



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICES IN GUNTUR DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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Abstract

With a view to the concept of economic development has undergone a paradigm shift in the recent past, the present study is aimed to analyze the determinants of Human Development in sample mandals and revenue divisions of Guntur District. As per the performance evident from the values of HDI, Andhra Pradesh is lagging behind several major states. The study district has also assumed the same. It is observed that gross disparities are found in human development within each revenue division and also within the District. Tracks of high level and low level of human development are found within and each of the revenue divisions in the Guntur District. In this regard the study suggest measures to improve HDI of various categories in the district

Keywords: Human development, disparities, Caste, per capita income, education, Survival, NGOs

The concept of economic development has undergone a paradigm shift in the recent past. For a longtime economic growth, economic development and aggregate human well-being have been measured in terms of national income. This common measure of national income usually is expressed as Per Capita Gross National Product (GNP) or Per Capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP). An increase in this common and vital parameter has been taken as an increase in economic growth and development. This is mainly on the assumption that economic growth will automatically trickle down and spread the benefits of growth across society. But the experience of world nations shows that the trickle-down theory is a failure and wide spread poverty and increased growth coexisted in several parts of the globe. The use of National Income or Per Capita Income has been objected in recent times as the sole indicator to measure economic development. The first Human Development Report makes a very important observation that the means of development has obscured its ends because of two primary reasons. First, national income figures do not reveal the composition of income or the real beneficiaries. Secondly, people often value achievements that do not show up in higher measured incomes like better nutritional and health services, greater access to knowledge, more secure livelihoods, better working conditions, security against crime and physical violence and a sense of participation in the economic, cultural and political activities of their communities. Though people need higher incomes but incomes need not necessarily the sum total of human life. In other words, the concept of development has gone beyond mere material dimension of an increase in Gross Domestic Product and Per Capita Income and felt that it needs to be complemented by the non-material dimension. Development in this sense means the general well-being and economic capabilities of the people. According to the Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen (1999) people have reason to value many things which ensure real choices and opportunities to lead the kind of life they would value living besides income and wealth. The development should facilitate every human being to live as he/she likes. Further, he opines that development is a process that expands real

freedoms where the human capabilities are the main features of the process of development. Similar views have been expressed by the renowned author of the Human Development Index Mahabub-ul-Haq who opines that many human choices like knowledge, health, clean environment, political freedom etc. extend far beyond economic well-being. The governments or societies need to recognize that their real wealth is their people. It is further argued that excessive obsession with creating material wealth may obscure the objective of enriching human lives. In this context the link between economic growth or expanding incomes and human development or expanding human choices does arise. Though such link is not automatic, it can be created by a deliberate policy. Expansion of incomes is essential in a poor country for reducing or eliminating poverty and what is important is the quality of economic growth as much as the quantity of economic growth. The composite index of Human Development Indices (HDI) is developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP in London on 24 May 1990.

Essential features of Human Development

From this perspective, the concept of Human Development has some essential features. Firstly, people are put at the centre stage in the place of expansion of production processes. Secondly, it creates human capabilities and facilitates proper use of those acquired capabilities. Thirdly, a distinction is to be maintained between the ends and means. Under this paradigm, people are regarded as the ends without forgetting the means. In other words, economic growth is measured against the yardstick of enriching the lives of people. The fourth important feature is that human development is a very comprehensive concept that it covers political, cultural and social factors along with economic factors. Lastly, people are treated both as the means and ends of development. In other words people are the ultimate end of development and should not be considered as 'mere fodder for the materialistic machine' to produce a variety of commodities.

Human Development in Andhra Pradesh

In India the first National Human Development Report



(NHDR) 2001 has been brought about by the Planning Commission of India wherein it has ranked all the Indian States in the order of their Human Development achievement. Human Development Report of Andhra Pradesh not only estimated the Human development at the state level, but also estimated the simple composite indices across the districts of Andhra Pradesh. As per the performance evident from the values of HDI, Andhra Pradesh is lagging behind several major states. According to Andhra Pradesh Human Development Report 2007 as prepared by the Centre for Economics and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad the district of Hyderabad has secured the highest values in both the periods 0.591 and 0.717 respectively in 1990 and 2000s while the lowest HDI value has been obtained by Vizianagaram district 0.236 in 1990s and Mahbubnagar got the lowest value (0.249 in 2000s) in the second period. There is an increase in the HDI value of Guntur district from 0.490 in 1990s to 0.599 during early period of 2000. However, its rank among the districts has declined from 3 to 5. But the HDR of Andhra Pradesh has not estimated the HDI at mandal and revenue division level within each district. Such an exercise assumes importance as a high level HDI at the district level does not ensure the same level of HDI across mandals and revenue divisions within the district.

Objectives of the Study

To analyze the determinants of Human Development in sample mandals and revenue divisions of Guntur District.

To suggest measures useful for policymaking

Research Design

The study is based both on secondary and primary sources of data. The study predominantly depended on the primary data collected from the sample households in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The study wants to verify the existing disparities of socio-economic conditions with empirical data more importantly the HDI of Guntur District as estimated by the Human Development Report, Government of Andhra Pradesh, the rank of which is slightly slipped down in between 1991 and 2001. Moreover, several people are found to be very backward in several areas in the Guntur district notwithstanding its high level Per Capita District Domestic Product (DDP). Therefore, prompted by the above reasons, Guntur district has been chosen purposively to examine empirically. Multi Stage Stratified Random Sampling method is used in selecting sample respondents. From the three revenue divisions viz., Narasaraopet, Tenali and Guntur district, 12 mandals at the rate of four mandals from each revenue division, 24 villages at the rate of two villages from each mandal, Fifteen households were selected from each village. Thus, the total sample size 360 households in the district. Specially designed and pre-tested interview schedules were used to elicit information from the sample households. In addition to the questionnaires, the researcher has collected information and the views of select households through

open-ended interviews. The data collected in the field study have been tabulated and analysed. Various technical methods developed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Andhra Pradesh Human Development Report, 2007, prepared for Government of Andhra Pradesh by Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad.

