A GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL PART OF KOLHAPUR DISTRICT (MAHARASTRA STATE)

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ABSTRACT

Rural development is the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. Education, entrepreneurship, physical infrastructure, and social infrastructure all play an important role in developing rural regions. Rural development is also characterized by its emphasis on locally produced economic development strategies. In this paper the study is made to get an insight into the development of rural population at tahsil as well as at case study village levels. The magnitude of tahsil wise development is measured by considering 12 indicators. The low level of development is considers where composite index of development is below 10, and at medium level composite index of development is in between 10 to 15. The high level of the development was considered more than 15 composite indexes. The rural development index measurement on 11 different indicators at village level, and it divided into 4 categories: very low, low, medium and high levels of development, i.e. the CI below 5, 5 to 10, 10 to 15, and above 15.

Key words: Rural development, Education, entrepreneurship, physical, social infrastructure

INTRODUCTION

Rural development is the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. Education,

entrepreneurship, physical infrastructure, and social infrastructure all play an important role in developing rural regions. Rural development is also characterized by its emphasis on locally produced economic development strategies.

Rural development is governed by various aspects i.e. demographic, socio-economic, infrastructure and amenities of rural areas which interplay with the process of development and highly depends on the level of socio-economic interaction between rural and urban areas. The development of a rural area takes place through the transformation of the economic and socio-spatial structure of their production activities.

In this paper the study is made to get an insight into the development of rural population at tahsil as well as at case study village levels. The magnitude of tahsil wise development is measured by considering 12 indicators such as total literacy rate, female literacy rate, sex ratio, main worker, worker engaged non-agricultural sector, enrolment at secondary, higher educated population, numbers of pucca houses, electrified houses, households with LPG as well as with TV and communication facility.
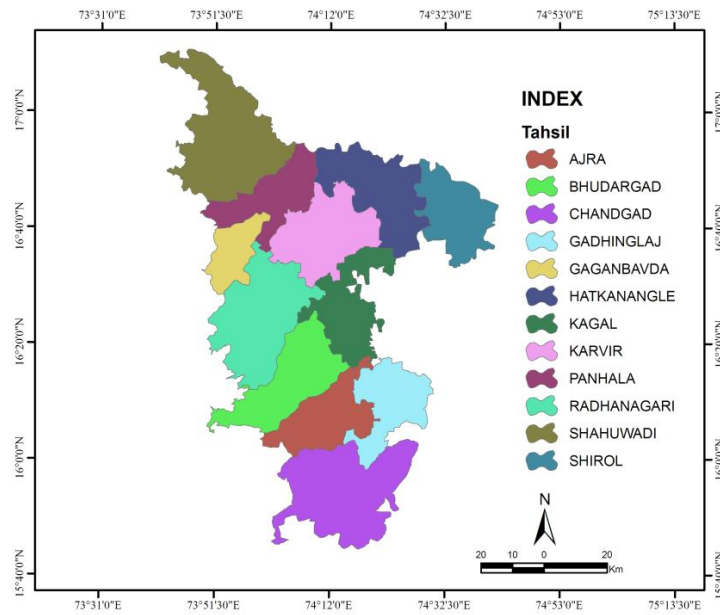By considering all this socio-economic indicators composite index is computed.

For computing the composite index, the method of normalization has been employed suggested by Kundu (1980). For constructing the composite index at tehsil level as well as in case study villages, the values are different indicators. The composite index values of all the tehsil level as well as in case study villages of the state then arranged in ascending or descending order so that the regions of different levels of development can easily be made and so it is done accordingly.
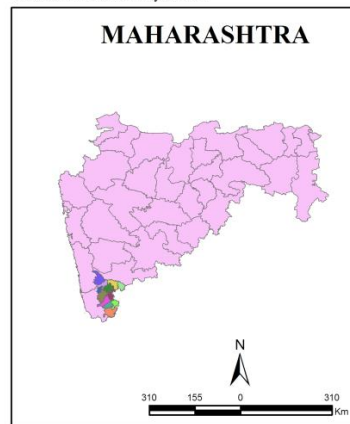
STUDY AREA

