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WIDENING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

In view of a few economists the main objectives of economic policy is the balanced regional economic growth of all the states prevailing in a country. It has been observed from the data that during the period from 1980-81 to 2011-12 there was rapid economic growth in Indian economy but it was not equal in all states. As a result, economic disparity increased among all states. It has also been observed from the data that economic disparity among various states rapidly increased in the post-reform period. For this analysis data on per-capita NSDP at current prices of different states for the financial year from 1980-81 to 2011-12 are used. We calculate CV for the said period and see that the value of CV decreases in the pre-reform period but the value of CV increases in the post-reform period. This implies that regional economic disparity increases in the post-reform period. The accelerated economic growth since the early 1980's with increased participation by the private sector appears to have aggravated regional disparities. The ongoing economic reforms since 1991 with stabilization and deregulation policies as their prime instruments and a very significant role for the private sector seem to have further aggravated the inter-state disparities. If the existing trends in differential rate of socio-economic development continue, regional disparities in India are bound to accentuate. Therefore it is imperative that the present trends are arrested and preferably be reversed. This will require efforts on the part of the concerned state governments and the centre.

KEYWORDS

Economic disparities, balanced economic growth.

WIDENING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DISPARITIES IN INDIA

In view of a few economists the main objectives of economic policy is the rapid balanced economic growth of all the states / regions prevailing in a country. It indicates that there must be equal expansion and progress of economic activity; and increase in per-capita income of all states/regions. But Indian regional economic disparity is a matter of serious concern over the years. In spite of centralized planning there remained a serious problem of regional economic disparity in India. It has been observed from the data that during the period from 1980-81 to 2011-12 there was rapid economic growth in Indian economy but it was not equal in all states / regions. As a result, economic disparity / inequality increased among all states. It has also been observed from the data that economic disparity among various states rapidly increased in the post reform period. In the pre reform period this type of regional economic disparity was more or less stable even it decreased by small margin. Hence liberalization, privatization and globalization policy adopted by the government has created a major economic disparity among the states / regions and regional economic disparity increases at an increasing rate.

Data on per-capita net state domestic product (NSDP) at current prices in different states for the period from 1980-81 to 2011-12 are presented in Table-1. From this data we can make a comparative study of the increase in per-capita NSDP in different states during the said period. In this analysis we also use co-efficient of variation of the per-capita NSDP of different financial year which is shown in Table-2.

The increase in the value of co-efficient of variation implies increase in regional economic disparity and vice-versa. The period 1980-81 to 2011-12 has been selected because the period from 1980-81 to 1990-91 is the pre-reform period and there was active participation of the government in the economic activity of the country; and the period from 1990-91 to 2011-12 is the post-reform period when the government had been adopted various reform in its economic policy which is known as liberalization, privatization and globalization. From this discussion we can see whether the liberalization has created a smooth running of balanced regional development or the smooth running of regional economic disparity.

TABLE 1: PER-CAPITA NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT AT CURRENT PRICES (Rs.)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	1980-81	1985-86	1990-91	1995-96	2000-01	2005-06	2011-12
1	Andhra Pradesh	1467	2296	4816	10018	16373	28539	71480
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1522	3403	5231	11035	14587	28054	62213
3	Assam	1329	2612	4432	7001	10198	18396	33633
4	Bihar	1022	1601	2966	3041	5108	8223	23435
5	Jharkhand	-	-	-	6890	10294	18326	35652
6	Goa	3206	4660	8952	22207	45105	84720	192652
7	Gujarat	2089	3221	6343	13665	19228	37780	86668
8	Haryana	2437	4004	7721	14244	23742	42309	108859
9	Himachal Pradesh	1820	2644	5243	10607	18920	36949	74899
10	Jammu & Kashmir	2152	2874	4624	7783	12399	23240	42220
11	Karnataka	1644	2495	4975	10217	18041	31239	68374
12	Kerala	1835	2398	5110	11469	19463	36276	83725
13	Madhya Pradesh	1609	2085	4798	7796	10803	16631	38669
14	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	7479	10985	20117	46573
15	Maharashtra	2492	3826	7612	16152	23726	41965	101314
16	Manipur	1396	2322	3912	6875	12823	20395	32284
17	Meghalaya	1538	2250	4944	8282	13114	26284	52971
18	Mizoram	1399	2658	4856	10953	17826	26698	54689
19	Nagaland	1607	2591	5893	11057	16903	33792	56638
20	Orissa	1352	2175	3166	6806	8547	18846	46150
21	Punjab	2629	4578	8177	15471	25048	36199	74606
22	Rajasthan	1424	1978	4883	8467	11986	20275	47506
23	Sikkim	1545	3023	5213	8905	15550	30252	121440
24	Tamilnadu	1666	2620	5541	11866	19889	35243	84496
25	Tripura	1645	2025	4240	6828	14348	26668	50750
26	Uttarpradesh	1402	1922	3937	6299	9721	14221	30052
27	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	15482	29441	82193
28	West Bengal	1925	2893	5072	9041	16072	24720	54830
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2 613	3985	9729	18604	25177	44754	93075
30	Chandigarh	-	-	-	26734	44397	84993	140073
31	Delhi	4145	6545	11373	22364	38864	72208	175812
32	Pondicherry	3201	4580	7657	12276	31358	67205	95759

