



PROJECT REPORT ON
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF WEST BENGAL

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INTRODUCTION

The West Bengal Human Development Report (HDR) brings out a mixed picture of the current state of human development in West Bengal, with some important successes and also some areas of inadequate achievement, as well as certain emerging problems. The West Bengal HDR analyses two major public initiatives, which have characterised the State for the last 26 years, i.e. land reforms and decentralisation and has examined their effects on human development. Aims at illustrating the policy impact of preparing Human Development Reports, and how central HD concepts can go beyond the reports through various HD activities and contribute to sustainable policy impact in a country from a human development perspective. The human development levels across West Bengal districts vary sharply and are more in favour of the urbanised regions. This pattern persists over time. The overall Indian situation also reveals this pattern but the extent of variation is less.

MOTIVATION

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. The standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income per capita. Human development has four essential pillars equality, sustainability, productivity and empowerment. The HDI is calculated as the geometric mean of life expectancy, education, and GNI per capita, as follows. The education dimension is the arithmetic mean of the two education indices. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a statistical tool used to measure a country's overall achievement in its social and economic dimensions. The social and economic dimensions of a country are based on the health of people, their level of education attainment and their standard of living. Growth in income is only a tool rather than a final goal. Human development is about providing more freedom and opportunity to the people for living their lives as they wish. For this, people should be able to improve and use their capabilities. Human development is a multidimensional concept.

LITERATURE REVIEW

UNDP (1990) in the First Global Human Development report concluded that people are the real wealth of a nation. Human Development is all about “process of enlarging people’s choices”. It mainly focused on building of human capabilities, enhancement of freedom and process of achieving outcomes. The report also addressed how the economic growth translates into human development.

Pal and Pant (1993) in their paper “An Alternative Human Development Index” made an attempt to modify UNDP methodology and make new alternative measures of human development index with regard to Ranking of Indian States. The conventional methods obviously focused on three variables such as education, health and material well-being, but the alternative measure focused on one more variable that is poverty.

.MahbubulHaq (1997) in his work “Reflection on Human Development” examines that human development is more than GNP growth, more than income and wealth and more than producing commodities and accumulating capital. According to him the basic capabilities for human development consist of health, education, access to resources and community participation. Without these, many choices are simply not available, and many opportunities in life remain inaccessible.

The Philippine Human Development Report⁵ (1997) examines changes in the Human Development Index (HDI) across various provinces in Philippines for 1990 to 1994 ranging from decrease of nearly 4 percent. It states that Human Development across its provinces is influenced by the past biases.

AmartyaSen (2000) suggested that society’s standard of living should be judged not by the average level of income, but by people’s capabilities to lead the lives they value, capabilities as health, knowledge, self-respect and the ability to participate actively in community life.

Therefore, expansion of human capabilities implies greater freedom of choice. Planning Commission has prepared National Human Development Report(2001) showing the state wise as well as All India HumanDevelopment Indices for the years 1981, 1991and 2001. This report uses thesame development indicators of the UNDP Human Development Report. Butweightages are given with slight changes in the indicators span of life,education and economic attainment are the basic factors in both computations.

Mazumdar(2003) in his paper “Measuring Human Wellbeing of the Countries:Achievement and Improvement Indices” made an attempt to provide an overview of thechanging pattern of human well-being of the countries over the period 1960 to 1994. Acomparison of the relative position of a country is attempted on the basis of the overallachievement index and other composite indices used to measure human well-beingsuch as weighted index, physical quality of life index and human development index.

Nayak (2007) in his article Human Development – Conceptual and Measurement Issues made an attempt to describe evolution and concept of human development. It provides for various changes in the methods of measurement brought out by UNDP, the planning commission Government of India and the individual researchers at different points of time since 1990.

OBJECTIVE

The three goals of developmental psychology are to describe, explain, and to optimize development . To describe development it is necessary to focus both on typical patterns of change (normative development) and individual variations in patterns of change (i.e. idiographic development).The purpose of development is a rise in the level and quality of life of the population, and the creation or expansion of local regional income and employment opportunities, without damaging the resources . The main goals are Human resource Development enhancing productivity quality, integration people into business, promotion individual growth and development etc.The goal of the research process is to produce new knowledge or deepen understanding of a topic or issue. This process takes three main forms (although, as previously discussed, the boundaries between them may be obscure).Exploratory research, which helps to identify and define a problem or question .

METHODOLOGY

Three common methods are the experimental method, correlation method, and the case study approach. Developmental psychology employs many of the research methods used in other areas of psychology; however, infants and children cannot be tested in the same ways as adults. To study changes in individuals over time, developmental psychologists use systematic observation, including naturalistic or structured observation; self-reports, which could be clinical interviews or structured observation; clinical or case study methods; and ethnography or participant observation.