Kolhapur district is selected as the study area for the present research work. The region lies between 15° 45' and 17° 10' North latitudes, and between 73° 40' and 74° 42'East longitudes. It covers an area of 7685 sq. km which is 2.49 % of total area of the state. In 2011 population of the region is 3,876,001 which are 3.44 % of the total population of the state whereas 68.26 % of population live in rural area. The district includes 12 tehsils with 23 towns and 1216 villages.
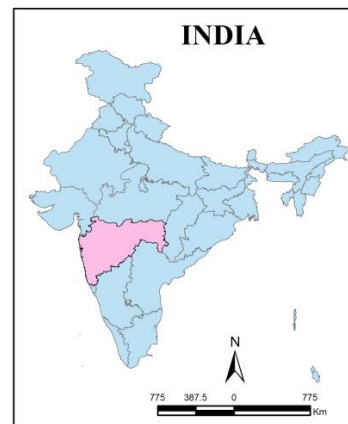
LOCATION MAP OF STUDY AREA

Source: Based on Survey of India

Source: Based on Survey of India

Source: Based on Survey of India

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this present study is to analyze the socio-economic development in rural part of Kolhapur district, which aims to understand the socio-economic status of rural people of the district as a whole.

DATABASE & METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on primary as well as secondary sources of data. The primary data was collected through intensive field work by household schedules. The Secondary data was collected through from the District and State Census Handbooks and Statistical Abstracts. In study region tahsil-wise data was collected to detail investigation.

The collected data is processed by employing different statistical and cartographic techniques.

In this paper the study is made to get an insight into the tahsil-wise as well as case study village's levels of development of rural population in the Kolhapur district. The magnitude of tahsil wise development is measured by considering 12 indicators such as total literacy rate, female literacy rate, sex ratio, main worker, worker engaged non-agricultural sector, enrolment at secondary, higher educated population, numbers of pucca houses, electrified houses, households with LPG connectivity, with having TV and communication facility. By considering all these socio-economic indicators, the composite index is computed.

For computing the composite index, the method of normalization has been employed suggested by Kundu (1980). For constructing the composite index at tahsil level as well as in case study villages, the values are different indicators.

THE DISCUSSION
A. TEHSIL-WISE LEVELS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

On the basis of composite index values in ascending order the tehsils are divided into 3 categories of development that is low level development, medium level development and high level of development.

a) Low Level of Rural Development

The low level of development is considers where composite index of development was below 10. In this category the three (03) tehsils were depicted, with covering 25 per cent of area, which are namely Bhudargad (7.38), Kagal (7.78) and Radhanagari (9.19) tehsils. The large part of these tehsils are covers the hilly portion, therefore, in terms educational development, as well as infrastructural facilities are also having poor in the district. Surprisingly noted that the Kagal tahsil is laying on express highway (NH-4) and having politically sound in the district falls in the low developing category.

b) Medium Level of Rural Development

The medium level of rural development is considers where composite index is in between 10 to 15. In this category of development as many as seven tehsils were existed. It covers more than 58 per cent area to the total area of the district (12 tahsil). In the district Panhala (10.46), Gadhinglaj (10.79), Ajara (10.86), Chandgad (11.03), Gagan Bavda (11.59),

Shahuwadi (12.13) and Shirol (13.49) tehsils are comes in to medium level of socio-economic development.

The Shahuwadi and Shirol tehsils has high composite index because there location is near to the urban areas as well as good connectivity through state highways while Ajara, Chandgad and Gagan Bavda has low composite index in medium levels of development because large area is located in the hilly as well as foot hills regions of district. The tehsils poses good of level of education development as compare to hilly region whereas moderate household condition is observed and household assets are present with good numbers.

