



Full Length Review Article

DEVELOPMENT SCENARIO AND INTRAREGIONAL DISPARITY IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 18th October, 2016
Received in revised form
22nd November, 2016
Accepted 08th December, 2016
Published online 30th January, 2017

Key Words:

Backwardness,
Development,
Disparity,
Region.

ABSTRACT

Jammu and Kashmir, known for its strategic international location and significance, consists of three natural regions – Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, each having its own distinctive identity and economy. Yet they together constitute the state of Jammu and Kashmir uniquely different from other states of Indian Union. It has its own constitution intended to constitute the three different sets of people into one integral whole, where each segment of society shares a common composite cultural identity, an identity of tolerance and mutual appreciation. However, from political economy perspective the three regions records differential patterns of growth, leading to variegated sets of demand for development. Perception of disparity and development much more politically motivated, than actually rooted in the economics of development.

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INTRODUCTION

The state comprises three main distinct regions Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Each region has a specific resource base. Except for Jammu and Kathua districts the entire State is a mountainous region and the plateau of Ladakh, flanking the state on the east with lower population density is separated from the rest of the State by high mountain ranges, offers very peculiar problems of development and communication. The land of the State is highly fertile and water resources are also abundant. The number of districts of state is 22, districts of Jammu, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Reasi, Udhampur, Ramban, Kathua, Samba and Poonch lie in Jammu region. Districts of Srinagar, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Budgam, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Baramulla and Kupwara lie in valley. Districts of Leh and Kargil lie in Ladakh. The state is further "divided among 82 Tehsils, 86 towns and 6551 villages as per census 2011. Administratively, the districts are divided into blocks for development purposes. There are 320 community development blocks in the state. It has two capitals Jammu the winter capital and Srinagar the summer capital. The census 2011 reveals that the state has population of 1.25413 crores, as against 1.01437 crores in census 2001. In 2011, the total population of state is 12541302 of which female population is 5900640 and male population is 6640662.

In 2001 the state's total population is 10143700 of which female population is 4782774 and male population is 5360926 respectively. The growth rate of total population as per census 2011 is 23.64 percent. Literacy rate of the state is 67.16 percent of which male literacy rate is 76.75 percent and female literacy rate is 56.43 percent as per 2011 census. When compared with 2001 census the overall improvement in literacy rate is 11.64 percentage points. The state has its own constitution intended to constitute the three different sets of people into one integral whole, where each segment of society shares a common composite cultural identity, an identity of tolerance and mutual appreciation. However, from political economy perspective the three regions records differential patterns of growth, leading to variegated sets of demand for development. Perception of disparity and development much more politically motivated, than actually rooted in the economics of development. This paper presents the development scenario of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions. An attempt has been made to statistically analyse the level of development and degree of backwardness in three regions of state.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In order to assess the development profile of the regions and districts of Jammu & Kashmir State, we have depend on certain critical social and economic indicators and have made an attempt to quantify the levels of development in the regions

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and the districts using published data from various official sources. The degree of backwardness comprises the following indices estimated on the basis of various well accepted social and economic development indicators provided in official publications of the Government. The agricultural development index varies across the regions and districts are given in Table 1.1. The index of seven indicator of agriculture development {Gross cropped area as percentage of total area according to village papers in the districts and regions (GCA); the net sown area as percentage of the gross cropped area (NSA); the area sown more than once as percentage of the gross cropped area (ASMA); food crops in relation to gross cropped area (FC); average size of holding (AHS); cropping intensity (CI); irrigation intensity (II)} is based on the ratio of actual value of dimension index (percent) minus minimum value of dimension index (zero percent) divided by goalpost value of dimension index (100 percent) minus minimum value of dimension index.

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \left[\frac{(Xia - Xim)}{(Ximx - Xim)} \right]$$

Where

- Xia = actual value of dimension index (percent)
- Xim = minimum value of dimension index (zero percent)
- $Ximx$ = maximum value of dimension index (100 percent)

Thus the agricultural development index is estimated by taking mean of all sub indices for each state and is estimated as under:

$$\text{Agricultural Development Index (ADI)} = \sum \frac{1}{n} \left[\frac{(Xai - XRam)}{(Xamx - Xam)} \right]$$

Where

- n = number of parameters or sub indices in the index
- Xai = actual value of dimension of agricultural development
- Xam = minimum value of dimension of agricultural development
- $Xamx$ = maximum value of dimension of agricultural development

