disparities and inequalities in the state. However, the state of inequalities and disparities have widened despite the fact that the schemes were typically biased in favour of the poor and the underprivileged. It therefore, appears that the very purpose of launching those schemes has been defeated and the schemes tend to work towards the advantage of the better off sections of the society. The outcry for separate statehood in India is a burning example of this plight. The break-down of the larger states whether can bring development to the masses shall thus, remain a debatable question in the

years to come. It is believed therefore, that apart from changes in the political structure, corrective legislation and land reforms etc., the system of formal education can also go a long way in achieving equality in the development process. Beteille (1976) has pointed out that nature only presents us with differences or potential differences. Culturally prescribed norms convert differences into inequalities: differences become inequalities only with the application of scales which are not given to us by nature but are culturally constructed by particular human beings under particular historical condition. Thus, keeping the above discourse in view, it could be observed that formal education system can only play a vital role in bringing equality in a society and a special focus was also given to the levels of educational development in our earlier chapter.

As the question of development arises in this tiny Himalayan state, one should be aware of the fact that development should not bring miseries to the life of the people and there must exists a balance between environment and development. There is no denying the fact that the state has rich biodiversity that has to be utilized for development through judicious and careful planning. Planning of resources has therefore, become a pertinent question to deal with in every

economy of the world today. Resource planning has to be rational and utilizing resources efficiently for the betterment of mankind in the society should therefore, be taken as a challenge. Since over-exploitation of resources can only lead to its exhaustion, planned effort to maintain a balance between resources and environment is the need of the hour. The basic goal of resource planning is to achieve well-being for the human society at large and that cannot be achieved by jeopardizing the nature. The objective must be to exploit resources so efficiently as to bring economic development that is fairly sustainable. The state of Sikkim can be chosen as a model state for planning purposes to achieve economic development with minimum environmental damages. More importantly, Sikkim with its mountainous terrain and fragile environment suffers from serious constraints in application of some common strategies for improving livelihoods. Topography and thin spread of resources neither allow large-scale application of production technology, nor economies of large-scale production. Inaccessibility restricts movement of bulky material and good to and from the larger markets[1]. The state, on the other hand, has ample scope for

[1] T.S.Papola, "Development and Livelihood in Sikkim: Towards a Comparative Advantage Based Strategy", Discussion paper series-14, October 2005, Human Development Resource Centre, UNDP, New Delhi.

floriculture, animal husbandry, raising and production of cash crops such as ginger, large cardamom and oranges etc. that provides a perfect ground for development for the majority of the masses who live in the villages accounting for 91.10% of the population as per 2001 Census. In a recent meeting of Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, the then External Affairs Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee at Kolkata opined that the trade through the Nathula Pass in Sikkim would turn Kolkata and the East into the new hub of the country's trade and commerce. He further, added that the centre's 'Look East Policy' would benefit the eastern region the most, which would reap the fruits of increased trade and investment ties with ASEAN countries.[2] However, the issue is whether the Government of Sikkim is ready for tapping the opportunity that is coming on her way? On the other hand, China is keenly waiting for this opportunity and has sound preparation particularly strengthening of her infrastructure on the border. The neighbouring state of West Bengal has also formulated plans to see through this situation. Sikkim is a small state with a limited population and infrastructure and also adding to it, local people are conspicuous in taking up entrepreneurship even though they

[2] 'Nathula will open up biz oppurtunities', The Times of India, Monday, February 4th 2008, Kolkata Edition. p.7.

are capable of doing so financially as well as mentally. Henceforth the option lies in inviting assistance in regard to skilled labourers and financial support from private entrepreneurs from the neighbouring states. This has a disadvantage of its own in the sense that the money earned may not be invested in the region, that can lead to its backwardness as in other cases in India.