Table 1: Tahsil-wise Levels of Rural Development

Sr. No.	Tehsils (Kolhapur district)	Literacy Rate (%)	Female Literacy Rate (%)	Sex Ratio	% Of Main Worker	%Of Worker Non Agri. Sector	% of Enrolment at Secondary	% of Gradation	% of Pucca Houses	% of Electrified Houses	% of HH with LPG	% of with TV	% of communication facility	Composite Index
1	Shahuwadi	52.47	36.56	1022	83.52	16.63	34.71	2.41	69	89.4	6.3	38	59.8	**12.13**
2	Panhala	61.25	44.3	914	85.60	26.04	42.56	3.09	75.3	94.3	15.4	53.2	56.9	**10.46**
3	Hatkanangle	67.32	52.93	937	88.15	44.63	50.96	20.78	75.8	92.9	46.5	62.4	60.3	**15.95**
4	Shirol	70.72	57.18	949	89.71	32.43	48.47	9.85	79.1	90.5	47.8	58.9	57.9	**13.49**
5	Karvir	65.07	48.97	912	89.73	32.42	50.55	26.12	79.4	95.6	23.9	63.4	62.1	**15.92**
6	Bavda	45.5	28.63	937	79.11	15.96	33.97	0.91	50.8	91	3.7	33.9	46.5	**11.59**
7	Radhanagari	60.88	43.72	935	86.58	17.01	35.98	1.61	60.5	94.7	5.5	46.3	56.2	**9.19**
8	Kagal	65.62	52.77	951	89.81	19.53	40.63	7.98	70.6	90.1	11.1	50.2	56	**7.78**
9	Bhudargad	63.13	47.19	983	84.34	18.93	36.46	9.31	43.4	91.9	9.4	48	57	**7.38**
10	Ajra	58.49	44.08	1121	88.18	15.82	36.75	2.70	39.7	92.4	6.2	47.3	57.6	**10.86**
11	Gadhinglaj	58.99	45	1045	82.80	17.86	43.86	6.57	52.6	88.7	18.8	48.4	54.3	**10.79**
12	Chandgad	52.24	37.7	1019	85.35	17.29	32.97	8.66	44.4	90.2	7.2	48.1	58.8	**11.03**
Average		**60.14**	**44.92**	**977.08**	**86.07**	**22.88**	**40.66**	**8.33**	**61.72**	**91.81**	**16.82**	**49.84**	**56.95**	**11.38**

Source: District Census Handbook of Kolhapur district, 2011

c) High Level of Rural Development

The high levels of rural development is considers where composite index of development is in more than 15. In this category of high level of development of rural areas there are only two tehsils are appears. It constitutes more than 16.66 per cent area of the 12 tehsil in the study region. In the district Hatkanangle (15.95) and Karvir

(15.92) tehsils are comes in to high level of socio-economic development.

These two tehsils are located in the plain region of the district and urbanization is more as compare to other tehsils in the study region therefore it is observed that high total as well as female literacy, high work participation rate in non-agricultural sector and better housing condition with good household amenities.

It is concluded that the near about 60 per cent area of the study region are in medium levels of development therefore it needs to take efforts to their development while high level of are observed in tehsils where urban area is present and industrial development is more.

B. A CASE STUDY VILLAGES

The term rural development is the overall development of rural areas to improve the quality of life of rural people. The rural developmental programmes intend to reduce the poverty and unemployment, to improve the health and educational status and to fulfill the basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing of the rural population.

To improve the conditions of rural people, Government of India launched some schemes through the planning commission of India such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Rastriya Sama Vikas Yojana (RSVY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), etc. All these schemes are aimed to reduce the gap between rural and urban people, which would help reduce imbalances and speed up the development process.

The rural development index measurement on 11 different indicators at village level is presented in Table 2. On the basis of these parameters, we have computed the level of development in the rural region and accordingly the 24 villages have been divided into 4 categories: very low, low, medium and high levels of development.

Table2: Rural Development in Case Study Villages (in percent)