Human Development Index (HDI) - A Technical Note

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{\text{Actual value} - \text{Minimum value}}{\text{Maximum value} - \text{Minimum value}}$$

The Human Development index (HDI) is the simple average of these three indices. These indices are calculated for 360 Households in each of the 12 mandals covering all the three revenue divisions in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. The results are furnished in various tables.

Table 1 - The goal posts for district level HDI

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S.No	Indicator	Minimum	Maximum
1.	Per Capita Income at 1993-94 prices (Rs)	1000	30000
2.	Adult Literacy Rate (15 + age)	0	100
3.	School Enrolment Rate (6-14 Years)	0	100
4.	Infant Survival Rate (Per 1000)	900	990

Source: Andhra Pradesh Human Development Report, 2007, Prepared for Government of Andhra Pradesh by Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

Summary results of the study

Mandal Wise Analysis and Ranking of Mandals According to HDI: The rankings of different countries in the world scenario and States with reference to a country assume significance in any analyses relating to human development compared to the HDI values per se. This is because when more than one entity is involved in the analysis, naturally it is interesting to know its relative position in the universe. In the present context all the 12 sample mandals in Guntur district are ranked according to their respective values of HDI with are presented in Table 2. It may be observed from the table that Guntur mandal of Guntur revenue division occupies the first rank with a HDI value of 0.724 followed by Narasaraopet mandal of Narasaraopet revenue division which has scored (second rank) a HDI value of 0.705. Similarly, Kollur 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 Karampudi scoring HDI values of 0.641, 0.642 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 human development within each revenue division and also within the District. Tracks of high level of human development and low level of human development are found within each of the revenue divisions in the Guntur District.

Table 2 - HDI Ranking in Different Mandals of Guntur District

Name of the Revenue Division	Name of the Mandal	PCI Index	Edu. Index	Life Index	HDI	Rank
Narasaraopet	Narasaraopet	0.782	0.633	0.700	0.705	2
	Karampudi	0.681	0.560	0.700	0.647	10
	Veldurthi	0.668	0.591	0.700	0.653	9
	Nuzendla	0.640	0.587	0.700	0.642	11
	Ponnur	0.724	0.634	0.700	0.686	4
Tenali	Cherukupalli	0.708	0.649	0.700	0.685	5
	Kollur	0.731	0.664	0.700	0.698	3
	Nizampatnam	0.737	0.600	0.700	0.679	7
	Guntur	0.811	0.659	0.700	0.724	1
Guntur	Pedanandipadu	0.719	0.620	0.700	0.680	6
	Tadepalle	0.747	0.586	0.700	0.678	8
	Bellamkonda	0.609	0.614	0.700	0.641	12
District		0.713	0.616	0.700	0.676	

Source: Computed from Primary Data

Caste Group Wise Analysis of Guntur District: The overall human development situation in Guntur district is presented in Table 3. As may be observed from the table, out of the four caste group households, OC households seemed to have obtained high per capita index at 0.854 and attained the first rank. The BC households obtained only second rank mainly due to their inability to earn higher levels of income. The SC households with an income index score of 0.605 and education index score of 0.591, obtained HDI value of 0.632 and occupy third rank in the district. The ST households as expected are at the bottom layer of human development with a HDI score of only 0.526.

Table 3 - Caste-wise Human Development Indicators of Guntur District

Sl.No.	Caste Group	PCI Index	Edu. Index	Life Index	HDI
1	Open Category	0.854	0.695	0.700	0.750
2	Backward Cast	0.716	0.621	0.700	0.679
3	Scheduled Cast	0.605	0.591	0.700	0.632
4	Scheduled Tribe	0.483	0.396	0.700	0.526
	District Average	0.713	0.616	0.700	0.676

Source: Computed from Primary Data. Note: HH= Household, PCI= Per Capita Income, Edu= Education, HDI= Human Development Index.

The above analysis shows that ST households compared to OC, BC and SC households obtained fewer score in human development. Perhaps the main reason for such a wide disparity in human development among different caste groups might be due to disparities in income levels among different caste groups. The disparities in educational attainments, are also glaring. The ST and SC households are lagging much behind other caste group households in educational attainments and in income. However, the above analysis falls short of explain the reasons for such differences in HDI. Also to what extent the differences in different factors are responsible for the differences in HDI has to be explained. A modest attempt is made in the next chapter to analyze the factors that determine the levels of human development in different mandals for different caste group households.

Conclusions

An analysis of Human Development Index for different mandals and the respective ranks reveals wide variations. Tracks of high levels of human development and low levels of human development are found within each of the revenue

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

Suggestions to improve HDI in the district

The study reveals that several households in some sample mandals have obtained incomes less than 20000 per annum. As income is considered to be a an important indicator that influences Human Development, it is to necessary augment the income levels of these households by providing wage employment opportunities as well as encouraging them to participate self help-groups. 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. 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. 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.

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.

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. In a stratified society with democratic polity it is essential to reduce inter-caste variations in HDI which are existing in Guntur district. It is necessary to adopt specific. Caste group targeted programmes. District administration need to follow a specific area/ mandal approach instead of a general approach in the allocation of funds and programmes, especially, social development programmes. The District Review Committee (DRC) may initiate necessary policy changes in the district level planning to help in reducing the intra-district variations in HDI. More awareness about government schemes has to be created among ST people in the mandals of Bellamkonda and Nuzendla as the incidence of benefits is very low among STs.

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