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Spatial Disparities of Socio-Economic Development in Osmanabad District : A Geographical Study

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Abstract:

Osmanabad district has embarked on a major socio-economic transformation over the last twenty years to achieve social and economic equality. Economic transformation, which has been pursued through a broad institutional framework, has led to the emergence of a visible middle class people in study region over the last two decade. Nevertheless, change has been limited, and the great majority of middle class people still remain marginalized-demonstrating that major improvement need to be made if significant transformation is to be achieved. In Osmanabad district majority of people were poor, uneducated and underemployed in 1995 but the in 2015, the proportion was slightly increased in all tahsil. In study region gross inequalities still characterized with society and economy. Various methods have been deployed to measure regional disparities and socio-economic transformation with varying degrees of success. The indicators selected should clearly reflect the socio-economic picture of the study region. Considering all the factof study area twelve economic and eighteen social indicators have been selected in the present study.

Key words: Social, Economic Transformation, Development, spatial disparities

Introduction:

Spatial disparities in socio-economic development have been a myth of reality in Indian context since the British times. That exists even today in spite of implementation of a planned economy for the past 60 years. One of the main objectives of our national planning had been to narrow down regional inequalities at all levels. The task cannot be attained without identifying the comparatively laggard areas and probing into their levels of socio-economic development. In India, all plans are formulated for implementation at the block level and so it is useful to assess the levels of development on the basis of block.

Study Region:

The district of Osmanabad is the southern most districts in Aurangabad division of Maharashtra state situated between 17°37' to 18°42' North latitudes and 75°17' to 76°47' East longitudes. The district has an area of 7484 square kilo-meters. About 7271 square kilometers area (96.79%) is known as rural area where as only 241.4 square kilometers (3.21%) area comes under urban categories. Distribution of population in rural and urban area according to 2011 census, the total population of Osmanabad district stands at 16,60,311 comprising 8,64,674 males and 7,95,637 females constituting 1.47 percent of the state's population, which spread over 2.44 percent of state's area among the 8 tahsils of the study area. Out of the total population of the district 83.04 percent lives in rural areas while 16.96 percent lives in urban areas. The corresponding proportion of rural and urban population in the state is 54.77 percent and 45.23 percent respectively.

Objectives: The following are the main objectives of the study:

1. Find out the spatial disparities in the social development of the study area.

2. To provide the base for planners, administrators and politicians for the developmental planning.
3. To determine the levels of socio-economic development in the study region.

Database and Methodology:

The data regarding the indicators have been taken from the secondary sources at tahsil level. The data for the social indicators is collected for the year 2014-15. The tahsils have been awarded proportionate weights on the basis of the data of the indicators.

The lowest value of *i* indicator in the tahsils $X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n$ (say in X_5) has been awarded the score of 1. The weights of *i* indicator in remaining tahsils have been determined on the basis of the following formula.

$$WiX_1 = \frac{i X_1}{i X_5}$$

Where,

- WiX_1 = Weight of *i* indicator in tahsil X_1
- iX_1 = Numerical value of *i* indicator in tahsil X_1
- iX_5 = Numerical value of *i* indicator in tahsil X_5

On the basis of the above formula, the weights of all the indicators in each tahsil have been computed and the composite scores have been obtained for all tahsils on the basis of the following formula:

$$CX_1 = W_1X_1 + W_2 X_1 + \dots + W_n X_1$$

Where,

$$CX_1 = \text{Composite score of tahsil } X_1$$

Composite Scores of Socio-Economic Development:

To determine the levels of socio-economic development in the study region composite scores of economic and social indicators are combined together and total composite score for each tahsil is calculated and shown in the table no. 1.1 and 1.2.