Tehsils	Villages	Literacy Rate	Female Literacy Rate	Sex Ratio	%Of Main Worker	%Of Worker Non Agri. Sector	% of Gradation
Shahuwadi	Thergaon	55.38	44.27	1016	79.11	14.57	4.52
	Varewadi	48.26	32.68	998	86.58	17.42	6.38
Panhala	Nebapur	66.24	54.05	908	82.41	16.63	9.12
	Vadoli	58.94	52.38	926	81.26	26.04	8.46
Hatkanangle	Bhendwade	72.05	58.62	956	82.16	26.04	18.47
	Khotwadi	78.68	61.06	942	88.56	44.63	24.43
Shirol	Ghosarwad	74.23	56.41	948	78.24	28.69	12.48
	Arjunwad	76.58	52.68	972	83.52	21.53	14.62
Karvir	Vadange	79.25	62.45	934	85.60	43.32	28.54
	Sadale-Madale	71.48	53.28	910	82.14	32.42	20.18
Gaganbavda	Tisagi	47.26	36.09	958	76.68	16.58	4.28
	Kode	42.89	32.86	966	82.80	12.76	3.62
Radhanagari	Bhiri Bhanbar	59.64	51.47	928	85.35	13.94	5.24
	Sonyachi Shiroli	62.59	55.23	962	80.26	16.52	12.58
Kagal	Shindewadi	62.45	49.56	956	86.25	18.94	16.70
	Kurukali	69.26	52.38	962	86.58	23.16	22.2
Bhudargad	Gargoti	68.42	62.21	990	89.81	15.82	26.58
	Akurde	61.63	43.09	988	84.34	17.86	12.54
Ajara	Parewadi	56.8	34.7	1080	84.12	17.29	8.26
	Shirsangi	51.27	33.87	1008	79.56	12.26	8.66
Gadhinglaj	Nesari	63.78	44.57	998	82.98	24.63	14.58
	Bandyachi-Wadi	56.24	38.56	1002	84.34	18.48	12.62
Chandagad	Chandgad	58.12	41.26	998	88.18	15.96	18.69
	Dhamapur	52.68	34.7	992	78.52	17.01	12.58

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Tehsils	Villages	% of Pucca Houses	% of Electrified Houses	% of HH with LPG	% of with TV	% of communication facility	Composite Index
Shahuwadi	Thergaon	32	96	28	76	88	11.89
	Varewadi	16.67	88.1	16.67	66.67	37	12.24
Panhala	Nebapur	15.7	98	66	98	98	10.77
	Vadoli	26	92	26	68	68	13.21
Hatkanangle	Bhendwade	9.8	100	96	100	100	11.29
	Khotwadi	20	100	97.5	92.5	90	16.98
Shirol	Ghosarwad	4	100	90	92	94	10.90
	Arjunwad	4	100	90	92	96	7.98
Karvir	Vadange	4	98	66	88	100	15.41
	Sadale-Madale	10	84	54	74	88	12.08
Bavda	Tisagi	30	96	48	78	84	8.38
	Kode	18.52	100	11.11	59.26	77.78	4.95
Radhanagari	Bhiri Bhanbar	13.04	100	17.39	86.96	73.91	12.21
	Sonyachi Shiroli	11.76	96	38	88	64	7.51
Kagal	Shindewadi	21.57	100	58	80	86	3.48
	Kurukali	38.2	100	92	92	98	11.02
Bhudargad	Gargoti	24.5	100	94	97	100	18.40
	Akurde	18.04	98.5	86	82	92	4.53
Ajra	Parewadi	9.68	96.77	61.29	93.55	93.55	14.95
	Shirsangi	19.8	96	46	68	86	8.16
Gadhinglaj	Nesari	8.16	92	74	84	78	12.80
	Bandyachi-Wadi	6.67	100	55.56	64.44	97.78	9.03
Chandgad	Chandgad	46.2	100	86	96	100	12.43
	Dhamapur	23	98	52	72	86	4.18

Source: District Census Handbook of Kolhapur district, 2011 and Field work

a) Very Low Levels of Development

The very low levels of rural development is considers where composite index is below 5. In this category as many as four villages are appears among the case study villages. It constitutes

more than 16.66 per cent area of 24 case study villages in the study region viz. Shindewadi (3.48) in Kagal tehsil, Dhamapur (4.18) in Chandgad, Akurde (4.53) in Bhudargad and Kode (4.95) in (15.92) Gaganbavda tehsil have been identified with very low of socio-economic development.

