

**Regional Disparities in The Levels of Social Development in Kolhapur District
: A Geographical Analysis**

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Abstract

The region is associated with different characteristics of its qualities and quantities which vary from region to region. These differences among areas are known as regional disparities. "Regional disparities mean differentiation in the values, qualities or quantities of certain items of different regions. Levels of development can be defined as the position or rank or a scale that a region or a state or country or any other unit has attained in terms of development.

In the present research paper, an attempt has been made to study the Regional disparities in the levels of social development in Kolhapur District. The present Study is based on secondary sources of data which is obtained from socio-economic review, District Statistical Abstracts 2012-13 and Census of India 2011. This paper examines the extent of levels of social development at tahsil level. The secondary data has been processed and composite Index has been computed by considering eleven (15) indicators. The composite indices of social development of different tahsils in the district are grouped into four categories. It is observed that there is greater disparity in the levels of social development. The lowest indices found in Bhudargad tahsil (79.52) and the highest indices are found in Hatkanangle (234.76) tahsil in the district.

Key-word: Region, Regional Disparities, Levels of Development, Indicators, Composite Index, Indices.

Introduction:

The word 'development' implies of 'growth' and 'change' for the betterment as soon as improvement in regional level. Development means changes in desired direction and as a desired speed. Development involves temporal, sectoral, spatial phasing and integration of planning. There are so many indicators and it is very difficult to take all the indicators of social development. It is found that the planning for development is generally done at the micro level. The quality of human resource is determined on social, cultural, technological and economical condition. The social development is presented with improving productivity with quality development an achieving aims in a dynamic socio-economical environment. The study of levels of social development has been one of the most significant themes of social as well as economic and agriculture geography. Kolhapur district is socio-economically and particularly agriculturally one of the developed districts in Maharashtra. The district experience great regional variations in the levels of social development.

The status of education, literacy, health, women's participation indicates the levels of social development. But within the district there is a disparity in the social development. An attempt therefore, has been made here to study tahsil-wise levels of development.

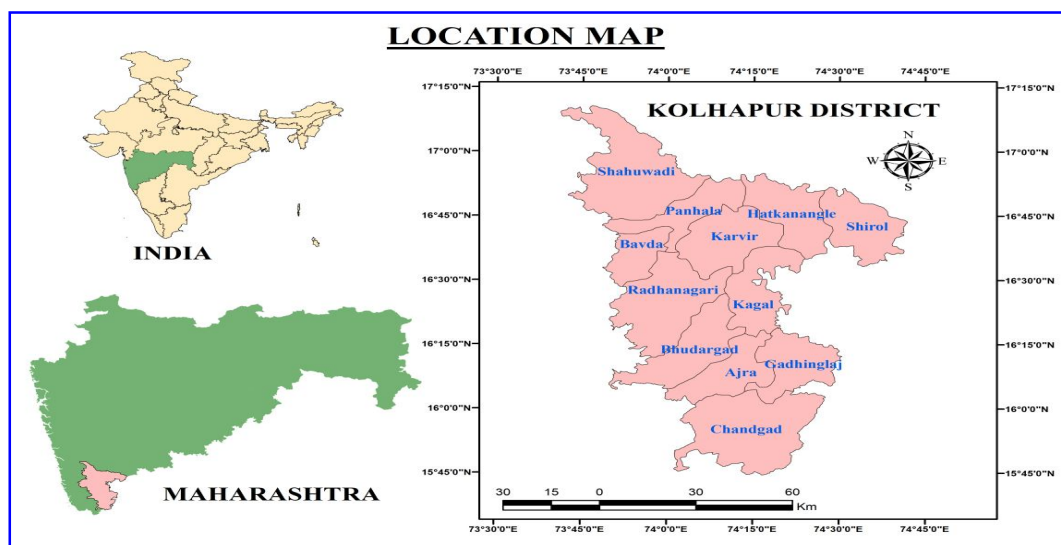
Study Area:

In India, Maharashtra occupies a very important position which ranks third in area and second in population. Within the state of Maharashtra the Kolhapur district has also a very significant position as regards to area and population. Kolhapur district lies in Southern Maharashtra, particularly at the western limit of Deccan table land. The region under study extends between 15° 17' north and 17° 17' north latitudes and 73° 40' east and 74° 42' east longitudes and comprising 12 tahsils. Kolhapur district is enclosed by Sangli district in the north, in the south of Karnataka state in Belgaum district

and in the west it is bounded by Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. The district sharing 2.62 % area of the Maharashtra state. According to 2011 census the total population of the district is 3876001. Kolhapur is the ‘Historical and Religious City’ is currently emerging as the largest educational center of certain cool stations, goods and services. Kolhapur district having 18 towns and 1206 villages. The distribution of the total population in the urban and rural areas is 1229896 and 1050353 respectively.

