CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Introduction

Socio-economic status is a measure of an individual's or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on income, education, occupation and so on. Socio-Economic development is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. Some of its major dimensions includes the level of economic growth, level of education, level of health services, degree of modernization, status of women, level of nutrition, quality of housing, distribution of goods and services, access to communication etc. It is also conceptualized as a process which improves the quality of life of people. It requires a balanced human resource development in the country. One of the serious problems which our country is facing today is the problem of regional disparities in Socio-Economic sector. It results in social, political and economic instability. The current tension and strain in the Indian politics are essentially a function of inadequacy of the strategies evolved since independence to correct the inequalities and distortions. Economic planning has been used in the country as an instrument for bringing about uniform regional development because one of the main objectives of the developmental programmes have been a progressive reduction in regional disparities in the pace of development. Programmes of development have been taken up in the country in a planned way through various Five Year Plans. However, these measures have not been able to reduce substantially the regional inequalities in the level of Socio-Economic development.

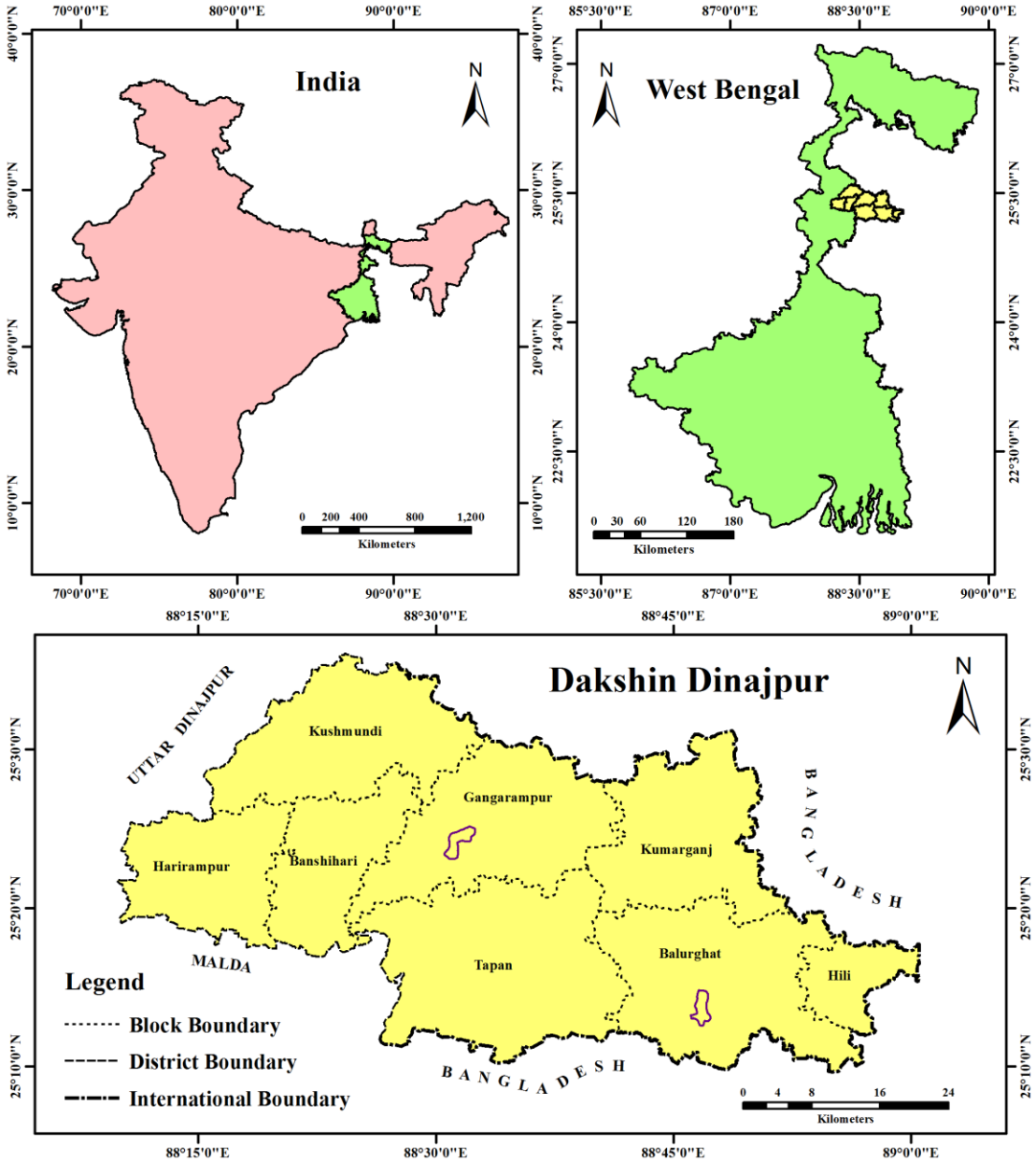
In our state West Bengal, the progress of Socio-Economic development among Districts as well as its various sub-districts are not uniform. The districts and sub-districts of North Bengal are not in exception with wide disparity in the level of Socio-Economic development. There are various ways of analyzing spatial disparities in the level of Socio-Economic development, but the regional approach which permits the vertical integrations of Socio-Economic conditions and horizontal variations over space is most important. Using this spatial approach, a unit of spatial organization of society in terms of certain selected indicators of the level of Socio-Economic development can be identified. In the Present research work the district of Dakshin Dinajpur has been