Experimental Research

The experimental method involves actual manipulation of treatments, circumstances, or events to which the participant or subject is exposed. This design points to cause-and-effect relationships and thus allows for strong inferences to be made about causal relationships between the manipulation of one or more independent variables and subsequent subject behavior. A limit to this method is that the artificial environment in which the experiment is conducted may not be applicable to the general population.

Correlational Research

The correlational method explores the relationship between two or more events by gathering information about these variables without researcher intervention. The advantage of using a correlational design is that it estimates the strength of a relationship among variables in the natural environment. However, the limitation is that it can only indicate that a relationship exists between the variables; it cannot determine which one caused the other. In a case study, developmental psychologists collect a great deal of information from one individual in order to better understand physical and psychological changes over his or her lifespan. Data can be collected through the use of interviews, structured questionnaires, observation, and test scores.

This particular approach is an excellent way to better understand individuals who are exceptional in some way, but it is especially prone to researcher bias in interpretation, and it is difficult to generalize conclusions to the larger population.

Results

After analyzing the data in the prescribed methodology, a clear picture about the spatial pattern of human poverty can be observed. Human development is a key factor of this kind of spatial pattern. Human poverty index of West Bengal Three deprivation indexes are constructed in three different tables. Table-1 reflects the district-wise status of index of knowledge deprivation where Purba Medinipur ranked first with an index value of 0.117 and Uttar Dinajpur ranked last with 0.316. In case of percentage of total illiteracy Kolkata, Purba Medinipur, North 24 Parganas are the districts much ahead with more literacy rate than Uttar Dinajpur, Madah, Puruliya and Murshidabad but in case of percentage of children not transmitted to upper primary level from primary level the difference among the districts are not as much as the illiteracy rate. Though Kochbihar, Birbhum, South 24 Parganas have a lower transmission rate than the other districts. These two indicators of knowledge deprivation can clearly depict the real scenario of development of education in the districts of West Bengal. Actually percentage of children not transmitted to upper primary level from primary is a proxy indicator of drop-out.

Table 1: District-wise knowledge deprivation (P1)

1.	Darjiling	20.08	21.10	0.204	8
2.	Jalpaiguri	26.21	20.60	0.244	13
3.	Kochbihar	24.51	23.80	0.243	12
4.	Uttor Dinajpur	39.87	15.00	0.316	19
5.	Dakshin Dinajpur	26.14	17.70	0.233	10
6.	Maldah	37.29	18.40	0.310	18
7.	Murshidabad	32.47	16.30	0.271	15
8.	Birbhum	29.10	23.40	0.272	16
9.	Barddhaman	22.85	19.10	0.216	9
10.	Bankura	29.05	19.50	0.259	14
11.	Purulia	34.62	15.30	0.282	17
12.	Hooghly	17.45	18.00	0.176	5
13.	Howrah	16.15	18.60	0.170	3
14.	Poschim Medinipur	20.96	16.40	0.194	6
15.	Purba Medinipur	12.34	10.30	0.117	1
16.	South 24 Pargana	21.43	21.70	0.215	7
17.	North 24 Pargana	15.05	19.30	0.175	4
18.	Kolkata	12.86	14.20	0.133	2
19.	Nadia	24.42	22.80	0.239	11
20.	West Bengal	22.92	18.50	0.215	-

Source: Col. 2 – DLHS-4:2012-13

Table 2 District-wise provisioning deprivation (P2)

District	Percentage of household having no electricity (2011)	Percentage of household having no latrines facilities within the premises (2011)	Percentage of household having no access to safe drinking water (2011)	Index of provisioning deprivation	Rank
Darjiling	18.99	27.7	27.69	0.248	3
Jalpaiguri	55.6	50.25	16.67	0.408	10
Kochbihar	72.37	40.76	6.4	0.398	9
Uttor Dinajpur	66.68	72.48	12.91	0.507	15
Daskin Dinajpur	57.58	63.16	25.42	0.487	13
Malda	64.51	68.26	27.52	0.531	16
Murshidabad	65.35	60.47	25.28	0.497	14
Birbhum	58.95	75.92	35.03	0.566	17
Barddhaman	38.44	44.32	25.88	0.362	8
Bankura	55.76	79.7	37.84	0.578	18
Purulia	66.64	88.15	50.52	0.684	19
Hooghly	23.96	28.76	24.91	0.259	4
Howrah	22.56	25.31	30.14	0.26	5
Paschim Medinipur	47.41	53.86	34.83	0.454	12
Purba Medinipur	51.73	14.72	41.87	0.361	7
South 24 Pargana	52.67	37.41	42.24	0.441	11
North 24 Pargana	29.55	12.5	20.06	0.207	2
Kolkata	3.79	5.07	6.6	0.05	1
Nadia	49.37	22.41	11.69	0.278	6
West Bengal	45.51	41.15	26.64	0.378	-