The main reason was low literacy rate i.e. below 50 per cent. The female literacy is below than the overall literacy as well as the proportion of higher education level was also very poor, another reason was less proportion of Pucca or RCC house with having low household amenities and also they are proportionally landless.

b) Low Levels of Development

The very low levels of rural development is considers where composite index of development is in between 5 to 10. In this category of low level of development of rural areas there are only five villages are appears. It constitutes more than 20.83 per cent area of the 24 case study villages in the study region. In the study region Arjunwad (7.98) in Shirol tehisl, Tisagi (8.38) in Bavda tehsil, Sonyachi Shiroli (7.51) in Radhanagari tehsil, Shirsangi (8.16) in Ajra tehisl and Bandyachi-Wadi (9.03) in Gadhinglaj tehsil have been identified with low of socio-economic development.

The main reason of their low development is the, low literacy rate that is below 50 per cent. The female literacy is below than the overall literacy as well as the percentage of workers in non-agriculture sector and majority of population is lived in the kacca house with low household amenities.

c) Medium Levels of Development

The medium levels of rural development is considers where composite index of development is in between 10 to 15. In this category of medium level of development of rural areas there are twelve villages are appears. It constitutes more than 50 per cent area of the 24 case study villages in the study region. In the study region Nebapur (10.77) in Panhala tehsil has lowest composite index in this group followed by Ghosarwad (10.90) in Shirol tehsil, Kurukali (11.02) in Kagal tehsil, Bhendwade (11.29) in Hatkanangale tehsil, Thergaon (11.89) in Shahuwadi tehsil, Sadale-Madale (12.08) in Karvir tehsil, Bhiri Bhanbar (12.21) in Radhanagari tehsil, Varewadi (12.24) in Shahuwadi tehsil,Chandgad (12.43) in tehsil Chandgad, Nesari (12.80) in Gadhinglaj tehsil, Vadoli (13.21) in Panhala tehsil and Parewadi (14.95)inAjra tehsil

with highest composite index in the medium levels of developmenthave been identified with medium of socio-economic development.

d) High Levels of Development

The high levels of rural development is considers where composite index of development is above 15. In this category of high level of development of rural areas there are only three villages are appears. It constitutes more than 12.5 per cent area of the 24 case study villages in the study region.

Considering their satisfactory high level of rural development in case study villages Gargoti (18.40) in Bhudargad tehsil rank first followed by Khotwadi (16.98) in Hatkanangle tehsil and Vadange (15.41) in Karvir tehsil.Gargoti has highest composite index in the study region because it is a tehsil headquarter therefore good numbers of education facilities are available and workers in non-agricultural sector is more observed. Khotwadi ranks second in terms of levels of development because it is located in the fringe area of Ichalkarnji city which is known for textile industry therefore population from this villages is engaged in the textile industry and Vadange villages is located in the vicinity of Kolhapur city which is district headquarter therefore many people from this villages are working in the urban areas.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that a large proportion of rural population and rural areas are comparatively lagging backward in terms of development as compare to urban areas. Karveer and Hatkanangale tehsil are well developed in the study region because industrial development is more in this both tehsils therefore more population is engaged in the non-agricultural sector which reflects high income, well education facilities as well as good household condition with basic amenities and assets. It needs a well thoughtful rural development plan to be farmed, should be implemented carefully and the impact of such plans should be assessed to see that whether rural population have been benefited or not. There should be a policy of action and reaction of the government if not done properly.

Lowest composite index is found in the Bhudargad tehsil which is located in hilly area where as highest composite index is observed in the Hatkanangle tehsil because of industrial development is more in this tehsil.Illiteracy, non-availability of good quality of drinking water, lacking necessary infrastructure facilities like road and communication, schooling facilities, etc.

are the common features of rural areas. Considering the parameters like literacy, female literacy, work participation, percentage of workers in nonagricultural sector, sex ratio, higher educated population, numbers of pucca houses, electrified houses, households with LPG as well as with TV and communication facility the composite indexes for rural population have been computed for micro level analysis at village level in study region.

The villages like Shindewadi, Dhamapur, Akurde and Kode are the most lagging behind in levels of development while Gargoti, Khotwadi and Vadange villages has high levels of development. These are the villages where the state and central government have to look into the policy and sub-plans made for the rural development, how for their plans have been effective to raise their social and economic status. It explicates very explicitly that their plans and policies for rural development could not work as it is proved here with evidences of ground reality.

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