Levels of Economic Development in Sikkim

In this section we attempt to examine the levels of economic development with the help of quantitative methods that has revolutionized the field of geography. Immediately after her merger with India in 1975, Sikkim started her journey in achieving regional development that had thwarted her for long. Various policies were directed towards the underprivileged section of the society and also policies were directed at encouraging investment in the state. In spite of the policies adopted by the government, the state has showed a skewed development that was centered on the state capital i.e. Gangtok and some other small towns of the state. The effort to reduce regional disparity was not achieved to its full potential since the effect of certain selected areas has not tickled down to the

backward areas as expected. Inequitable distribution of wealth between the rich and the poor remains the greatest problem of the state in the recent years that is evident from the fact that its per capita income is measured as Rs. 12,128[3] as against the national average of Rs. 10,771.00[4] which is better than the national average and still the percentage of people living below the poverty line is 38% which is fifth highest in the country. One can assume from the above scenario that the backward regions have become poorer as the backwash effects have been effective in terms of the flow of manpower and resources to the already developed regions. The population pressure of the state is growing which is not supported by employment generation for her population that has accentuated the divide between the rich and the poor. The backwardness of the state in her demographic and social development is evident. The growing gap between the males and the females and between the urban and the rural areas has posed a major area of concern for the government.

Economic development of a country may be measured with the help of various indicators. Sometimes only a single indicator is used to measure the levels of development which is heavily criticised by other scholars due to its well known

[3] Sikkim ranks thirteenth among the states
[4] Per Capita NNP at current prices-National Accounts Statistics 1997, 1998, CSO.

deficiencies. "They exclude barter transactions and much of the economic activity represented by home-produced and home consumed output, and they do not take into account the domestic services of house wives, the services of consumer durables, or the services of socio overhead capital."[1] As discussed in Chapter 1 of the present study, per capita income as a measure of development suffers from a number of weaknesses. Besides, there are innumerable problems while calculating income. Again income figures at micro level like villages, taluks are very rarely available. Per capita incomes are collected by states on the basis of prices ruling therein. Since (1) price levels are different in different states; (2) commodities includes in the compilation of price levels by different states are different and (3) weights assigned to different commodities in the compilation of price levels are not the same in all states, per capita income of different states are not comparable. Similarly within a state there remain problems of collecting information related to per capita income as they are rarely available in the block and district levels. Looking at the above lacuna we can argue that per capita income as a single indicator is bound to narrow down the scope of analysis to a considerable extent. Development has to be seen as a web of several socio-economic

activities and not alone per capita income can define it, if does so the inherent process of structural transformation of socio-economic development of a state will be neglected in the process of analysis.

Researchers and social scientists have tried to develop models of regional economic development and regional disparity with the help of statistical methods. These models try to provide deeper investigation into the factors influencing regional economic development. There is an abundance of descriptive material on regional disparities, but the number of quantitative techniques used in solving regional economic problems is not much found. Most of the quantitative techniques used are biased towards industrial economies. Moreover the models adopted by the developed countries do not necessarily fit into the socio-economic characteristics of the developing countries and additionally there is a problem of availability of similar data. A variety of demographic and socio-economic variables are chosen to explain regional disparity in Sikkim. The variables were chosen as they were considered to be important to the understanding of the present analysis. The proper choice of variables constitutes the crux of the methodology for it is through this that the pertinent questions are raised and

answered. However, the choice of indicators does not claim to be exhaustive and consider all the factors that determine the levels of development, but surely it justifies the present cause. The choice of variables is justified in the following lines.

Rate of Urbanization

The degree of urbanisation of a country/state is an important indicator of its levels of development. According to Hauser, urbanization of a population is positively correlated with the levels of development.[5] The rate of urbanization reflects the percentage of urban population to the total population. The degree of urbanization of the districts of Sikkim can be measured by this indicator. The distribution of population over urban units is an important aspect and has to be taken into consideration.

Literacy rate

Education plays a vital role in the transformation of a society. Sociologically, the process of education is thought of as the formal transmission of culture with its elements of preservation, dissemination and innovation. The most important

[5] P. M. Hauser, "Population Statistics and Research in Planning Economic Development" in United Nations, World Population Conference, Vol. V, New York, 1955, p.110.

contribution of education to economic development lies in bringing about greater mobility of labour among different occupations and geographical areas. Myrdal (1968), in "Asian Drama", underlines the failure of development planners to view education as an integral, not isolated, part of development. He also considered that experts in health and education have long been aware that expenditures to improve the quality of the population may often be more important for development than physical investment.[6] This variable displays the proportion of literate people in a given population. The variable can clarify the position of the districts of Sikkim in terms of literacy rate. The indicators chosen here to analyse the levels of development are; Total Literacy %, Male literacy %, Female Literacy %, Rural Literacy % and Urban Literacy %.