The composite scores of all tahsils in the study region have been arranged in the descending and on the basis of break in the progression of the scores of the tahsils have been grouped into five levels of socio-economic development as follows:

- i) Areas of Very High Development
- ii) Areas of High Development
- iii) Areas of Medium Development
- iv) Areas of Low Development
- v) Areas of Very Low Development

Table No. 1.1 : Composite Scores of Economic and Social Indicators of the Tahsils (1994-95)

Sr. No.	Tahsils	Composite Score of Economic Indicators	Composite Score of Social Indicators	Total
1	Paranda	17.23	25.22	42.45
2	Bhum	16.84	27.47	44.31
3	Washi	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Kalamb	27.2	26.41	53.61
5	Osmanabad	53.76	37.26	91.02
6	Tuljapur	45.26	28.83	74.09
7	Lohara	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Omerga	69.58	32.63	102.21

Source: Compiled by the Researcher.

Table No. 1.2 : Composite Scores of Economic and Social Indicators of the Tahsils (2014-15)

Sr. No.	Tahsils	Composite Score of Economic Indicators	Composite Score of Social Indicators	Total
1	Paranda	19.28	30.50	49.78
2	Bhum	19.86	26.22	46.08
3	Washi	21.41	27.26	48.67
4	Kalamb	29.39	22.01	51.40
5	Osmanabad	65.26	43.31	108.57
6	Tuljapur	42.02	26.98	69.00
7	Lohara	24.41	29.81	54.22
8	Omerga	37.33	36.71	74.04

Source: Compiled by the Researcher.

Table No. 1.3 :Tahsilwise Descending Order of Composite Scores

Descending Order of Composite Scores (1994-95)			Descending Order of Composite Scores (2014-15)		
Sr. No.	Tahsils	Composite Score	Sr. No.	Tahsils	Composite Score
1	Omerga	102.21	1	Osmanabad	108.57
2	Osmanabad	91.02	2	Omerga	74.04
3	Tuljapur	74.09	3	Tuljapur	69.00
4	Kalamb	53.61	4	Lohara	54.22
5	Bhum	44.31	5	Kalamb	51.40
6	Paranda	42.45	6	Paranda	49.78
7	Washi	0.00	7	Washi	48.67
8	Lohara	0.00	8	Bhum	46.08

Source: Compiled by the Researcher.

To distinguish the role of the indicators operating behind the existing status of socio-economic development of the tahsils, the weights of all the indicators have been arranged in descending order and Q1 has been determined. The weights of the indicators in the tahsils above Q1 have been treated as dominant ones responsible for the existing status of socio-economic development.

Spatial Disparities of Socio-Economic Development:

A perusal of table 1.3 reveals that the range of composite score values is very high indicating there by wide regional disparities in social development within the district. TahsilOmerga stands is at the top in the composite score (102.21) in 1994-95, while in 2014-15, Osmanabadtahsil was the top in the composite score (108.57) and tahsilParanda stands at the bottom with composite score (42.45) in 1994-95 and Bhumtahsil (46.08) in 2014-15. (Map No. 1.1 and 1.2)

1) Areas of Very High Development

Out of 08 tahsils only one tahsil i.e. Omerga located in the eastern part of the district falls in this category with composite score of 102.21, while Osmanabadtahsil as a district headquarter but it was not found in first rank in 1994-95. In the next period (2014-15) Osmanabadtahsil got first stage of development and Omergatahsil was decrease there rank into second stage of development. The tahsil was not provide any development schemes, projects and urban planning as well as in this tahsil the social indicators percentage was low, economic indicators is dominant indicators in this tahsil.