Source: Directorate of Economics Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All-India- Central Statistical Organisation (Data from 2005 to 2011-12 at 2004-05 prices)

TABLE 2: A.M., S.D. AND COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION OF THE PER CAPITA NSDP

Year	1980-81	1985-86	1990-91	1995-96	2000-01	2005-06	2011-12
AM(Rs.)	1907.33	3009.4	5764.9	11304	18627.4	33904.94	73865
Standard Deviation(Rs.)	708.13	1100.2	1996.6	5326.4	9698.92	18953.39	40285
Coefficient of Variation	37.13	36.56	34.63	47.12	52.07	55.9	55.92

Coefficient of Variation= (SD /AM)*100

From Table -2 we see that the average per capita NSDP has increased at a higher rate from the financial year 1980-81 to 2011-12 e.g. In 1980-81 it was Rs. 1907.33 and in the 5th year (1985-86) it increased by 57.78% amounting to Rs. 3009.4. In 1990-91 it increased by 91.56% amounting to Rs. 5764.90. Similarly in 1995-96 it became Rs. 11304(96.09% increase) in 2000-01 it became Rs. 18627.40 (64.78% increase) and in 2005-06 it became Rs. 33904.94 (82.02% increase) and in 2011-12 it became Rs. 73865(117.85% increase). From these data it has been observed that the average per capita NSDP increased during the said period. (This increase in per capita NSDP is not at all scientific as it is calculated on the basis of current prices).

In the financial year 1980-81 only 9 states had higher per capita NSDP than the national average; in 1985-86 it increased to 10 in 1990-91 to 9, in 1995-96 to 11, in 2000-01 to 12, in 2005-06 to 11 and in 2011-12 to 14. If we consider those states are rich states having higher per capita NSDP than the national average and the poor states having per capita NSDP below the average then we can say that the success of liberalized economic policy have made the rich richer.

From the above discussion we conclude that the economic disparity in different states has increased at an increasing rate in the post reform period. This type of unbalanced growth in different states is shown with the help of the coefficient of variation of the per capita NSDP of different states at current prices (Table-2). During the aforesaid period we see that between 1980-81 to 1990-91 the value of the CV of per capita NSDP decreases. e.g. in 1980-81 it is 37.13, in 1985-86 - 36.56 and in 1990-91-34.63. This implies that regional economic disparity decreases. On the other hand in the next period (1990-91 to 2011-12) the value of the CV of per capita NSDP increases at an increasing rate. e.g. in 1990-91 it is 34.63, in 1995-96-47.12, in 2000-01-52.07, in 2005-06-55.90 and in 2011-12 -55.92. This implies that regional economic disparity increases at an increasing rate in the post reform period.

We can also see through other indicators that regional economic disparity exist in Indian economy.