Rural Birth Rate

Birth rate, Death rate and migration constitute the three vital components of population change. The crude birth rate is expressed as number of live births in a year per thousand of women. The rural birth has been chosen here as an indicator of levels of development as 90% of the people in Sikkim lives in the

[6] Gunnar Myrdal, Asian Drama: An Inquiry into the Poverty of Nations, New York, Twentieth Century Fund, 1968.

rural areas. Generally urban population is conscious about small family norms whereas the rural population is characterized by illiteracy, ignorance and superstitions. The rural population is against any change, they are conservative. Urbanization leads to migration from villages to town and as the conservatism declines, they adopt the scientific or any modern change. This indicator is very powerful in explaining the reproductive behaviour of a given population that is a precondition of development. The growth of population can take away the fruits of development if unchecked.

Rural Death Rate

Death rate plays an active role in population change. Population growth occurs not only by increasing births rate but also due to decreasing death rate. Crude Death Rate (CDR) is a simple method of measuring mortality of any area. CDR is expressed in terms of number of deaths in a particular year per thousand of population in a particular region. As an indicator it has the power to explain the condition of the poor people that particularly lives in rural area. It can also explain the condition of the people in regard to health and hygiene.

Rural Infant Mortality Rate

The number of deaths of infants below one year of age during a year per 1000 lives in the same year is called the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). Generally the Infant Mortality Rate is higher in the rural areas than the urban areas. The high Infant Mortality Rate may be due to lack of proper care, lack of nutrition, poor maintenance and hygienic condition, lack of awareness etc. Thus this indicator can portray the real picture of rural Sikkim.

Sex Ratio

Generally the number of male and female is not equal in a country. In the census of India, the male and female ratio is measured by the number of females per thousand males. In the third world countries generally the number of males is much higher than the number of females for various reasons. In our analysis we have taken for analysis the sex ratio of the disadvantageous groups i.e. the sex ratio of schedule caste population and the schedule tribe population. It has an additional advantage of finding the acuteness of the situation in a given population, since in Indian condition except the state of Kerala, sex ratio is more in favour to males than in females and

moreover in schedule caste and schedule tribe population it is sure to be more acute. This can be a powerful indicator for judging the levels of development of the state of Sikkim.

Dependency Ratio

This reflects the proportion of inactive population below 14 years of age and over 60 years of age. A measure showing the number of dependents (aged 0-14 and over the age of 60) to the total population (15-59). It is also referred to as the "total dependency rate". This indicator gives insight into the amount of people of non-working age compared to the number of those of working age. A high ratio means those of working age- and the overall economy- face a greater burden in supporting the aging population. This is an important indicator of population composition in Sikkim, since a large size of population in the age group of 15-59 indicates a large working population. A greater proportion of population above 60 years represents an ageing population which requires more expenditure on health care facilities. Similarly high proportion of young population would mean that the region has a high birth rate and the population is youthful.

Number of Hospital Beds

Number of Hospital beds, is a useful indicator of the availability of health services to a population, and thus a measure of the level of development in terms of the capability to provide services.

Hospital Beds per 100 of Population

The ratio of hospital beds to the population, usually expressed as the number of available hospital beds for every 1000 population. This is also a powerful indicator of knowing the health services available to the population.

Nurses per thousand of Population

The ratio of nurses to the population is expressed as the number of nurses available to every 1000 population. This is a measure of the levels of development in terms of the capability to provide services.

Number of Telephone Exchange

This is also expressed in per 1000 of population and the ability to provide services to the masses is tested.

Number of Electronic Telephones

Number of Electronic Telephones per 1000 of population is taken as an indicator for measuring the levels of development. Development in the social sector can be easily gauged with this indicator.