For Administrative convenience the district has been divided into 12 tahsils and development blocks. The study has been made at the tahsil level. The data have been compiled from various publications of the State Government and from the Census of India publications.

Location Map of Study Area



Aims And Objectives:

The aim of the present study is to analyze the regional disparities in the levels of social development in Kolhapur District.

Data Source And Methodology:

For the analysis of existing status of levels of social development of study area, related data and information have been collected from various sources. The present research work is based on the secondary data collected from the following sources.

1. District Census Handbook of Kolhapur District, 2011.
2. Socio Economic Review of Kolhapur District, 2012-13.
3. Related Books, Journals and Published papers etc.
4. Unpublished Ph.D thesis, dissertation etc.

The collected data is processed with the help of various appropriate statistical and cartographic techniques have been applied for analyzing the data and method of ‘Composite Index of Development’ has been employed to find out the levels of development. Further the results are shown by Choropleth method, in the tabular form.

The following formula has been adopted for calculating the levels of development.

$$C.D.i = \frac{P_i}{PI} \times 100 \text{----- (I)}$$

C.D.i = Co-efficient of development for variable ‘i’.

P_i = Percentage of variable ‘i’ in the unit.

PI = Mean Percentage of variable ‘i’ in the study region.

$$\text{Indices} = \frac{\text{Composite Index of any Unit}}{\text{Average of Composite Index}} \times 100$$

Indicators used for measurement of social development:

The list of indicators used by various researchers is a long and varied one. The availability of data and their appropriateness seen to be the reason for their selection as indicators (Singh, 1995). The present study includes fifteen indicators which belong to four categories. Social development of the study area of Kolhapur District of south Maharashtra is measured at Tahsil level. To compute composite index on Social developmental performance of Kolhapur District in 2012-13, 15 indicators at tahsil level are taken into consideration.

Results And Discussion:

Kolhapur district is one of the Socio-economically, agriculturally well developed district in Southern Maharashtra. It has also developed in educationally as compared to other districts of state, but within the district there is a disparity in the social development. Therefore, an attempt has been made to study tahsil-wise levels of social development.

The position of Agriculture, economy, education, literacy, health and women status indicates the levels of social development (Masal, 2012). In the district, the social development is not homogeneous, because some geographical reasons behind that.

Table-1 Kolhapur District Composite Index of Social Development (2012-13)

Sr.No.	Name of Tahsil	Composite Index	Indices
1	Shahuwadi	49.18	95.33
2	Panhala	52.97	102.67
3	Hatkanangle	53.68	104.05
4	Shirol	54.49	105.63
5	Karveer	56.14	108.83
6	Gaganbavda	46.64	90.41
7	Radhanagari	51.53	99.89
8	Kagal	52.36	101.49
9	Bhudargad	52.80	102.34
10	Ajra	50.81	98.50
11	Gadhinglaj	50.07	97.05
12	Chandgad	48.44	93.89
	District Average	51.59	100

Source: Compiled by the Author

The Levels of Social Development:

The composite index of the indicators for twelve tahsils has been divided into four categories. Three tahsils belongs to first category, three tahsils to the second category, three tahsils to the third category and three tahsils to the fourth and last category. The tahsil of the first category have socially high developed, those of the second category have moderately developed, those of third category have low developed and those of fourth and last category have very low developed. (Table-2)

Table-2 Kolhapur District Levels of Social Development (2012-13)

Category	Index Value	No. of Tahsil	Name of the Tahsils
Highly Developed	Above 104	3	Karveer, Shirol, Hatkanangle
Moderately Developed	100 - 104	3	Panhala, Bhudargad, Kagal
Low Developed	96 - 100	3	Radhanagari, Ajra, Gadhinglaj
Very Low Developed	Below 96	3	Shahuwadi, Chandgad, Gaganbavda

Source: Compiled and computed by author.

1) High Developed Tahsils:

In this category three tahsil consist viz. Karveer, Shirol and Hatkanangle whose indices value is much higher (108.83, 105.63 & 104.05) than the district average.(Table No.1). These tahsils are high socially developed due to more percentage of literate population to total population, percentage of male literacy to total male population, percentage of female literacy to total female population, percentage of S.C. literacy to total S.C. population, percentage of S.T. literacy to total S.T. population, percentage of S.C. literates to total literate population, No. of Teachers per 100 Students in Primary Schools, No. of Teachers per 100 Students in Secondary Schools, Number of Teachers per 100 Students in Junior Colleges, Number of Teachers per 100 Students in Senior Colleges and well developed socio-economic conditions of people.