On the basis of estimated levels of development of any region or district is based on the selected development indicators. The goalpost value to achieve the level of development is 100 percent or one. Thus, 1 minus index of agricultural development gives the degree of agricultural backwardness of the region or district.

$$\text{Agricultural Backwardness Index (ABI)} = \sum 1 - \frac{1}{n} \left[\frac{(Xai - XRam)}{(Xamx - Xam)} \right]$$

The social development index varies across the regions and districts are given in Table 1.2. The index of five indicator of social development (general literacy rate; total number of health institutions; safe drinking water supply; black topped road length as percentage of total road length; rural electrification) is based on the ratio of actual value of dimension index (percent) minus minimum value of dimension index (zero percent) divided by goalpost value of dimension index (100 percent) minus minimum value of dimension index.

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \left[\frac{(Xia - Xim)}{(Ximx - Xim)} \right]$$

Where

- Xia = actual value of dimension index (percent)
- Xim = minimum value of dimension index (zero percent)
- $Ximx$ = maximum value of dimension index (100 percent)

Thus the social development index is estimated by taking mean of all sub indices for each state and is estimated as under:

$$\text{Social Development Index (ADI)} = \sum \frac{1}{n} \left[\frac{(XSi - XSm)}{(XSmx - XSm)} \right]$$

Where

- n = number of parameters or sub indices in the index
- Xai = actual value of dimension of social development
- Xam = minimum value of dimension of social development
- $Xamx$ = maximum value of dimension of social development

On the basis of estimated levels of development of any region or district is based on the selected development indicators. The goalpost value to achieve the level of development is 100 percent or one. Thus, 1 minus index of social development gives the degree of social backwardness of the region or district.

$$\text{Social Backwardness Index (SBI)} = \sum 1 - \frac{1}{n} \left[\frac{(XSi - XRSm)}{(XSmx - XSm)} \right]$$

The economic welfare index varies across the regions and districts are given in Table 1.3. The index of five indicator of economic welfare (work participation rate; number of agricultural work participation; urbanization; number of banks in the districts or regions; district plan expenditure) is based on the ratio of actual value of dimension index (percent) minus minimum value of dimension index (zero percent) divided by goalpost value of dimension index (100 percent) minus minimum value of dimension index.

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \left[\frac{(Xia - Xim)}{(Ximx - Xim)} \right]$$

Where

- Xia = actual value of dimension index (percent)
- Xim = minimum value of dimension index (zero percent)
- $Ximx$ = maximum value of dimension index (100 percent)

Thus the above variables are added and divided by the number of dimensions in index to generate economic welfare index given as under:

$$\text{Economic Welfare Index (ADI)} = \sum \frac{1}{n} \left[\frac{(XEWi - XEWm)}{(XEWmx - XEWm)} \right]$$

Where

- n = number of parameters or sub indices in the index
- Xai = actual value of dimension of economic welfare
- Xam = minimum value of dimension of economic welfare
- $Xamx$ = maximum value of dimension of economic welfare

Agriculture Development and Regional Disparity

The most of the rural population of Jammu & Kashmir is based on the agriculture sector and engaged in agricultural pursuits for their livelihood. Thus, a number of different

variables which reflect on the development of agricultural sector have been used to examine the agricultural backwardness of regions and the districts. In the indexing method, the figures in Table 1.1 indicates that the district Jammu is on the top position due to the fact that it has highest index values and district Kathua occupied the second position in both the time periods.

and Udhampur on the one hand and Leh and Kargil at the bottom end on the other hand is shown in Table 1.1.

Social Development and Regional Disparity

The social sector is a critical development sector in an economy and plays an important role in human development.

Table 1.1. Distribution of the Districts and Regions According to the Levels of Agricultural Development Index and Backwardness Index in State of Jammu & Kashmir

Districts/Regions	2006-07		2011-12	
	Agricultural Development Index	Index of Agricultural Backwardness	Agricultural Development Index	Index of Agricultural Backwardness
Anantnag	0.465	0.535	0.502	0.498
Pulwama	0.504	0.496	0.546	0.454
Srinagar	0.351	0.649	0.438	0.562
Budgam	0.435	0.565	0.435	0.565
Baramulla	0.402	0.598	0.393	0.607
Kupwara	0.435	0.565	0.401	0.599
Jammu	0.733	0.267	0.741	0.259
Udhampur	0.553	0.447	0.622	0.378
Doda	0.393	0.607	0.433	0.567
Kathua	0.707	0.293	0.712	0.288
Rajouri	0.653	0.347	0.683	0.317
Poonch	0.604	0.396	0.611	0.389
Leh	0.276	0.724	0.307	0.693
Kargil	0.311	0.689	0.312	0.688
Kashmir Region	0.473	0.527	0.469	0.531
Jammu Region	0.735	0.265	0.749	0.251
Ladakh Region	0.163	0.837	0.143	0.857