Source: Col. 2, 3, 4 – Census-2011

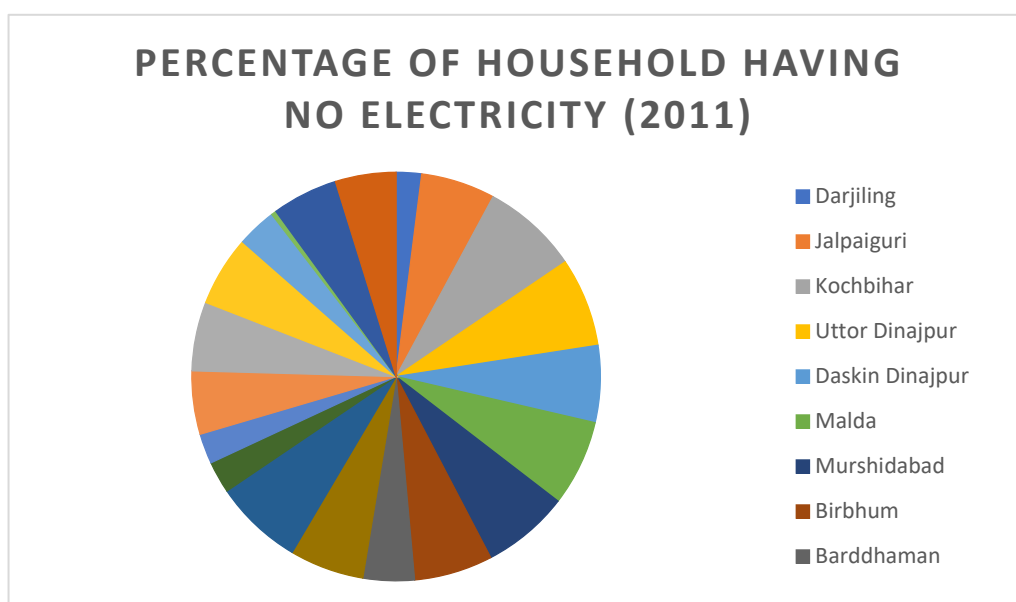


Table-2 shows us the district-wise provisioning deprivation, a direct indicator of poverty. (Anand and Sen 1994) [9]. In this study, three indicators i.e. electricity, latrine facility and access to safe drinking water have been taken. These facilities are necessary for a household to maintain a safe and hygienic life, but acute poverty plays a significant role constructing barriers for the people to access those services. In case of West Bengal, Kolkata being the capital ranked first scoring 0.050. Puruliya scored 0.684 clearly indicating the district level situation in terms of having electricity, latrine and safe drinking water. Besides Puruliya, Bankura, Birbhum and Maldah are in the same lacking position in provisioning deprivation. But North 24 Parganas, Darjiling, Hugli and Haora are in a good situation in terms of having the facilities. These provisioning deprivations are highly related with the income level and significantly play a role of human