taken as the area of study for Socio-economic status and level of development among various C.D Blocks.

1.2 The Study Area

The district Dakshin Dinajpur extends from 25°10'55" North to 26°35'15" North latitudes and from 87°48'37" East to 89°00'30" East longitudes. Dakshin Dinajpur is surrounded by Bangladesh in the North, East and South, Uttar Dinajpur District in the North and West and a part of southern and western border of Dakshin Dinajpur lies adjacent to Malda District.

Location Map of The Study Area



Map 1.1 Location Map of Dakshin Dinajpur District

It is situated on the north eastern part of the state of West Bengal and is under Jalpaiguri division. The district is formed on 1st April, 1992 comprising the southern part of the undivided West Dinajpur District with its headquarter at Balurghat. The erstwhile Balurghat Sub-division along with Banshihari and Kushmandi Blocks (which were in Raiganj sub-division prior to division) comprise the new district. The northern part of former West Dinajpur District was renamed as Uttar Dinajpur District on the same day.

The administrative set up of the district consists of two subdivisions viz. Balurghat, the district headquarter and Gangarampur. There are total 8 Community Development (C. D) Blocks in the district out of which Balurghat, Kumarganj, Tapan and Hili C.D. Blocks are under Balurghat Subdivision while Kushmandi, Banshihari, Harirampur and Gangarampur are under Gangarampur Sub-division. Each C.D Block has got one Police Station. Gangarampur and Balurghat are two Municipal Towns situated in the district. The district has total 65 Gram Panchayat (G.P.) and 1638 inhabited Villages as per census report, 2011.

Table 1.1 Administrative Divisions of Dakshin Dinajpur District

Sub-Division	C.D. Block	Panchayat			Mouza	Inhabited Village
		Samity	Gram	Gram Sansad		
Gangarampur Sub-Division	4	4	30	440	750	730
	Kushmandi	1	8	116	231	227
	Banshihari	1	5	90	161	158
	Harirampur	1	6	85	155	146
	Gangarampur	1	11	149	203	199
Balurghat Sub-Division	4	4	35	489	888	849
	Kumarganj	1	8	113	218	204
	Tapan	1	11	158	279	271
	Balurghat	1	11	163	309	296
	Hili	1	5	55	82	78
District Total - 2	9998	8	65	929	1638	1579

Source: District Statistical Handbook, Dakshin Dinajpur, 2011.

The Present Research work has been carried out in the rural areas of the district i.e. Community Development (C.D) Blocks.

1.3 Scope of the Study

Dakshin Dinajpur District covers an area of about 2219 sq. Km of land and is typically agrarian in character. New railway track has been laid between Eklakhi and

Balurghat (the district headquarter) few years back and the district first experienced the Train ride on 30.12. 2004.There is four State Highways along with only 3 km length of National Highway No 34 passing through this district. Dakshin Dinajpur is not only suffering from the feeble industrial development, but it also has to tackle the enormous problem of immigration from adjacent Bangladesh, which is located on its eastern and southern fringes. Immigration across the border floods the district with the huge problems of overpopulation, unemployment, poverty, illiteracy, health, etc. Thus, Dakshin Dinajpur is set against an agrarian background with slow industrial growth, not remarkable progress in the secondary and tertiary sectors and sluggish Socio-Economic as well as all-round development. The district is very much backward in industrial development having no large scale industry. The per capita income is also low. Transport and communication system of the district is also extremely poor. Road transport is the only available frequent transportation system in the district. The urban population is also very low i.e. 14.1% (2011Census) in percentage in comparison with rural population i.e. 85.9% (2011 Census). Literacy rate is also low i.e.72.8% which is lower than States average 76.3% and thereby making its rank 13th in the state West Bengal. It is one of the educationally backward districts in India. Other basic services prevailing in the district are not satisfactory. Present study would take the record of the present status of the Socio-Economic parameters of the district. Once such information is gathered, the identification of level of development will be easier and accordingly steps can be taken to eradicate such imbalance. Therefore, this study would be beneficial for the residents of the district and also for planners, decision makers, and local bodies in the district and for the stakeholders in this field.