TABLE3 :STATE-WISE CREDIT -DEPOSIT RATIO (C-D)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	1980-81	1985-86	1990-91	1995-96	2000-01	2005-06	2010-11
1	Andhra Pradesh	71.5	78.3	87.1	73	64.2	74.8	105.14
2	Arunachal Pradesh	6.2	21.5	20.1	12.4	15.7	22	25.12
3	Assam	40.6	53.3	55.5	38.7	32	35.3	36.96
4	Bihar	41.8	41.7	40	32.5	22.5	27.7	28.61
5	Jharkhand						29.6	34.44
6	Gujarat	51.8	54.7	61.3	46.6	49	46.5	65.28
7	Haryana	66.1	67.6	61.2	45.5	42.4	51.4	63.03
8	Himachal Pradesh	28.6	44	38.6	26	23.8	36.3	41.4
9	Jammu & Kashmir	31.5	42.8	31.8	28.6	33.5	46.7	46.88
10	Karnataka	77.8	86.7	91	65.8	63.3	73.8	76.93
11	Kerala	67.5	68.5	64	44.8	41.5	54.6	56.92
12	Madhya Pradesh	52	62.6	68.6	49.6	49.1	43.6	59.8
13	Chhattisgarh						43.6	52.75
14	Maharashtra	79.2	90.8	79.7	69.5	86.4	94.9	81.3
15	Manipur	25.1	70.5	69.9	58.2	37.4	42.4	40.57
16	Meghalaya	14.1	26.5	24.6	17	16.3	43.6	24.99
17	Mizoram	6	22.8	34.2	16.5	23.3	47.8	47.5
18	Nagaland	23.7	39.6	42.6	37.8	15.3	22.9	29.83
19	Orissa	61.1	92.8	81.3	54.5	41.5	61.8	53.16
20	Punjab	38.6	44.6	45.5	41.4	39.4	50.1	71.11
21	Rajasthan	65.9	70.5	62.2	47.7	46.7	68.7	88.21
22	Tamilnadu	88	98.6	99.4	86.7	88.6	101.2	112.65
23	Tripura	51.3	72.9	72.2	47.5	25.7	28.6	29.15
24	Uttarpradesh	43.5	49.2	47	35.1	28.2	37.9	42.57
25	Uttaranchal						24.3	33.8
26	West Bengal	60.9	51.9	54.9	53.9	45.5	52.3	61.33
	AM	47.51	58.8	57.94	44.75	40.5	48.55	54.21
	SD	23.4	22.19	21.56	18.57	20.17	20.58	23.88
	CV	49.25	37.73	37.21	41.5	49.8	42.39	44.05

Source: Statistical Tables Relating to Banks in India, Reserve Bank of India

In the financial year 1980-81 only 12 states had higher C-D ratio than the national average; in 1985-86 only 11, in 1990-91 only 11, in 1995-96 only 13, in 2000-01 only 11, in 2005-06 only 10 and in 2010-11 only 11 states had higher C-D ratio than the national average. The inter-state and regional disparities are obvious from the data. Credit-Deposit ratio measures the discrepancy in credit creation vis-à-vis deposit mobilization. It has been observed from the data that more or less the same states having higher C-D ratio over the years. The value of CV in Table 3 shows that there exist disparities among the Indian states.

TABLE 4: PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	1982-83	1993-94	1999-2000	2004-05
1	Andhra Pradesh	28.91	22.19	15.77	15.8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	40.88	39.35	33.47	17.6
3	Assam	40.47	40.86	36.09	19.7
4	Bihar	62.22	54.96	42.6	41.4
5	Jharkhand				40.3
6	Goa	18.9	14.92	4.4	13.8
7	Gujarat	32.79	24.21	14.07	16.8
8	Haryana	21.37	25.05	8.74	14
9	Himachal Pradesh	16.4	28.44	7.63	10
10	Jammu & Kashmir	24.24	25.17	3.48	5.4
11	Karnataka	38.24	33.16	20.04	25
12	Kerala	40.42	25.43	12.72	15
13	Madhya Pradesh	49.78	42.52	37.43	38.3
14	Chhattisgarh				40.9
15	Maharashtra	43.44	36.86	25.02	30.7
16	Manipur	37.02	33.78	28.54	17.3
17	Meghalaya	38.81	37.92	33.87	18.5
18	Mizoram	36	25.66	19.47	12.6
19	Nagaland	39.25	37.92	32.67	19
20	Orissa	65.29	48.56	47.15	46.4
21	Punjab	16.18	11.77	6.16	8.4
22	Rajasthan	34.46	27.41	15.28	22.1
23	Sikkim	39.71	41.43	36.55	20.1
24	Tamilnadu	51.66	35.03	21.12	22.5
25	Tripura	40.03	39.01	34.44	18.9
26	Uttarpradesh	47.07	40.85	31.15	32.8
27	Uttaranchal				39.6
28	West Bengal	54.85	35.66	27.02	24.7
29	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	52.13	34.47	20.99	22.6
30	Chandigarh	23.79	11.35	5.75	7.1
31	Delhi	26.22	14.69	8.23	14.7
32	Pondicherry	50.06	37.4	21.67	22.4
	AM	38.3	31.93	22.47	22.33
	SD	16.86	10.71	12.52	10.98
	CV	44.02	33.54	55.71	49.17

Source: Planning Commission & NSSO Data

The sharp decline in the percentage of population below the poverty line in the forward states after 1983, especially after 1993-94 is remarkable. From Table-4 it has also been observed that there was a steep fall in the share of poor in the country during nineties. This implies that the main beneficiaries have been the fast growing states in the forward group. Even though the absolute number of poor in all the states have come down between 1993-94 and 2004-05 there exists considerable level of disparity among the Indian states (as the value of CV shows in Table-4).