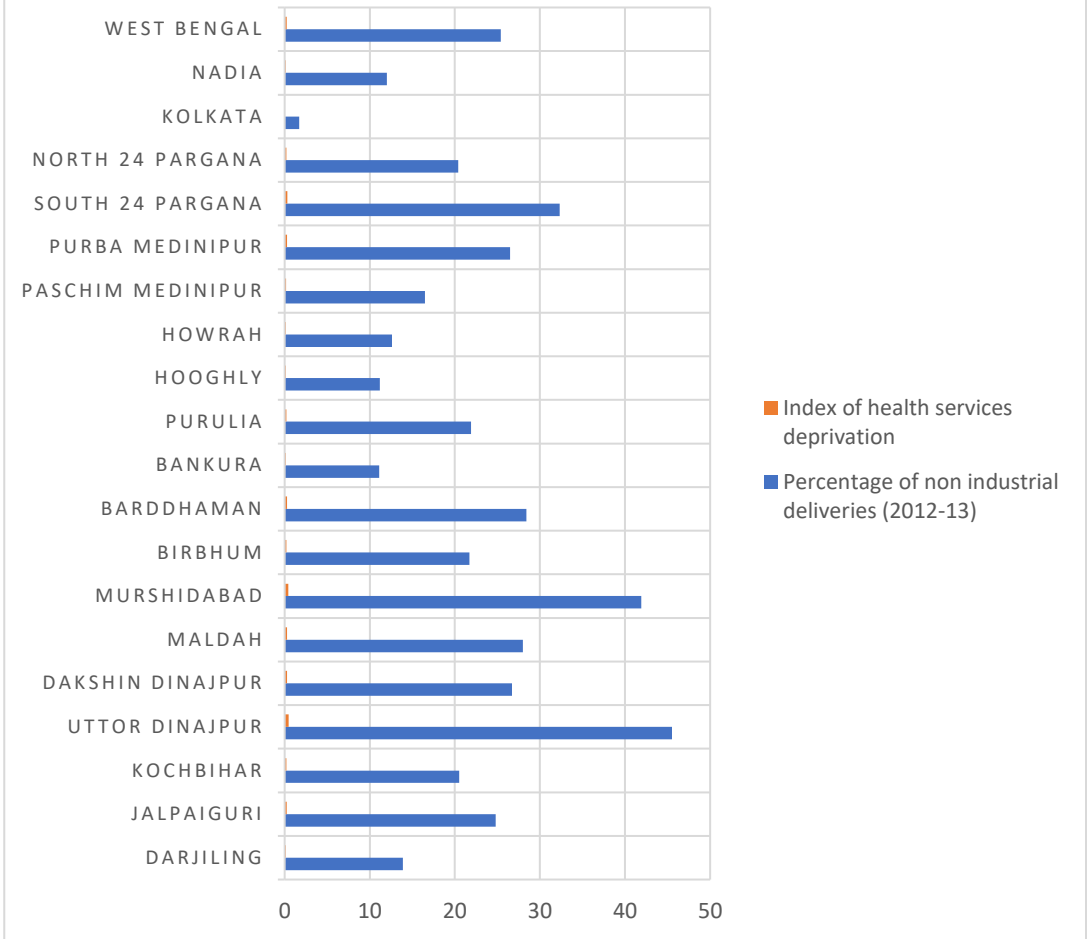
development. These indicators of provisioning deprivation index are most basic needs of an individual to sustain a healthy life. Human development always related to education and health which is naturally dependent on essential sanitation and safe drinking water. So, a society with these basic amenities can play a vital role in developing the human development situation. In this study, it is evident that poverty always linked with human development and a society with educated and healthy population can act as a catalyst to break the vicious cycle of especially from the developing countries. Fig-1 shows the district-wise spatial pattern of three indexes selected for constructing the HPI. Showing the map any one can easily understand the situation of knowledge deprivation, health services deprivation and provisioning deprivation in the districts. The higher value of three different indices indicates.

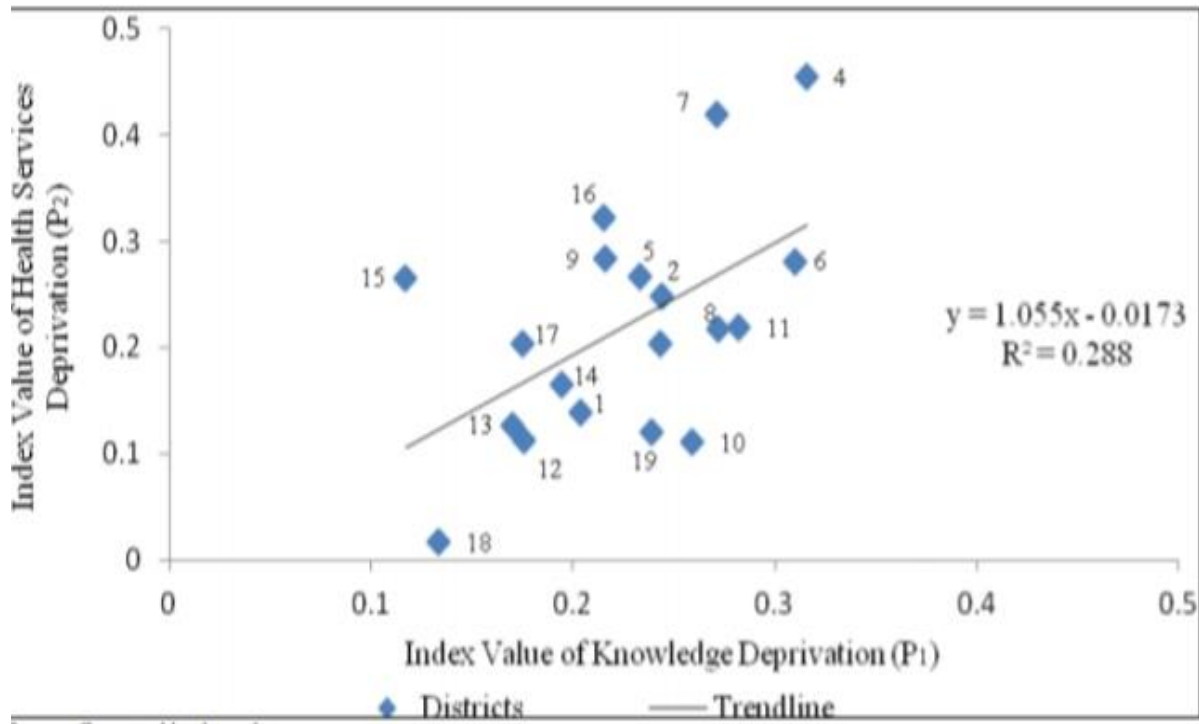
Table 3 District-wise health services deprivation (P3)