1.4 Hypothesis

The following hypotheses have been adopted for the study:

i. Disparities in the level of Socio-Economic status exist among the C.D. Blocks.
ii. Temporal variation also exists in the Socio-Economic status in the rural areas.
iii. The study area, Dakshin Dinajpur, is one of the backward district in West Bengal.

1.5 Objectives

In order to achieve the above mentioned hypotheses, the present study is based on the following objectives-

i. To study the physical as well as Socio-Economic aspects of the district.
ii. To study the spatial variation of present Socio-Economic status of the district and its comparison with state.
iii. To study the temporal change of Socio-Economic status of the district and its comparison with state.
iv. To find out the level of development in rural areas.
v. To find out the major constraints in the overall development of the district.
vi. To find out the necessary measures to be taken for the development of the district.

1.6 Data Base

The data of the present study is obtained from the following sources:

1.6.1 Primary Sources of Data

Primary data collection is based on selected field survey. Household survey has been conducted to collect socio- economic data.

1.6.1.1 The Procedure for Primary Data Collection

The primary data has been collected during household survey on some selected villages. The selection of village was done in such a way that an average picture can be reflected of each block. There are total 1631 villages in the entire district and out of which one percent i.e. 16 villages have been selected for conducting household survey and out of 16 villages, 2 villages from each block has been taken under consideration. Among those two villages, one which is nearest to the block headquarter and another which is furthest to the block headquarter has been selected for household survey. The following are the census villages that have been surveyed for present research work.

Table 1.2 Census Villages for Household Survey

Name of C.D. Block	Nearest Village from Block H.Q*			Furthest Village from Block H.Q*		
	Name of Village	Total No. of House holds	No. of House holds Surveyed	Name of Village	Total No. of House holds	No. of House holds Surveyed
Balurghat	Danga	413	41	Chingispur	556	56
Banshihari	Mahabari	67	7	Ellhabad	986	99
Gangarampur	Belbari	1687	169	Ashokgram	626	63
Harirampur	Bagichapur	412	41	Gokama	230	23
Hili	Dhalpara	361	36	Binshirah	529	53
Kumarganj	Samjia	450	45	Batun	834	83
Kushmandi	Kushmandi	970	97	Akcha	147	15
Tapan	Chandipur	162	16	Garail	426	43

Source: Compiled by Researcher. H. Q* =Head Quarter

The Primary data has been collected through a Socio-Economic questionnaire by means of field survey based on interview method. The data collected from field has been categorized for processing the data under various Socio-Economic parameters like Social, Demographic and Economic and Infrastructural. After collection the raw data the same has been analyzed using different various statistical methods and finally tabulated and presented.

1.6.2 Secondary Sources of Data

i. Census of India West Bengal Series; 2001 & 2011
ii. District Statistical Handbook, Dakshin Dinajpur; 2001 & 2011
iii. Statistical Handbook West Bengal; 2001 & 2011
iv. Eastern Bengal District Gazetteers Dinajpur, F.W. Strong,1912
v. India-National Human Development Report; 2001 & 2011
vi. West Bengal Human Development Reports, 2004
vii. Economic Review; 2001 & 2011
viii. Various published Books, Journals, and Articles etc.

1.6.2.1 The Procedure for Secondary Data Collection

For the collection of secondary data, I have visited to nearest Gram Panchayat office, Community Development Offices and District headquarters as well as for collection of some physical data I have visited different expertise and accessed various Govt. web portals as per requirement. Moreover, I have consulted the above mentioned particulars for preparing my research work.

Besides these, there are publications of different departments of the State Government as well as Central Government which have been taken into consideration for the preparation of complete database to carry out the research work.

1.7 Methodology

In order to prove the hypotheses and also to fulfill the objectives of the study the following methodologies have been followed.