Source: Data calculated from Digest of Statistics 2011-12, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Jammu & Kashmir; Digest of Statistics 2006-07, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Table 1.2. Distribution of Districts and regions According to Social Development Index and Degree of Backwardness

Districts	2006-07		2011-12	
	Social Development Index	Social Backwardness Index	Social Development Index	Social Backwardness Index
Anantnag	0.621	0.379	0.656	0.344
Pulwama	0.466	0.534	0.519	0.481
Srinagar	0.555	0.445	0.526	0.474
Budgam	0.422	0.578	0.538	0.462
Baramulla	0.495	0.505	0.693	0.307
Kupwara	0.371	0.629	0.541	0.459
Jammu	1	0	1	0
Udhampur	0.608	0.392	0.614	0.386
Doda	0.411	0.589	0.538	0.462
Kathua	0.688	0.312	0.691	0.309
Rajouri	0.575	0.425	0.531	0.469
Poonch	0.323	0.677	0.471	0.529
Leh	0.251	0.749	0.266	0.734
Kargil	0.125	0.875	0.155	0.845
Kashmir Region	0.704	0.296	0.739	0.261
Jammu Region	0.979	0.021	0.979	0.021
Ladakh Region	0.119	0.881	0.139	0.861

Source: Data calculated from Digest of Statistics 2011-12, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Jammu & Kashmir; Digest of Statistics 2006-07, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

District Srinagar is one of the backward districts in agricultural development because the most of the land is utilized for the expansion of urbanization. Therefore in the three regions of the state, Jammu region to rank first due to the highest index values followed by region Kashmir. Reducing agricultural pursuits and stand at the bottom level of agricultural development. The districts like Leh, Kargil and Srinagar need special inputs for growth of agriculture. Within the low growth trajectory, the agricultural development index for Jammu region is 0.749 followed by the Kashmir region 0.469 and Ladakh region 0.143 in 2011-12 is shown in Table 1.1. The regions rank accordingly in the agricultural development. The districts vary in agricultural development across the states. While the district Jammu ranks first followed by the Kathua

Social development provide development parameters like population share, sex ratio, enrolment, literacy and education households with safe sanitation, access to drinking water supply, road connectivity, better health care access etc. The social development has emerged on of the most crucial area of development that is why the focus has now shifted from agricultural development to social development. The district Leh and Kargil is relatively slow in social development index. The district like Leh, Kargil and Poonch continue to be at bottom end of the social development as per the index value. The district Jammu, Anantnag, Baramulla and Kathua are relatively better off districts in social development index is shown in Table 1.2.

Table 1. 3. Distribution of Districts and regions According to Economic Welfare Index and Degree of Backwardness

Districts	2006-07		2011-12	
	Economic Welfare Index	Economic Backwardness Index	Economic Welfare Index	Economic Backwardness Index
Anantnag	0.444	0.556	0.525	0.475
Pulwama	0.232	0.768	0.239	0.761
Srinagar	0.522	0.478	0.405	0.595
Budgam	0.322	0.678	0.305	0.695
Baramulla	0.582	0.418	0.496	0.504
Kupwara	0.306	0.694	0.397	0.603
Jammu	0.669	0.331	0.605	0.395
Udhampur	0.426	0.574	0.258	0.742
Doda	0.453	0.547	0.21	0.79
Kathua	0.203	0.797	0.269	0.731
Rajouri	0.242	0.758	0.393	0.607
Poonch	0.275	0.725	0.255	0.745
Leh	0.325	0.675	0.288	0.712
Kargil	0.264	0.736	0.144	0.856
Kashmir Region	0.656	0.344	0.8	0.2
Jammu Region	0.543	0.457	0.612	0.388
Ladakh Region	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.8

Source: Data calculated from Digest of Statistics 2011-12, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Jammu & Kashmir; Digest of Statistics 2006-07, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Table 1. 4. Distribution of the Districts and Regions with values of Agricultural Development Index, Social Development Index and Economic Welfare Index in Jammu & Kashmir