Sl no	District	Percentage of non industrial deliveries (2012-13)	Index of health services deprivation	Rank
1	Darjiling	13.9	0.139	6
2	Jalpaiguri	24.8	0.248	12
3	Kochbihar	20.5	0.205	9
4	Uttor Dinajpur	45.5	0.455	19
5	Dakshin Dinajpur	26.7	0.267	13
6	Maldah	28	0.28	15
7	Murshidabad	41.9	0.419	18
8	Birbhum	21.7	0.217	10
9	Barddhaman	28.4	0.284	16
10	Bankura	11.1	0.111	2
11	Purulia	21.9	0.219	11
12	Hooghly	11.2	0.112	3
13	Howrah	12.6	0.126	5
14	Paschim Medinipur	16.5	0.165	7
15	Purba Medinipur	26.5	0.265	14
16	South 24 Pargana	32.3	0.323	17
17	North 24 Pargana	20.4	0.206	8
18	Kolkata	1.7	0.017	1
19	Nadia	12	0.12	7
20	West Bengal	25.4	0.254	-

Source: Col. 2 – DLHS-4:2012-13

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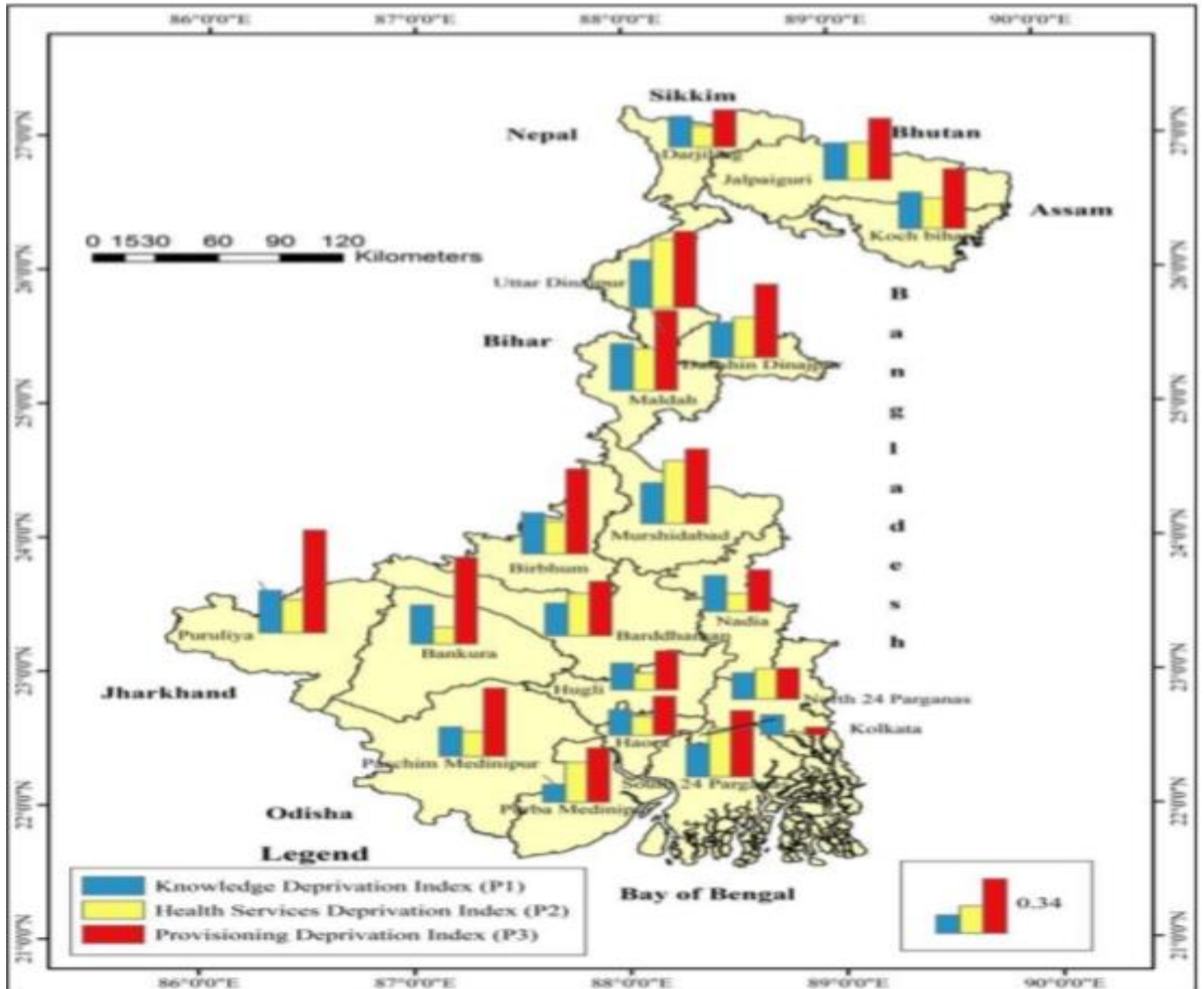
Source: Computed by the authors