The present research work is based on some Socio-Economic indicators which have been selected in two broad categories viz. Social Indicators and Economic Indicators. To fulfill the objectives researcher has followed some statistical methods which have mentioned below.

- Composite Index Method to find out the overall status of Socio-Economic development of the district.
- Weighted Score method for computation of Composite Index (CI) Value.
- Kendall's Coefficient ranking Method for Socio-Economic Developmental Zones.

The prime method i.e. Composite Index is a simple self-weighting method. A number of indicators have been taken under consideration under two heads. The Indicators have been selected in such a way that a holistic picture of social status and economic status as well as Socio-Economic Status is clearly viewed. As the indicators is measured at different scale they have been brought under scale free measure by dividing the value of each indicators of a particular block by mean of that particular indicator for the entire district or the values of indicators have been given weight on the basis of the following formula:

Weight of Indicators:

$$Wij = Vij / \overline{X}i$$

Where, Wij is the weight of the i indicator of j block

Vij is the value of the i indicator of j block.

$\overline{X}$ i = Mean value of i indicator for whole district.

After that composite index of different attributes has been derived using following formula.

$$CI = \sum Wij/N$$

Where, Wij =the weight of i indicator of j block. N=the total no of indicators for a particular attribute. (either social or economic and or socio-economic.). To find out the level of variation Kendall's Ranking Coefficient index has been considered. The CI Value of each block has been ranked according to its weight. Hence, highest value is given Rank - 1 and second highest is Rank-2 and so on.

Kendall's Coefficient Index:

$$\sum R/N$$

Where, $\sum$ R = Sum of Ranks and N= Number of Indicators.

Here it should be noted that the coefficient Index is inversely related to the status of development i.e. lower the index more the development and vice-versa.

Z-Score:

In order to find out the variation of distribution of variables among various C.D. blocks the researcher calculated the standard score more commonly called as Z-Score which is very useful because it allows us to calculate the probability of the score occurring within our normal distribution. The Z-Score tells us whether a particular score is equal to Mean, below the mean or above the mean. The Z-Score has been calculated based on following formula.

$$z_i = \frac{x_i - \bar{x}}{s}$$

Where, Z_i = Z-Score, X_i = Value of the variable, $\overline{x}$ = Mean of the variable

and S = Standard deviation.

Composite Mean Z-Score:

It is the average value of Z-Score calculated from various aspects. This method has been applied for measuring level of Social, Economic and Socio-economic development.

Composite Mean Z-Score: Composite Z-Score/N

N= Number of total observation

Pearson Product Moment Correlation:

It is a measure of linear correlation between two variables and it is denoted by '*r*'. This shows range of values from +1 to -1.

$$r = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left((x_i - \bar{x})(y_i - \bar{y})\right)}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n}(x_i - \bar{x})^2 \sum_{i=1}^{n}(y_i - \bar{y})^2}}$$

The above procedure has been applied for finding out the correlationship among population distribution and composite values of various indicators in the entire study area.

The entire results have been presented by using some cartographic techniques i.e. Choropleth Map, Pie diagram, Bar diagram, Composite Bar diagram, Line graph etc. and all other maps have been prepared and designed using Arc GIS software, Q-GIS software and drafting and calculations have been done using Microsoft Office softwares like MS Word, MS Excel etc.

1.8 Limitations

This research has been undertaken to study the status and level of Socio-Economic development among various C. D Blocks in Dakshin Dinajpur District. The researcher has taken data from various authentic secondary sources as well as primary sources for this study. The primary data has been collected from door to door household field survey as well as various government offices like District Magistrate office, C.D Block office, Gram Panchayat office, PWD office and various concerned offices and institutions. The nature and quality of primary data collected from field survey is beyond control of the researcher as these has been obtained directly from the

respondents. Sometimes it has been found that the respondents are very much reluctant to give the actual information due to unexplained reason.

1.9 Literature Review

1.9.1 Roy, Anirban, "Status of Human Development in the District of Puruliya" Geographical Review of India, 70 (1), 2008: 80-95.

Human development index (HDI) is considered an indicator of social attainments in any area. However, the non-availability of data required on a variety of parameters of measuring HDI poses the most serious problem in the calculation of HDI in India. The chief objectives of this paper include: (i) to prepare an index which could help in understanding the spatial variations in the standard of living and relative prosperity and (ii) to identify developed, moderately developed and underdeveloped blocks within the Puruliya district.