Percentage of Forest Cover

The National Forest Policy (1988), aims at having a minimum of one third of geographic area of the country under forest and tree cover and enjoins maintaining two third of the area in hills under forest cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and also to ensure maintenance of ecological balance and environmental stability. It is therefore felt desirable to know the extent of forest cover in the Himalayan state that can represent the level of consciousness among the population.

Number of health institution

The number of health institution in a given population is very essential for maintaining the health status of the population and is also a challenging task for the government. Number of health institution per thousand of population is an important indicator of gauging the efforts given to raise the

standard of living of the masses. We have chosen number of health institution and number of primary health and sub centres in our study.

Number of Government School

The number of government schools in a region is a good indicator of its levels of development. It is important to point out that the most important product of education is skill, be they general skill, such as literacy, which is assumed to be good preparation for a great variety of occupations, or more specific professional or vocational skills. Hence, the presence of government schools in a given population can boost up the bench strength of the country.

Number of Post Offices

The Indian Postal system is one of the largest in the world. In India it is a very vital service as no other system prevails in such a large scale for providing basic facilities to the people. Besides providing postal services it also provides fixed deposits, recurring deposits and sometimes acts like a bank and hence in the rural areas it provides lot of facilities which no other system could provide. Thus it is seen as a instrument of social change.

Labour Force Participation

Labour force is defined as the subset of the population in 15-59 years of age group, who are either employed, or unemployed and seeking/available for work. As an indicator labour force participation depicts the economic health of a country or a state since it is this work force that looks after the rest of the population.

Percentage of female workers

Since the labour force shows the percentage of workers involved in economic activities of a country, the percentage of female workers shows their active participation in the society. As an indicator it can show the acuteness of gender discrimination.

Percentage of Cardamom field

Large cardamom is unquestionably the most valued natural resource based product of Sikkim and the state has virtual monopoly in its production. The income potential of cardamom is several times greater than any other crop in the

state. Hence any increase in its area can directly influence the earning capacity of the people at large.

Yield of rice per hectare and Percentage of rice fields

The state of Sikkim is not famous for rice cultivation as its production as well as productivity is low as compared to other states of India still it dominates the other crops in terms of area and number of people engaged in this activity. Food security consideration force farmers to grow mostly food crops even if it is less productive and profitable. In Sikkim the farmers seem to be suspicious of diversification into cash crops as there are high risks of limited and uncertain access to inputs, technologies and market. Since the number of people engaged in food crop production is higher than the other crops, percentage of rice fields and yield of rice per hectares can prove to be a good indicator of agricultural development.

Yield of cardamom per hectare

Since cardamom is a cash crop in the state its yield can affect the production as well as productivity on the other hand influencing the earning capacity of the state. As an indicator it has the capacity to analyse the modern inputs applied to

agriculture in the state and the awareness of the farmers in respect to cardamom plantation.

Number of registered Industries

This variable indicates the number of registered industries in all the four districts of Sikkim. Since industrialization is directly related to the economic development of a country or state this indicator has the potential of underlining the levels of industrial growth in all the four districts of Sikkim.

The present section is an attempt to portray a macro level perspective into the overall development of the state by considering selected demographic, economic, social and infrastructure indicators in the four districts of Sikkim. The major objectives behind this investigation are to:

1. Find out the degree of regional disparities in the levels of economic development and its causes.
2. To identify the backward, developed and highly developed areas with respect to Agriculture, Industry, Infrastructure and overall development.
3. This section also analyses the position of the districts in the composite indices (separate index has been computed for demographic, economic, Social and infrastructure

indicators), by categorization of these districts into high, medium and low levels of development in 2001.

The study is based on secondary data collected from the census of India 2001, Statistical Abstract of India (1981, 1991 & 2001), Economic Survey (1981, 1991 & 2001), National Health Bulletin 2001 and other publications of Directorate of Economics, Statistics, Monitoring & Evaluation, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

The main objective of the present chapter is to find out the disparities in the levels of development in the districts of the state of Sikkim. The first step was to select the indicators that could provide a better picture of the district and then the selected indicators were computed from the raw data. In the second stage, indicators for each of the sections have been ranked to view the position of the district. Thirdly, separate composite indices have been constructed for demographic, economic, social and infrastructure facilities, which are followed by an aggregate composite index of development. Thirty-two key parameters from various sections have been used to calculate the overall composite index.