Fig 1: Relationship between Knowledge Deprivation and Health Services Deprivation in the Districts of West Bengal, 2011-12

It is evident from fig.1 that there is a positive relationship between two different deprivation index namely knowledge deprivation and health services deprivation. As the index value of knowledge deprivation increases, the index value of health services deprivation also increases depicting the clear relation. Lower the index value of these two deprivation indices indicates a comparatively higher rank with developed situation. Kolkata, Haora, Hugli and Darjiling are the districts where both the index value are lower indicating a higher rank in the indices whereas, districts like Uttar Dinajpur, Murshidabad and South 24 Parganas are ranked lower in both indices. This nature of ranking clearly denotes that level of education has a strong impact on access and availing health services in district.

Table-3 shows us the district-wise provisioning deprivation, a direct indicator of poverty. (Anand and Sen 1994) [9]. In this study, three indicators i.e. electricity, latrine facility and access to safe

drinking water have been taken. These facilities are necessary for a household to maintain a safe and hygienic life, but acute poverty plays a significant role constructing barriers for the people to access those services. In case of West Bengal, Kolkata being the capital ranked first scoring 0.050. Puruliya scored 0.684 clearly indicating the district level situation in terms of having electricity, latrine and safe drinking water. Besides Puruliya, Bankura, Birbhum and Maldah are in the same lacking position in provisioning deprivation. But North 24 Parganas, Darjiling, Hugli and Haora are in a good situation in terms of having the facilities. These provisioning deprivations are highly related with the income level and significantly play a role of human development. These indicators of provisioning deprivation index are most basic needs of an individual to sustain a healthy life. Human development always related to education and health which is naturally dependent on essential sanitation and safe drinking water. So, a society with these basic amenities can play a vital role in developing the human development situation. In this study, it is evident that poverty always linked with human development and a society with educated and healthy population can act as a catalyst to break the vicious cycle of especially from the developing countries. Fig-1 shows the district-wise spatial pattern of three indexes selected for constructing the HPI. Showing the map any one can easily understand the situation of knowledge deprivation, health services deprivation and provisioning deprivation in the districts. The higher value of three different indices indicates.



Source: Computed by the author

Fig 2: District-wise Spatial Pattern of Different Deprivation Indexes in West Bengal, 2011-12