Data Base and Methodology: The chief source of data for the study has been the District Statistical Handbook of Puruliya district. With the help of such data health index, educational attainment index and standard of living index have been calculated, tabulated and cartographically represented. For calculating health index, health Centre density (No. of health centres per 10 sq. km), availability of doctors (No. of doctors per 1000 population), availability of beds (No. of beds per thousand population), polio-immunization index (No. of children immunized per 100 children in 0-6 age group) etc. have been taken as parameters. For calculating educational attainment index, total literacy index and combined enrolment index have been taken into account; and for calculating standard of living index such parameters as index of net per capita value generated by main crops and infrastructural index have been taken into account. On the basis of HDI thus derived, the spatial variations in the levels of human development have been arrived at. The blocks in the district have been categorized into four types of areas, namely under developed, less developed, moderately developed and developed blocks.

Findings: All those blocks which had HDI of less than 0.4 have been considered under developed blocks. There were five such blocks in the district. These were highly backward in all parameters of human welfare. Most of these blocks are located in the western part of the district which is hilly with high forest cover. The less developed

category claimed 10 blocks where the HDI ranged between 0.41 and 0.50. These blocks are located in the fluvial regime of several non-triennial streams and are relatively deprived of infrastructural facilities. There are just two blocks in the district with HDI ranging from 0.51 and 0.60 and have thus been classified as moderately developed blocks? In these two blocks either health care index is low, as is the case with Hura block or educational attainment index is low, as is the case with Brahmpur block. There are only three blocks in the district of Puruliya where the HDI is more than 0.61 and hence could be classified as developed blocks. All these blocks are located near the urban/industrial centres and hence reflect the impact of proximity to urban/industrial Centre.

1.9.2 Shinde, Dhanashri S. "Regional Inequalities in the Socio-Economic Status of Women in Maharashtra", Indian Journal of Regional Science, 40(1) 2008: 109-117.Females constitute half of the total population. They are integral part of nature and society but still treated as second rated citizens. They are the deprived and ignored part of the society. In this backdrop the author has examined the regional inequalities in the socio economic status of women in Maharashtra by computing Status of Women Index (SWI).

Data Base and Methodology: The data are collected from Census of India and various reports published by government of Maharashtra from time to time. For determining the status of women the author has used 9 variables pertaining to year 2001. These are absolute female population, sex ratio, female density, urban females, literacy, workers, and employment in central government, state government and local bodies. The composite Status of women index is computed. For this the level of deprivation with respect to each indicator for each district is calculated. After this an average deprivation is calculated for each district by taking a simple average of the deprivation indicators. The Status of Women for each district is then derived as 1- Average Deprivation Index.

Findings: (i) The SWI value for the state as a whole is 0.19. Value above state average are found in districts of Konkan region, Mumbai, ICSSR Journal of Abstracts and Reviews Thane, Pune, Nasik, Ahmednagar, Solapur, Jalgaon, Kolhapur, Satara and Sangli. One district of Vidarbha i.e., Nagpur is also above state average. Amravati and Yavatmal are relatively more developed with value slightly lower than state average.

No District of Marathwada is above the state threshold; (ii) the gap between Mumbai, Mumbai suburban, Pune and Thane on the one side and other districts is very high.

1.9.3 Debapriya, Aryashree and Manmath Kumar Mohanty. "Inter-District Disparity in the Levels of Development in Education and Health Care Facilities: A Case of Orissa", Indian Journal of Regional Science, 40(1) 2008: 118-123.

Developing human capital in terms of better living environment, education and health should be the ultimate objectives of well-being as mere growth of GNP does not lead to overall development. Sustainability of economic development largely comes from education and good health of human beings. In this context the authors have analyzed the inter district disparity in the levels of development in education and health care facilities in the state of Orissa so as to enable the planners to formulate region specific human development plans.

Data Base and Methodology: The developmental index of education and health care is constructed of all the 30 districts using 16 indicators. The coefficient of each indicator for each district is computed. The value of each district is a sum total of weighted linear function of coefficients of all the 16 indicators. The equation is Yd =WYd + WYd +.....+W Y d, where Yd is the weighted linear function in particular district, W1 to Wm are weights, Y1 to Ym are the coefficients of indicators. After this all the index values of the districts are arranged in descending order to ascertain the relative rank of each district in health and education. The districts are grouped into very backward (0 to 0.2550), backward (0.2550 to 0.3143), developing (0.3143 to 0.3750), developed (0.3750 to 0.4434) and highly developed (0.4434 to 1) categories by fitting a theoretical Beta distribution to the values of developmental indices.