The figures have been standardized using Z-score method to transform the data matrix into a scale free matrix.

$$Z = (X_{ij} - X_j) \div S_j$$

Where, Z_i = Z-score for i^{th} district

X_{ij} = X variable in the i^{th} district and j^{th} variable

X_j = mean of j^{th} variable

S_j = standard deviation of j^{th} variable

After the calculation of Z score for all the variables, an attempt has been made to find out the composite scores by applying the following rule:

$$C_i = \bullet Z_{ij}$$

Where, C_i = composite score for i^{th} district

$\bullet Z_{ij}$ = summation of Z scores for I^{th} district

Since, we do not have data of all the variables for each and every district of the state therefore, mean composite score have been computed in order to maintain equilibrium among the composite scores of different districts. The composite scores have been averaged, by employing the following rule:

$$C_{mi} = C_i \div N_{ij}$$

Where, C_i = Composite score of the i^{th} district

N_{ij} = number of indicators in i^{th} district

When converted into Z-scores, all observation with value less than the mean will be negative. The Z-score permits comparison between sets of scores obtained from different measuring processes, in units, which are independent of the original units. This transformation is used frequently in social research, not only to facilitate comparison but also for the purpose of combining information on different variables or scores on different tests. Standardization can also be accomplished by taking ratio or interval data down to an ordinal scale, to produce sets of ranking, which can be directly compared in circumstances where the original scores could not. The main advantage of this is the relative ease with which it can be done, providing the number of observations is not too large for the ranking to be done quickly by eye. The disadvantage is the loss of information on ratios or intervals.[7]

[7] David M. Smith, Patterns in Human Geography, Penguin Books, 1977, pp.154-157.

In the analysis of regional disparities over the districts we have selected suitable indicators related to demographic, economic, social and infrastructural facilities to show an overall scenario of development. The list of indicators selected is given below under the following heads:

Demographic Indicators

1. Total Literacy % (X_1)
2. Male literacy % (X_2)
3. Female Literacy % (X_3)
4. Rural Literacy % (X_4)
5. Urban Literacy % (X_5)
6. Rural Birth Rate (X_6)
7. Rural Death Rate (X_7)
8. Rural Infant Mortality Rate (X_8)

Economic Indicators

9. % of total workers (X_9)
10. Dependency ratio (X_{10})
11. % of female workers (X_{11})
12. % of irrigated Area (X_{11})
13. % of Cardamom field (X_{13})
14. % of workers to total workers (X_{14})

15. % of female workers to total workers (X_{15})

16. Yield of rice per hectare (X_{16})

17. Yield of cardamom per hectare (X_{17})

18. Un-irrigated Land (X_{18})

19. No. of registered Industries (X_{19})

Social Indicators

20. Schedule Caste Sex Ratio (X_{20})

21. Schedule Tribe Sex Ratio (X_{21})

22. % of forest cover (X_{22})

23. No. of health institution (X_{23})

24. No. of Govt. School (X_{24})

25. Primary Health & Sub-centers (X_{25})

Infrastructure and Amenities

26. Population/Bed (X_{26})

27. Population/Doctors (X_{27})

28. Population/Nurse (X_{28})

29. No. Telephone Exchange (X_{29})

30. No. of Electronic Telephones (X30)

31. No. of Post Office & Sub post office (X_{31})

32. No. of Hospital Beds (X_{32})

Discussion of the Result

The 32 key indicators have been further divided into four categories of Demographic indicators, Economic indicators, Social indicators and infrastructure and amenities. Eight indicators have been included under demographic indicator, eleven indicators under economic indicator, six indicators under social indicator and seven indicators under infrastructure and amenities.