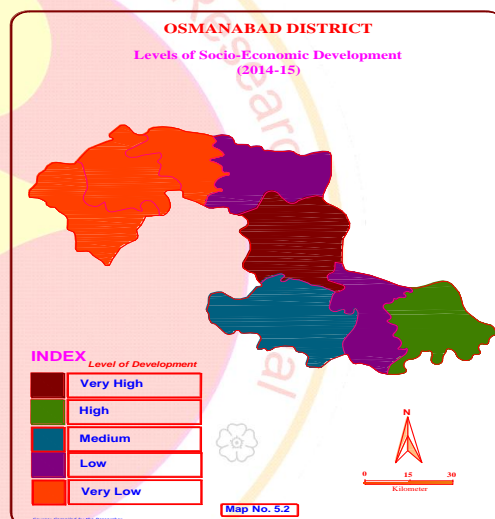
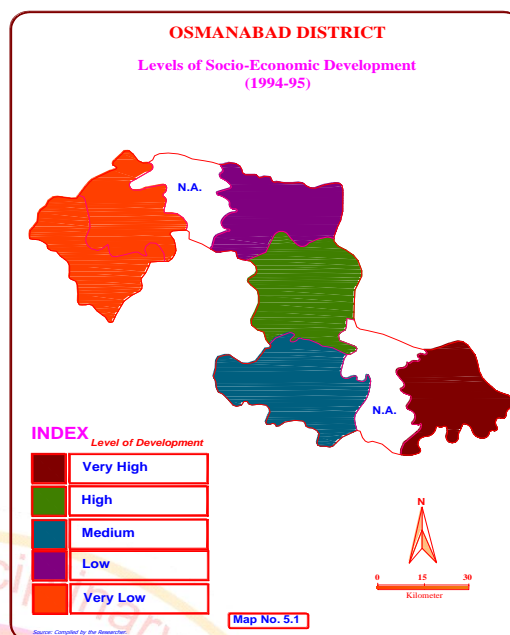
Hence social condition is relatively very high in this block as compared to remaining blocks or tahsils in the study area.

2) Areas of High Development

In 1994-95, Osmanabadtahsil in the center part of the district are the areas of high development, this is headquarter of the district. In the next study period (2014-15), Omergatahsil was decrease there first position and he will back the development stage second. The composite score values of these tahsils are respectively 91.02 and 74.04. A number of indicators are dominant in all the tahsils. However, dominance of indicators varies from one tahsil to another.

3) Areas of Medium Development

One onetahsil of Tuljapur located in southern part of the district lies in this category. The composite score values of these areas are 74.09 and 69.00 respectively. That rank in 1994-95 to 2014-15 was stable. In this areas also, none of the indicators is dominant in all the tahsils. The economic and social indicators like percentage of agricultural area to total geographical area, percentage of irrigated area to agricultural area, percentage of food crops, cash crops area to gross cropped area, use of fertilizer per hectare, number of sugar industries, dal mills, oil mills, industries per 100 sq.km., number of pupils per-primary school, primary schools per 10000 population, teacher school ratio, tacher student ratio, colleges per 20000 population, primary health centers, dispersary per 5000 population, birth rate, mortality rate per 1000 population, post offices, PCOs per 5000 population, population per bank branch and co-operative organization are relatively important indicators in this tahsils.



4) Area to Low Development

These areas use lying in the district in Kalamb and Loharatahsil of the study period. The composite score values of these areas is in 1994-95 Kalamb (53.61) and in 2014-15 Lohara (54.22) and Kalamb (51.40). In Lohara and Kalambtahsil the economic and social indicators are like use of fertilizer per hectare, oil mills and dal mills per 10000 population, milk co-operative societies per 10000 population, number of pupils per pre-primary school, primary schools per 10000 population, teacher school ratio are relatively important indicators in this tahsil.

5) Areas of Very Low Development

Bhum, Parandatahsils lies in this category in the north-eastern part of the study area whose composite score value is 44.31 and 42.45 respectively in 1994-95. In the next decade Paranda (49.78), Washi (48.67) and Bhum (46.08) tahsils none of the indicators are dominant. Values of all the indicators are below than other tahsils of the study area.

Conclusions:

From the above discussion, it is apparent that the disparities in social and economic development are very marked within the district. This situation is not conducive to proper development of the district. A majority of tahsils (Paranda, Washi and Bhum) require immediate attention. Spatial analysis of the levels of social and economic development clearly indicates that only 21.63 percent area of the study region comes under relatively very high development area, 14.75 percent area comes under relatively high development area, 13.75 percent area comes under medium development area, 21.04 percent area comes under low development area and 28.79 percent area comes under very low development area. Area under low socio-economic development is about 29 percent. To devoid the spatial disparity in the socio-economic development special attention of govt. and non-govt. agencies is essential. As the economy of the region has agrarian base priority in developmental process should be given to agricultural sector through modern measures. Social development automatically takes place in association with the economic development.

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