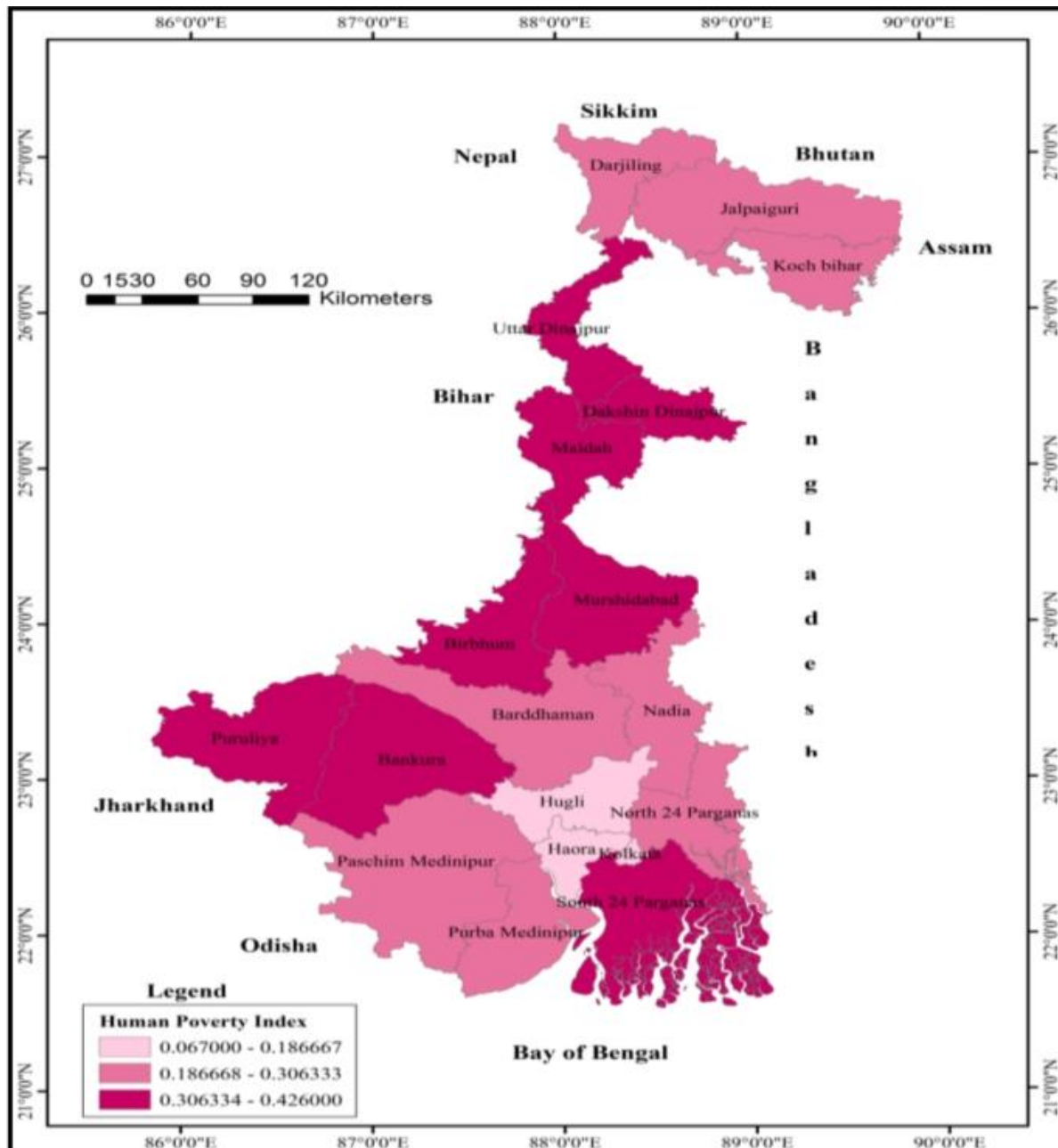
the Table-4 the HPI is calculated with the help of three indexes. Kolkata ranked first in the HPI with a score of 0.067 clearly showing the reduced level of human poverty. Hugli, Haora, North 24 Parganas and Darjiling are also in a significantly good situation than the other districts. But, Uttar Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Puruliya and Maldah these four districts remain in the most deprived situation scoring higher index value indicating the situation of acute human poverty. It is evident that the surrounding districts of Kolkata are in a comparatively developed situation except South 24 Parganas, but the districts away from this developed centre are still in a

condition of low level of human poverty. But the districts in the extreme north such as Jalpaiguri or Darjiling are in a comparatively good situation.

Table 4: District-wise Human Poverty Index (HPI) of West Bengal, 2011-12

District	Knowledge deprivation index (pl)	Health Services deprivation index (P2)	Provisioning deprivation index (P3)	Modified human proverty index	Rank
Darjiling	0.204	0.139	0.248	0.197	5
Jalpaiguri	0.244	0.248	0.408	0.300	11
Kochbihar	0.243	0.204	0.398	0.282	9
Uttor Dinajpur	0.316	0.455	0.507	0.426	19
Dakshin Dinajpur	0.233	0.267	0.487	0.329	14
Malda	0.310	0.280	0.531	0.374	16
Murshidabad	0.271	0.419	0.497	0.396	18
Birbhum	0.272	0.217	0.566	0.352	15
Barddhaman	0.216	0.284	0.362	0.287	10
Bankura	0.256	0.111	0.578	0.316	12
Purulia	0.282	0.219	0.684	0.395	17
Hooghly	0.176	0.112	0.259	0.182	2
Howrah	0.170	0.126	0.260	0.185	3
Paschim Medinipur	0.194	0.165	0.454	0.271	8
Purba Medinipur	0.117	0.265	0.361	0.248	7
South 24 Pargana	0.215	0.323	0.441	0.326	13
North 24 Pargana	0.175	0.204	0.207	0.195	4
Kolkata	0.133	0.017	0.050	0.067	1
Nodia	0.239	0.120	0.278	0.212	6