Demographic Development

The eight indicators selected for the analysis, represent the picture of demographic development over the four districts of Sikkim for the year 2001. The Total Literacy Rate is an important indicator of development in the state of Sikkim as it illustrates the strength of the human resources that is present in the state of Sikkim and the potential that the state possess for the developmental task with her own people. The literacy percentage is highest for the district of South with 75.57% and lowest for the district of West with 59.13%. All the districts of the state are above the state average except the West district. The female literacy for South, East, North and West districts are

67.74%, 61.02%, 56.65% and 50.75% respectively. Educational attainment seems to have spread much widely in the South and East district of Sikkim particularly in respect to female literacy rates. In respect to rural birth rate, the West District ranks poorly with 11.65 per thousand where as the East District ranks much better with 5.94 per thousand. Similarly, with regard to rural infant mortality rate, the North District of Sikkim ranks poorly with 11.02 per thousand where as the West District of Sikkim fairs better with 2.57 per thousand.

Economic Development

To represent the economic development, eleven key indicators are chosen in this section. The most common indicator of economic development is per capita income of a country or a state but in case of Sikkim the district level data are not available, hence we have opted for other indicators of development, which are equally important and relevant to the theme. Percentage of total workers is highest in the district of North and South whereas the West district lies at the bottom. The number of registered industries is the highest in the East district with 958 and the North district has the lowest number

of industries with 120. Similarly, in case of percentage of irrigated area, East district has the highest with 48.17% and North at the bottom with 12.26%. Large cardamom is an important cash crop in the state of Sikkim that has uplifted the standard of living for a larger section of the state. The North district of Sikkim has the highest area under cardamom field whereas the South and West district of the state has the lowest area under cardamom field. The area under cardamom field is less in these districts since they are located at lower heights.