Districts	Agricultural Development Index		Social Development Index		Economic Welfare Index		Aggregate Development Index	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	2006-07	2011-12	2006-07	2011-12	2006-07	2011-12	2006-07	2011-12
Anantnag	0.465	0.502	0.621	0.656	0.444	0.525	0.510	0.561
Pulwama	0.504	0.546	0.466	0.519	0.232	0.239	0.401	0.435
Srinagar	0.351	0.438	0.555	0.526	0.522	0.405	0.476	0.427
Budgam	0.435	0.435	0.422	0.538	0.322	0.305	0.393	0.426
Baramulla	0.402	0.393	0.495	0.693	0.582	0.496	0.493	0.527
Kupwara	0.435	0.401	0.371	0.541	0.306	0.397	0.371	0.446
Jammu	0.733	0.741	1.000	1.000	0.669	0.605	0.801	0.782
Udhampur	0.553	0.622	0.608	0.614	0.426	0.258	0.529	0.498
Doda	0.393	0.433	0.411	0.538	0.453	0.210	0.419	0.394
Kathua	0.707	0.712	0.688	0.691	0.203	0.269	0.533	0.557
Rajouri	0.653	0.683	0.575	0.531	0.242	0.393	0.490	0.536
Poonch	0.604	0.611	0.323	0.471	0.275	0.255	0.401	0.446
Leh	0.276	0.307	0.251	0.266	0.325	0.288	0.284	0.287
Kargil	0.311	0.312	0.125	0.155	0.264	0.144	0.233	0.204
Kashmir Region	0.473	0.469	0.704	0.739	0.656	0.800	0.611	0.669
Jammu Region	0.735	0.749	0.979	0.979	0.543	0.612	0.752	0.780
Ladakh Region	0.163	0.143	0.119	0.139	0.400	0.200	0.227	0.161

Source: As of table 1.1, 1. 2 and 1.3

Some of the districts need to improve the process of development and how much they are far from ideal level of development and it can be observed by assessing the extent to which they are backward. Index based backwardness of social development is very high in region Ladakh and requires higher plan expenditure in order to accelerate the pace of social development in the districts which lag behind.

Economic Welfare and Regional Disparity

Economic welfare consists of indicators related to pure economic development and welfare of the people. The Table 1.3 clearly indicates that the Kashmir region emerges at number one based on the five indicators with its index value 0.800 followed by region Jammu with index value 0.612 and Ladakh with its index value 0.200 in 2011-12. The main reason for higher level of economic welfare in the Kashmir region is due to urbanization and district share in banking.

The most of the districts in Jammu region in 2011-12 are at the bottom end of economic welfare. Thus the whole region comes up with lower values in economic welfare index than the Kashmir region.

Overall Regional Disparities

The agricultural development, social development and economic welfare of the districts or the regions have been aggregated and to arrive at mean aggregate level of development and development varied across the districts and regions during the period. Each variant of the development consists of a number of indicators of development is shown in Table 1.4. The Jammu region improved its development activities by 75 percent in 2006-07 and 78 percent in 2011-12. The Kashmir region improved its development process by 61 percent in 2006-07 and 66 percent in 2011-12 and Ladakh region by 22 percent in 2006-07 and 16 percent in 2011-12 in

terms of index values. Therefore the progress and development activities as shown in Table 1.4 seems to be faster in the Jammu region in comparison to the region Kashmir and region Ladakh during the period under investigation. As per the index value of agricultural sector, social sector and development sector which have grown fast thereby moving the regional aggregate development index of Jammu on higher side. In the Table 1.4 the aggregate development index indicate that Leh, Kargil and Doda are the least developed districts in the state, while the districts of Jammu, Anantnag, Kathua and Baramulla are relatively better off states. The districts like Leh and Kargil are the most backward districts in the state. Therefore, these districts need special attention on development parameters.

Conclusion

What is critically important from above analysis is that the state of Jammu and Kashmir shows variegated pattern of development and underdevelopment. District wise figures show indices imbalance. Sub-regional pattern shows Ladakh as poorest or underdeveloped region when compared to rest two regions of the state. Leh and Kargil are the districts of Ladakh region these are most backward districts in the state of Jammu & Kashmir. This is a kind of developmental puzzle which requires an exhaustive district wise planning for concerted development. Indices mismatch need to be taken care of. What is emphasized here is the fact that state's approach requires a revisit of its development policies. Intraregional disparities have to be reduced through sectoral balancing. It is probably the reason that each region generally feels dissatisfied with the official development policies.

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