West Bengal	0.215	0.254	0.378	0.282	-
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Source: Computed by the author

Fig 3: Spatial Pattern of Human Poverty in West Bengal, 2011-12

Fig-3 clearly depicts the spatial pattern of poverty in the districts of West Bengal. The western part of the state with some portion of north Bengal is in worst situation in terms of human poverty. On the other hand south Bengal centering Kolkata and the hilly district Darjiling significantly standing in a relatively good situation in terms of human poverty. Two western districts Puruliya and Bankura along with Birbhum, Murshidabad, Maldah, North and South

Dinajpur in north and South 24 Parganas in south are in worst situation. Comparatively Darjiling neighboring Jalpaiguri and Koch bihar ranked better but Kolkata, Haora and Hugli these three districts shows a lower human poverty. So, there are significant pattern of human poverty across the state. Mainly absence of different human development factors such as, health, education and some basic amenities are the real cause of those districts standing far behind than the others. It is clear from the study that those districts ranked high in the poverty index i.e. Uttar Dinajpur, Maldah, Murshidabad and Puruliya with a score of greater than 0.350 are in much poor situation as the state average index value is 0.282. Bankura, Bardhaman, Jalpaiguri and Paschim Medinipur are near the state average. Darjiling, Hugli, Haora, North 24 Parganas and Kolkata are much ahead than the state average indicating the impressive situation in terms of human poverty each other (Anand and Sen, 1997) [11]. Uttar Dianjpur, Murshidabad, Maldah and Puuliya the four districts in West Bengal are lagging behind the other districts because of lacking of the basic human development components. Government shall implement its schemes properly to uplift the status of human poverty in these districts and minimize the differences among others. Further work can explore how the HPI could be enriched and made more relevant in situations where a wider range of data on different aspects of poverty and human development are available.

POLICY SUGGESTION

There are two principal suggestions that derive naturally from the human development concept: to enlarge peoples choices and freedoms to enhance capabilities. Apart from these two very broad suggestions, the Human Development Reports have proposed around 200 specific policy options since the launch of the first report in 1990. The following sections analyse whether the innovative nature of the human development definition is reflected in these suggestions, making a difference in proposed actions for policies. The analysis does not follow a comparative approach, meaning that it does not compare the policy options to recommendations from other reports or institutions. This would go beyond the scope of this paper, though it would certainly be a highly useful exercise for future research. Against the background of the theoretical framework of the human development approach outlined in the previous sections, its practical implementation can be juxtaposed to two other approaches of development predominant in the 1990s: neoliberalism and the so called basic needs approach. Even though all three approaches are concerned with human well being, they differ in their understanding of it. As in the utilitarian approaches, for neo liberalism, the main concern is utility maximization, and development is usually measured by economic growth. Rights and human agency are mostly neglected (Fukuda Parr 2003). The basic needs approach shares with the human development approach the fact that both put people in the centre of development. The main difference is that the basic needs approach emphasizes the provision of basic services and commodities for people, whereas for the human development approach, the expansion of capabilities is the foundation for human well being. The basic needs approach thus focuses on materialistic development and is often quantified by poverty measures. The human development approach focuses on freedoms, and the only measurement that comes close to measuring it is the HDI, which can be interpreted as a constitutive measure for what people are able to be or do. Given these substantial differences in the application of the human development approach compared to other approaches, it can be expected that the uniqueness of the Human Development Report s concept of development leads to a peculiar kind of policy recommendation. In a preparatory stocktaking exercise, the author of this paper thoroughly reviewed the suggestions of all Human Development Reports from the first launch in 1990. The results of this review are documented in which shows a list of all policy options and indicates in which report they were published. The next sections will categorize the

options according to their policy objectives, and then analyse whether and to what extent they are uniquely attached to the human development approach. The policies suggested by the Human Development Reports can be broadly grouped into 14 categories according to overall policy objective Annex I). Most suggestions were made towards the objective of “growth with equity ” “improve social policies ” “participatory development ” ”build a new global compact” and “environmental protection ” Other, more specific suggestions aim at gender equality, private sector development, peace and security, technology development, human rights, food security, managing migration and cultural liberty. Figure 1 presents the categories in which policy options were suggested, ranked according to the number of suggestions made in each category. The total numbers comprise the number of different suggestions made within one category and the number of repetitions of the respective recommendation in different reports. They thus represent the total number of policy options suggested within respective group. The numbers can therefore be interpreted to reflect how much emphasis is put on each objectives.

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