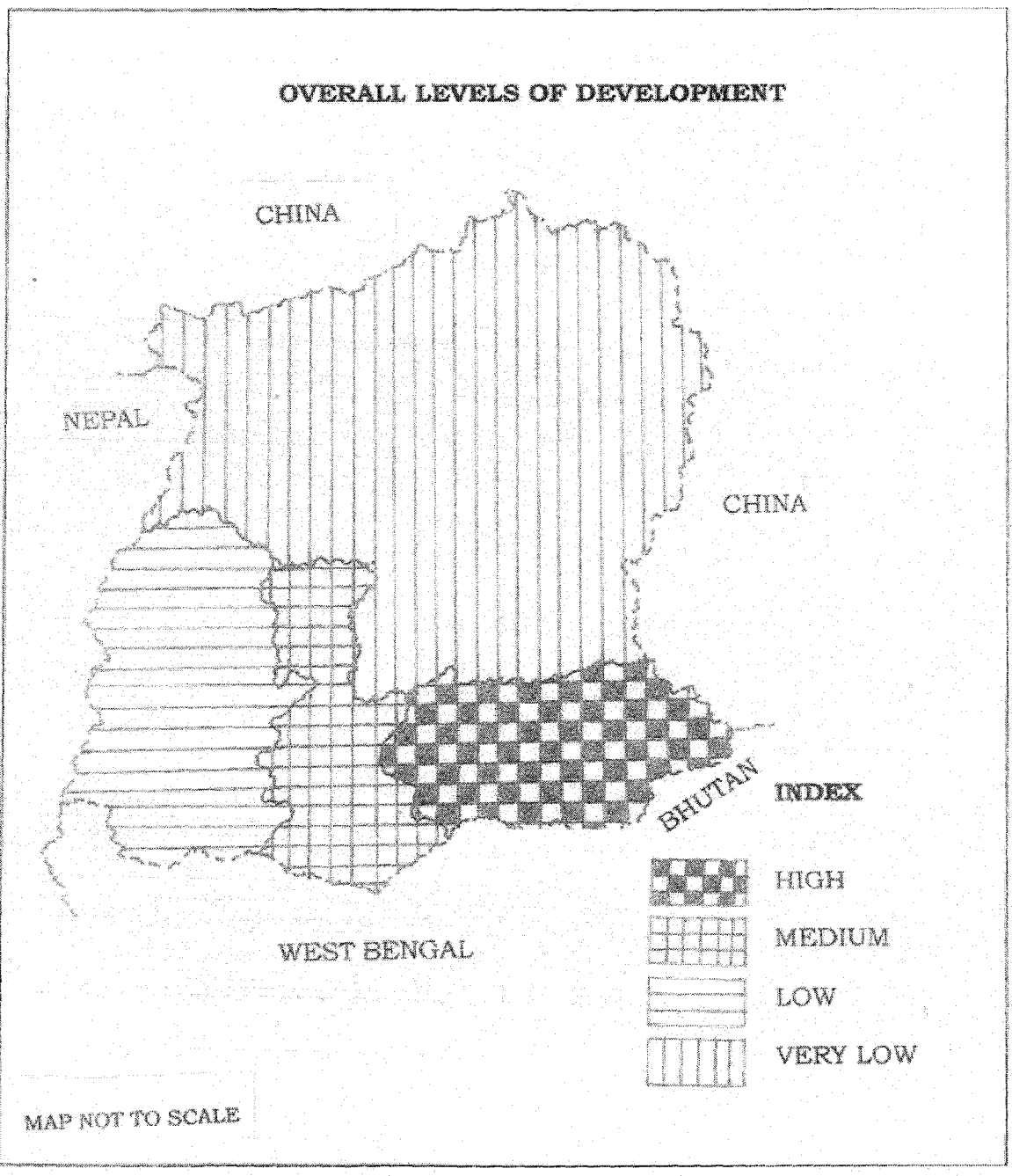
Social Development

Consistently falling Sex ratio is a matter of concern for the society as it portrays the position of females in the society. Similarly, if we look at the position of sex ratio particularly for the downtrodden section of the society i.e. the Schedule Caste and the Schedule Tribe, then the position of the society is much more easy to understand. The South district of Sikkim seems to fair far better than the rest in both SC and ST population with 989 & 984 females per thousand males. North District ranks lowest both in terms of SC & ST sex ratio. Percentage of forest cover is highest in East district followed by South, West and

North with 70.23, 68.0, 61.06 & 30.79 percent respectively. Number of health institutions, Government schools and primary health & sub centres' are more in the East district of Sikkim whereas the North district lies at the bottom in all three rankings.

Development in Infrastructure and Amenities

We have selected seven indicators to portray development in infrastructure and amenities in the state. The picture is better in the district of East with respect to population/doctor with 2186 and worst in West and South with the figures as 5599 and 4242 per doctor respectively. Similarly there is one bed for every 1026 person in the West District, 490 persons in the East District, 598 persons in the South District and 513 persons in the North District. The construction of 575-bedded multi-speciality hospital at Sichey, near Gangtok town will definitely boost the infrastructural development of the state. This Rs. 400 Crore hospital with a plinth area of six lakh square feet is a part of the expansion plans of the existing Sir Tashi Namgyal Memorial (STNM) hospital, Gangtok.


OVERALL LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT
CHINA
NEPAL
CHINA
BHUTAN
INDEX
HIGH
MEDIUM
LOW
VERY LOW
WEST BENGAL
MAP NOT TO SCALE

INDICATORS 2001

Districts	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8	X9	X10	X11	X12	X13	X14	X15	X16
North	69.11	77.32	56.65	68.78	79.14	7.16	0.84	11.02	57.61	42.39	48.03	12.26	37.13	57.61	48.03	795.29
South	75.57	82.05	67.74	67.43	88.92	9.60	1.01	3.71	53.04	46.96	46.62	19.16	18.21	53.04	46.62	1075.53
East	68.12	74.57	61.02	72.89	84.86	5.94	0.72	9.50	47.71	52.29	35.27	48.17	27.13	47.71	35.27	1075.53
West	59.13	67.21	50.75	59.02	77.98	11.65	1.21	2.57	43.13	56.87	33.50	20.40	17.52	43.13	33.50	1260.00

Districts	X17	X18	X19	X20	X21	X22	X23	X24	X25	X26	X27	X28	X29	X30	X31	X32
North	150	3725.94	120	949	927	30.79	23	76	22	513	2930	4102	04	834	24	130
South	150	16350.37	435	989	984	68.00	47	217	45	598	4242	8767	08	2790	31	220
East	240	11577.90	958	962	964	70.23	59	232	56	490	2186	1958	14	13982	109	900
West	177	17654.38	265	959	945	61.06	49	215	48	1026	5599	12317	10	2130	51	170