These tahsils lie in convergence of Panchaganga and Krishna rivers with high fertile soil and plane land promotes the development of irrigation facilities as well as agro-based industries.

2) Moderate Developed Tahsils:

This category covers three tahsils viz. Panhala, Kagal and Bhudargad, whose composite indices in between 100 to 104 are included socially moderately developed tahsils. The composite indices of these tahsils are more than the district average indicating 102.67, 101.49 and 102.34 respectively.

The moderate social development in these tahsils is due to high percentage of literate population, male-female literacy, SC-ST literacy, No. of Teachers per 100 Students in Primary Schools, No. of Teachers per 100 Students in Secondary Schools, available of educational facilities and well developed transport route etc.

3) Low Developed Tahsils:

Socially low developed zone include three tahsils namely, Radhanagari, Ajra and Gadhinglaj. Composite indices of these tahsil range in between 96 to 100. Low social development in these tahsils is because of low educational units, low male-female literacy as well as low teachers at primary and secondary level as compared to other tahsils in the district.

4) Very Low Developed Tahsils:

This category comprises three tahsils viz. Shahuwadi, Chandgad and Gaganbavda, whose very low index value i.e. below 96 as compared to other tahsils. These tahsils have socially very low position in respect of all the indicators of social development. This tahsil cover the western part of the district which is associated with undulating topography,

foothills, vast forest area as well as infertile soil, sloppy with narrow basins and related with low developed transport facilities.

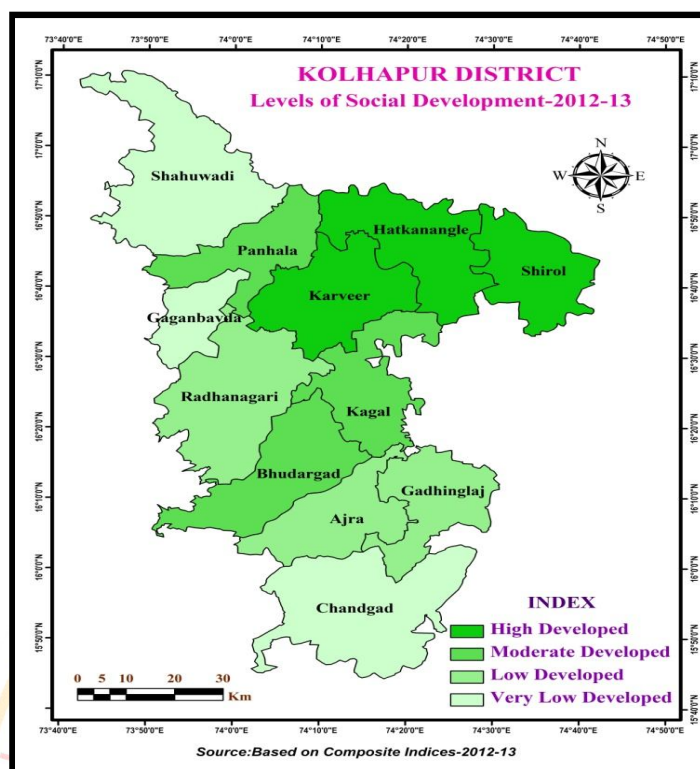


Fig.1 Kolhapur District Social Development 2012-13

Conclusion:

Finally, it is found that there is wide disparity in social development in the district. In the social development in all the talukas is associated with great variations. The study shows that Karveer is the socially advanced taluka as it records maximum composite indices (108.83), followed by Shirol (105.63) and Hatkanangle (104.05) talukas, whereas, Gaganbavda taluka indicate lowest composite index value (90.41). Composite indices of social development of different talukas are grouped into four categories. Karveer, Shirol and Hatkanangle talukas relatively high developed category, Panhala, Bhudargad and Kagal talukas in the moderate developed category, whereas Radhanagari, Ajra and Gadhinglaj talukas lie in the low developed talukas and in very low developed category Shahuwadi, Chandgad and Gaganbavda talukas are consisted. The main reason of regional disparities in the social development is that the Physiographic conditions of the whole district. In study region western part having mostly hilly zone, less urbanization, educational awareness of people is also lower than the central and eastern part of district.

The above mentioned analysis obviously indicates that there are variations in levels of social development in the district. Very low level of social development talukas should be given first priority due to they may come up at par with advanced areas of district.

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