In the wake of economic reforms initiated in 1991, the role of private investment has acquired a special significance in the context of economic development of various states. Indeed, there has been an element of competition among states for attracting private investment, both domestic and foreign. There also exist disparity among the states regarding the financial assistance by the all India financial institutions, and state financial corporation; number of nationalized bank branches, cumulative number of SSI Units, per-capita development and non-development expenditure etc.

DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

A few demographic characteristics of different states are presented in Table-5

TABLE-5: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIAN STATES/UNION TERRITORIES

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Sex Ratio(females per 1000)				Density (per Sq. km.)			
		1981	1991	2001	2011	1981	1991	2001	2011
1	Andhra Pradesh	975	972	978	993	195	241	275	308
2	Arunachal Pradesh	862	859	901	938	8	10	13	17
3	Assam	910	923	932	958	230	284	340	397
4	Bihar	948	907	921	918	402	497	880	1102
5	Goa	975	967	960	973	272	316	363	394
6	Gujarat	942	934	921	919	174	210	258	308
7	Haryana	870	865	861	879	292	369	477	573
8	Himachal Pradesh	973	976	970	972	77	92	109	123
9	Jammu & Kashmir	892	896	900	889	59	76	99	124
10	Karnataka	963	960	964	973	194	234	275	319
11	Kerala	1032	1036	1058	1084	655	747	819	859
12	Madhya Pradesh	921	912	920	931	118	149	196	236
13	Maharashtra	937	934	922	929	204	256	314	365
14	Manipur	971	958	978	992	64	82	107	122
15	Meghalaya	954	955	975	989	60	78	103	132
16	Mizoram	919	921	938	976	23	33	42	52
17	Nagaland	863	886	909	931	47	73	120	119
18	Orissa	981	971	972	979	169	202	236	269
19	Punjab	879	882	874	895	333	401	482	550
20	Rajasthan	919	910	922	928	100	128	165	201
21	Sikkim	835	878	875	890	45	57	76	86
22	Tamilnadu	977	974	986	996	372	428	478	555
23	Tripura	946	945	950	960	196	262	304	350
24	Uttarpradesh	882	876	898	912	377	471	689	828
25	West Bengal	911	917	934	950	615	766	904	1029
26	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	760	818	846	876	23	34	43	46
27	Chandigarh	769	790	773	818	3961	5620	7902	9252
28	Delhi	808	827	821	868	4194	6319	9224	11297
29	Pondicherry	985	979	1001	1037	1229	1605	2029	2598
INDIA		934	927	933	943	216	267	324	382
SD		-	-	-	-	1003.16	1473.03	2128.09	2598.44
AM		-	-	-	-	506.48	691.03	942.14	1124.52
CV		-	-	-	-	198.06	213.16	225.3	231.07

Source: Census of India 1981,1991, 2001,2011

The state-wise sex ratio is perhaps the most revealing index of gender disparities among the states. All India sex ratios are 934, 927,933 and 943 in 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively. The data on sex ratio of females per 1000 males is the reflection of the neglect of women's health due to relatively lower economic and social value assigned to women.

In 1981 only 16 states, in 1991 only 14 states, in 2001 only 15 states and in 2011 only 14 having sex ratio above national average. Kerala is the only state in the country which has a sex ratio favourable to women during the above four census period and Pondicherry is the only union territory having sex ratio favourable to women in 2001 and 2011. The international experience indicates that as a society develops economically the sex-ratio turns more favourable to women. In India, however, this does not appear to hold good. Thus from the above data we can say that the disparities in sex ratio in different states during the said period is the reflection of widening regional disparity.

The density of population in different states is also an indicator of development of a society. State wise data on population density of different states are given in Table-4 for four census periods. The all India population densities (No. of persons per Sq. km). Are 216, 267, 324 and 382 in 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011 respectively. During the said period 11 or 12 states having population density higher than national average. The data in Table-4 shows that disparity exists in different states. Coefficient of variation calculated from the data on population density shows that disparity increases from 1981 to 2011.

CONCLUSION

The data presented in the earlier sections and the analysis so far clearly establish that there are considerable disparities in socio-economic development across the Indian states. The accelerated economic growth since the early 1980's with increased participation by the private sector appears to have aggravated regional disparities. The ongoing economic reforms since 1991 with stabilization and deregulations policies as their prime instruments and a very significant role for the private sector seem to have further aggravated the inter-state disparities.

To conclude if the existing trends in differential rate of socio-economic development continue, regional disparities in India are bound to accentuate. Therefore it is imperative that the present trends are arrested and preferably reversed. This will require efforts on the part of the concerned state governments and the centre. The centre's helping hand in the form of focused investment, especially in social sectors and key infrastructural sectors will facilitate the task of the concerned states. Meaningful decentralization of decision making and financial powers with appropriate accountability at all levels will facilitate faster socio-economic development of the backward regions.

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