Findings: (i) The inter district disparity is very high in the state. The coastal districts of Cuttack, Khurda, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore and Kendrapara are highly developed. The adjoining districts namely Puri, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Keonjhar and Jharsaguda are developed districts; (ii) There are 9 highly backward and 6 backward districts. The distance from the highly developed regions explains their backwardness.

1.9.4 Haldar, Sushil K. and Kajari Roy. "Multidimensional Poverty in India: A State Level Study from 1981 to 2001", Indian Journal of Regional Science, 40(2) 2008: 7-20.

Poverty is not just lack of income as it is multi-dimensional in nature. The causal factors of poverty may be demography and health, socio-economic and cultural. Therefore, there is a need for considering both monetary and non-monetary measures in measuring poverty. Keeping this in mind the author has computed the Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MDPI) of India for three census years i.e., 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Data Base and Methodology: The data are collected from Census of India, Central Statistical organization, annual reports of Ministry of Education and Health. A total of 17 variables relating to demography and health (6), socio economic (9), and economic (2) are selected for the analysis. The variables having major impact are selected using factor analysis. The Kaiser Meyer Olkin measure is used to check the appropriateness of the analysis. The scores are derived for each state from the factor analysis. Spearman's rank correlation coefficient among the poverty indices of three years is also computed.

Findings: (i) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa are the most deprived states in all the three census years; (ii) There is a little deviation in the relative ranking of the states as correlation coefficient comes out to be significant; (iii) Census year 2001 is relatively better as the number of rich states have increased from 7 (1981 census) to 13. The number of moderately poor sates is also reduced. The number of poor sates increased from 8 in 1981 to 9 in 2001, but there is a decline from the census year1991.

1.9.5 Bishnoi, Narendra K. and Ranjan Aneja. "Regional Variations of Socio-Economic Development in Haryana: A district Level Analysis", Indian Journal of Regional Science, 40(2) 2008: 26-40.

The state of Haryana has a very impressive growth, being above national growth rate. The state attracts sizeable investment from both country and outside. But it is found that this growth is concentrated in areas in the National Capital Region (NCR) and National Highway 1. A large section of the people and vast geographical area remained insulated from the economic and social change. In the light of this the authors have undertaken the study of regional variations in the socio economic development in the state at the district level to facilitate remedial measures to reduce disparity.

Data Base and Methodology: The study covers disparities in 3 sectors viz., agricultural, industrial and basic infrastructure. In all 28 variables, 10 related to agriculture, 7 related to industrial and 11 related to basic infrastructure are selected. The data are collected from Census of India and Statistical Hand Book and Economic Survey of Haryana. The study has analyzed the performance in 3 years, 1991-92, 1997-98 and 2004-05. All the districts as existed in 1991 (16) and 2001 (19) are taken for the study. Development Index and Principal Component Analysis Index (PCI) are calculated to measure state performance in 3 sectors. For each sector districts are divided into three categories highly developed, moderate and underdeveloped by giving weightage of 33.33 percent to each distribution. The composite index of development is also computed and districts are divided into same three distribution categories by giving equal weightage.

Findings: (i) The results of development index and PCA are almost the same. The inter district disparities are not growing in terms of agricultural performance. In 1991-92, number of developed districts was 5 which increased to 6 in 1997-98 and 7 in 2004-05. Between 1991-92 and 2004-05 the rank of districts remains more or less same; (ii) The industrial development shows increasing disparities in the state. Both the indices are showing 4 developed districts between 1991-92 and 2004-05 but there is a change of positions. The districts around Delhi have improved their industrial performance. Four moderately developed districts have slipped to underdeveloped category; (iii) In basic infrastructure the number of developed districts have declined after 1997-98; (iv) Overall development is showing growing disparity in the state particularly after 1997-98. Though the numbers are not showing much change, the changed position of districts in overall ranking is a matter of concern.

1.9.6 Hangaragi, S. S. “The Dimensions of Inter-Taluka Disparities in the Levels of Development of Old Bijapur District of Karnataka State”, Indian Journal of Regional Science, 40(2) 2008: 41-53.

The paper has assessed the inter taluka disparities in 11 talukas of former Bijapur district. Regional disparities give rise to multiple social, economic and cultural problems. This hampers national integrity and unity, and political stability and is against the principle of social justice. The emphasis is therefore, laid on minimizing regional imbalance.