OVERALL DEVELOPMENT MATRIX 2001

Districts	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8	X9	X10	X11	X12	X13	X14	X15	X16
North	0.19	0.37	-0.38	0.35	-0.81	1.33	-1.33	1.11	-0.93	1.52	-1.63	-0.66	-0.62	-0.66	-1.72	-1.39
South	1.30	1.26	1.40	0.08	1.40	0.49	-0.49	0.88	-0.42	-0.85	0.19	-0.27	0.38	0.49	0.51	-0.28
East	0.01	-0.13	0.32	1.16	0.48	-0.49	0.49	-0.86	1.68	0.27	1.10	-0.77	-1.19	-1.20	0.74	1.39
West	-1.50	-1.50	-1.34	-1.59	-1.07	-1.33	1.33	-1.13	-0.33	-0.94	0.34	1.70	1.43	1.37	0.47	0.28

Districts	X17	X18	X19	X20	X21	X22	X23	X24	X25	X26	X27	X28	X29	X30	X31	X32
North	-0.78	-0.89	-1.64	-1.06	-1.31	-0.71	-1.69	-0.65	-0.59	1.19	1.33	1.10	-1.54	-0.79	-1.57	-1.02
South	-0.41	-0.68	0.18	1.64	1.36	-0.43	0.66	0.46	0.41	-0.82	0.49	0.89	0.14	-0.79	0.73	-0.03
East	1.72	1.65	1.05	0.19	0.42	1.72	0.80	-1.20	-1.29	0.78	-0.49	-0.86	0.14	1.65	-0.13	1.62
West	-0.53	-0.08	0.41	0.39	-0.47	-0.58	0.23	1.39	-1.59	-1.15	-1.33	-1.13	1.26	-0.06	0.97	-0.57

Composite Scores of Selected Indicators 2001

	Demographic Indicators								Economic Indicators							
	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8	X9	X10	X11	X12	X13	X14	X15	X16
North	0.19	0.37	-0.38	0.35	-0.81	-0.65	-0.59	1.19	1.33	-1.33	1.11	-0.93	1.52	1.33	1.10	-1.54
South	1.30	1.26	1.40	0.08	1.40	0.46	0.41	-0.82	0.49	-0.49	0.88	-0.42	-0.85	0.49	0.89	0.14
East	0.01	-0.13	0.32	1.16	0.48	-1.20	-1.29	0.78	-0.49	0.49	-0.86	1.68	0.27	-0.49	-0.86	0.14
West	-1.50	-1.50	-1.34	-1.59	-1.07	1.39	-1.59	-1.15	-1.33	1.33	-1.13	-0.33	-0.94	-1.33	-1.13	1.26

	Economic Indicators			Social Indicators						Infrastructure and Amenities						
	X17	X18	X19	X20	X21	X22	X23	X24	X25	X26	X27	X28	X29	X30	X31	X3
North	-0.79	-1.57	-1.02	-1.06	-1.31	-1.69	-1.63	-1.72	-1.64	-0.66	-0.62	-0.66	-1.39	-0.78	-0.89	-0.7
South	-0.79	0.73	-0.03	1.64	1.36	0.66	0.19	0.51	0.18	-0.27	0.38	0.49	-0.28	-0.41	-0.68	-0.4
East	1.65	-0.13	1.62	0.19	0.42	0.80	1.10	0.74	1.05	-0.77	-1.19	-1.20	1.39	1.72	1.65	1.7
West	-0.06	0.97	-0.57	0.39	-0.47	0.23	0.34	0.47	0.41	1.70	1.43	1.37	0.28	-0.53	-0.08	-0.

Overall Development Index 2001 and their ranking

Districts	Economic	Social	Infrastructure	Demographic	Overall	Overall Rank
North	-0.79	-9.05	-5.71	-0.33	-15.88	4
South	1.04	4.54	-1.2	6.31	10.69	2
East	3.02	4.3	3.32	0.13	10.77	1
West	-3.26	1.37	3.59	-8.35	6.65	3