Data Base and Methodology: The study is based on secondary data. Sixty-one indicators pertaining to four groups viz., agriculture (13), industry (10), infrastructure (24) and demography (14) pertaining to the year 2000-01 are selected for the purpose of analysis. Standard score of each variable of a particular group for each taluka is calculated. The standard scores are multiplied by weights and sum of all the variables in a given group gives the total score of each taluka relating to that group. Talukas are divided into three groups, highly developed, medium and low for each group. Taluka wise variations in different group of indicators are calculated using correlation coefficient. The composite index of development taking the sum of all the 61 variables is computed and talukas are divided into three development groups, high (1.22 to 0.45), medium (0.45 to -0.32) and low (-0.32 to -1.09).

Findings: (i) In agricultural development 2 talukas are highly developed, 5 mediums and 4 are low developed; (ii) In industrial development 3 talukas are highly developed, 5 mediums and 4 low developed; (iii) Level of infrastructural development is high in 2, medium in 3 and low in 6 talukas; (iv) Level of development in terms of demography is high in 5, medium in 2 and low in 4 talukas;(v) In composite index 3 talukas are highly developed, 3 are medium developed and 5 are low developed.

1.9.7 Reddy, B.Sambi and Jayasree, K., "Levels of Living in North-East India in Reforms Era", Journal of Rural Development, 27(1) 2008:1-18.

The paper tries to analyze the levels of living of the people in the North-Eastern States in terms of agricultural dependency, poverty in socio-occupational households, employment and unemployment scenario. It also looks into the shifts in employment from agriculture to non-agriculture activities.

Database and Methodology: The database for this study is from secondary sources like published documents on agriculture, MSS household unit level consumer data available on CD ROMS and NSS reports on Employment and Unemployment. In the absence of reliable production and yield data on food grains in the smaller States of NER, compounded growth rates of production and yield of food grains and related aspects for Assam State were computed. Poverty as well as socio-occupational parameters were calculated. The multipliers as provided in the NSS Data set for the years 199394 and 1999-2000 were applied.

Findings: (i) The analysis concludes that there is no significant improvement in the levels of living of the rural people in this part of the country in the nineties. (ii) A marginal improvement in the rural economy in particular in agriculture output, was seen but was neutralized by increased population growth. (iii) The farming activity in this region was not attractive. The use of inputs like fertilizers, irrigation, electricity, credit etc. were found to be at very low level in NER compared to all India averages. (iv)The effect of reforms on poverty reduction in rural areas of NER was found negligible or regressive in nature. (v) The unemployment rates among women were high and a decline in these rates was seen during the period 1993-94 and 1999-2000.

1.9.8 Shukla, N.D., Sharma, G.C., Mohan, Brij and Shukla, K.C., "Developing a Rural Economy through Non-Farm Employment: A Case Study of Arid Zones of Rajasthan", Journal of Rural Development,27(2) 2008: 295-310.The objective of the paper is to assess the contribution of non-farm sector in the annual household's income of various categories of farmers. Income from crops, livestock and non-farm activities was computed for various groups of farmers. Under non- farms income from wages and services was taken into account.

Database and Methodology: Five districts of Rajasthan namely, Pali, Jalore, Barmer, Jodhpur and Jaisalmer, were selected for this study. Multistage stratified random sampling method was adopted for selection of farmer's households from each district. Two blocks from each district and four villages from each bock were chosen at the second level of sampling. In all 400 households were chosen for the study. The simple average and percentage were used as analytical tools for the study.

Findings: (i) Of the total annual income derived from various sources, non-farm alone shared 51% for small and marginal farmers together. The contribution of non-farm in total income was 31.7% and 22.7% for medium and large groups of farmers. (ii) Non-Farm activities is important for developing rural economy of the farming community practicing rain fed agriculture in the arid zones of Rajasthan. (iii) Some policy implications have also been suggested, such as creation of infrastructure on priority. Drought tolerant and high yielding varieties of seeds should be distributed to farmers.

1.9.9 Singh, Nabakumar , "Socio-Economic Development of the hills of Manipur", Geographical Review of India 70(3) 2008: 253-259.

The main objective of this paper is to find out the socio-economic life of the people inhabited in the hill area of Manipur. It also aims to examine the socio and cultural life of the people correlated with the mountain environment. Study also tries to test the hypothesis that "the socio-economic life of the people in the hills is conditioned by environment".

Database and Methodology: This paper is based on the primary as well as secondary data. The major social groups of people have been identified as per records and reports available from different sources. The secondary data available from different sources have been evaluated and analyzed using statistical techniques. This paper brings out empirically and explains the social environment of the Manipur hilly area and their impacts on the economic development, associated problems and future prospects for sustainable development.

Findings: (i) The social and economic life of the people in the hills of Manipur is very peculiar in comparison with other groups of people. (ii) In spite of the vast natural resources their economic transformation is very slow due to inaccessibility of the terrain, political instability and lack of social-cooperation. (iii) The social, Cultural and economic life of the tribes of Manipur Hills are still very poor which are highly influenced by the unfavourable environment. (iv) The diversity of the physical environment and economic development get significantly reflected in the heterogeneity of the social and cultural life of the tribes of Manipur hills. (v) The economic prosperity and development vary with altitude. Lower the altitude higher the economic transformation, with more infra-structural facilities as conditioned by topography and vice-versa.

1.9.10 Yadav, R.N., "Socio-Economic Status of Sekhawati Region, Rajasthan", Geographical Review of India, 70(4), 2008: 381-389.

The present analyses the socio-economic status of village Buhana situated in Sekhawati Region of Rajasthan. The main objectives are (i) To study the changes in the morphology of the settlement due to growth of population and improvement in the economic status of the people. (ii) To analyze the new avenues of occupation changing the economic scenario of the study area. (iii) To assess the changes in the status of socio-economic life of the people due to different rural development programs.

Database and Methodology: The study is based on intensive field work of all the 1563 households of the villages. A questionnaire was used to get the required information. During the field work social data on age, sex, caste, literacy and housing conditions and economic data on occupational structure, income and expenditure of the families were collected. The data were, processed, tabulated and subsequently represented by suitable maps and diagrams.

Findings: (i) The working population in the village is engaged in multiple occupations. (ii) Most of the families are dissatisfied with their parental occupations and wish for themselves and their children other professions available in urban areas. (iii) Problem of unemployment is very serious in the village. (iv) General health of the people is not sound, Small farmers, landless, laborers and their families are malnourished.(v) Improved means of communication, availability of good potable underground water, availability of farm implements, electrification, and construction of approach roads, main road and expansion of educational facilities are indicative of positive change in the village.(vi) With the implementation of different rural development programmes by the state government area witnesses a rapid change, especially in respect of its morphology, internal structure and economic base.

1.9.11 Siddiqui, Giyasuddin, "Human Development in West Bengal: An Appraisal", Geographical Review of India, 70(4), 2008: 403-416.

Human Development implies the attainment of the human community of an area to a satisfactory standard of living with quality life and environment. This paper is an attempt to appraise the extent of variations in the level of Human Development among the districts of West Bengal. It also tries to investigate into the reasons behind this low performance of some of the districts and the relations between social groups and pace of development.

Database and Methodology: The sources of data and information for the present study incorporates mainly the Human Development reports on World, India and West Bengal published in different times by various Government and non-government agencies. Current data on development activities has been gathered from various websites. Population data have been collected from the District Census Handbooks (2001). A number of Published books are also consulted.

Findings: (i) Tables and maps presented confirm the degree of human development and sharp inequality among the districts of West Bengal. (ii) The Gender Development Index (GDI) the values range from a high of 0.642 for Kolkata to a low of 0.416 for Malda. (iii) There are very substantial differences across districts. HDI ranges from a high of 0.78 for Kolkata to a low of 0.44 for Malda. (iv) HDI values demonstrate that 6 districts if the state, Kolkata and north 24 Pargana of the Ganga Delta region, Haora, Hugli and Bardhhaman of the Hugli plains and Darjiling of northern mountain region occupy the high category. (v) Darjiling has high value of HDI due to improved service sectors created through rapid urbanization, this is true for North 24 Pargana and Haora as well. (vi) The achievement of high level of HDI by Bardhhaman district is related to agricultural prosperity along with urbanization

1.10 Conclusion

It is observed from various literature survey that the present Block-wise study on Socio-Economic status in Dakshin Dinajpur District has not been done earlier. The researcher in this chapter tried to mention the location of the study area, hypothesis of the study, objectives, data sources of the study and methodology and data collection procedure adopted for the study. Literature review portion related to the study has also been incorporated in this chapter.

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