



PROJECT REPORT ON

**A STUDY ON OVER ALL PERFORMANCE HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

Project Submitted By

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To

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INTRODUCTION

Human development is an interesting perception within a turf of international development. It engages studies of the human provision with its nucleus being the potential approach. Human development is the process characterized by the variation of the material conditions that most influence the possibilities of satisfying needs and desires and to explore and realize the physical and psychic, biological and cultural, individual and social potentials of each person . It is also the name of the science that seeks to understand how and why the people of all ages and circumstances change or remain the same over time. It involves studies of the human condition with its core being the capability approach. The inequality adjusted Human Development Index is used as a way of measuring actual progress in human development by the United Nations. It is an alternative approach to a single focus on economic growth, and focused more on social justice, as a way of understanding progress.

1. Development concerns expanding the choices people have, to lead lives that they value, and improving the human condition so that people have the chance to lead full lives. 2. Thus, human development is about much more than economic growth, which is only a means of enlarging people's choices. 3. Fundamental to enlarging these choices is building human capabilities—the range of things that people can do or be in life. Capabilities are "the substantive freedoms [a person] enjoys to lead the kind of life [they have] reason to value". 4. Human development disperses the concentration of the distribution of goods and services underprivileged people need and center its ideas on human decisions. 5. By investing in people, we enable growth and empower people to pursue many different life paths, thus developing human capabilities. 6. The most basic capabilities for human development are to lead long and healthy lives, be knowledgeable, have access to resources and social services needed for a decent standard of living, and be able to participate in the life of the community. Without these, many choices are not available, and many opportunities in life remain inaccessible.

MOTIVATION

The Human development in west Bengal ha motivated many people to step forward and do something for the society and this had silently motivated the human development so each are incomplete without each other. West Bengal's recent history is mired in violent politics, which leaves an inevitable and indelible mark on development, this thing has triggered the youth to come forward for human development so that the human development in west Bengal does not step.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The review of literature not only gives an opportunity to understand different dimensions concerning an issue but also helps in identifying the conceptual and methodological issues relevant to the study. This will enable the research to gather information and data sources and subject them to sound reasoning and meaningful interpretation. The different issues that have emerged out of the review have been used for the formulation of research objectives and hypotheses. Further it facilitates the identification of research gaps.

This chapter attempts a brief review of the relevant research literature relating to the present study. The review of literature is classified keeping in view the objectives and methodology of the study. The literature review is presented under the following headings. However, some classifications do overlap.

1. Concept and Measurement of Human Development.
2. Economic Growth and Human Development.
3. Human Development in India and Inter-State Disparities.
4. Human Development in Karnataka and Inter-District Disparities and
5. Government Policies and Public Expenditure on Human Development

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.

Srinivasan and Verma (1993) examined the conceptual matrix comprising three levels of development measured in terms of aggregation of the human development and four dimensions of development in terms of economic, socio-psychological, political and spiritual aspects.

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.

Mahbub ul Haqiv(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. A person’s access to income may be one of the choices, but it is not the sum total of human endeavour. People are the real wealth of nation. The basic capabilities for human development consist of health, education, access to resources and community participation. With out these, many choices are simply not available, and many opportunities in life remain inaccessible.

Amartya Sen (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 Human Development Indices for the years 1981, 1991 and 2001. This report uses the same development indicators of the UNDP Human Development Report. But weightages are given with slight changes in the indicators span of life, education and economic attainment are the basic factors in both computations.

Biswajith Guha (2003) in his article “Human Development in India – A Study of Interstate Disparities” has deviated from the established Human Development Indices and has taken access to safe drinking water, electricity connections two meals a day throughout the year, permanent houses and availability of beds in public

hospitals in 15 major states of India. In his opinion a Nation cannot develop without adequate provision for public health, education, food, clothing, shelter and decent standard of living. This article is thought provoking both in the concept and content.

Verma (2003) analysed the technique of measurement of human development indices and to bring forth the degree of gaps in different regions of the world and also in different states of India. He concluded that human development is a broader term which conveys planning for a tolerable life for human beings. Poverty is a very micro term, which is either confined to income poverty or calorie poverty. Human development indices show critical scenario for developing countries, least developed countries, Sub Saharan African countries, South Asian Countries and a few other countries of Southeast Asia.

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.

Pradhan Xi (2007) in his paper Human Development: A Case Study identified status of human development in India at the global level as well as state level. The study followed two methods namely the UNDP, Human Development Index and the Alternative Composite Human Development Index (ACDI). The HDI reflects that a state has high human development, if its value is closer to one and has low human development, if its value is closer to zero. On the contrary, ACDI indicates that a state has high human development, if its score is closer to zero and has low human development, if its score is close to one. He calls for government intervention to improve the status of human development and convergence of regional variations in human development between the states.

OBJECTIVE

The basic objectives of this study are to-

1. Understand the spatial pattern of poverty in West Bengal.
2. Rank the districts of West Bengal by various deprivation index and ultimately by Human Poverty Index.
3. Develop a strategy to address the problem of poverty at district level.
- 4, people must enjoy equitable access to opportunities. Such may be called equality-related capabilities.
5. Another important facet of human development is that development should 'keep going', should 'last long'.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology is the systematic, theoretical analysis of the methods applied to a field of study. It comprises the theoretical analysis of the body of methods and principles associated with a branch of knowledge. For more than 20 years, Human Development Index (HDI) is most popular composite measures of well being. To review economic and social performance across sub-state (i.e. district), most of the states in India have published State Human Development Report. The government has a constant need to estimate levels of well-being across various dimensions to inform resource allocation and to formulate appropriate development programmes. HDI is widely known measure of well-being which synthesizes three dimensions in a linear scale ranging in between 0 and 1. The limitations of such exercise are often overlooked in rush for unidimensional quantitative indicators of well-being. This present paper highlights the methodological drawback of the West Bengal Human Development Report, 2004 and proposes an alternative standard variant of HDI at sub state (i.e. district) level of West Bengal. The index calculated for each criterion selected is a figure showing the level of deprivation in a criterion that a district suffers, compared to the best district in that criterion. This index is a measure of how far a district is form the achievable target

The index is calculated by the following formula:

$$IOD_{ij} (\text{Index}) = \frac{\text{Target } j - \text{Value } ij}{\text{Target } j - \text{Min } j}$$

IOD_{ij} = Index of deprivation for the i th district for the j th criterion.

Target j = This is the maximum achievable target for the j th criterion (for example, it is 100 percent for literacy)

Value ij = This is the value of the i th district for the j th criterion

Min j = This is the minimum value for the j th

For example, in calculating the Index of

Deprivation for literacy of Durg: Target for literacy = 100.0 % , Minimum literacy in districts = 19.0 %, Literacy of Durg = 58.7 %

The calculation is: 100 (Target literacy) – 58.7 (Literacy in Durg) / 100 (Target literacy) – 19.0 (Minimum Literacy)

Therefore, Index of Deprivation for Durg in literacy = 0.51

The criteria used for the district HDI and the methodology applied for the west Bengal. Human Development Index (MPHDI) for districts are given below. It needs to be mentioned here that the calculations for the indices and the data used for such calculations should not be used in isolation from the index, since much of the district data used is relevant in comparing districts and may not be a proper indicator in isolation from the index.

Results

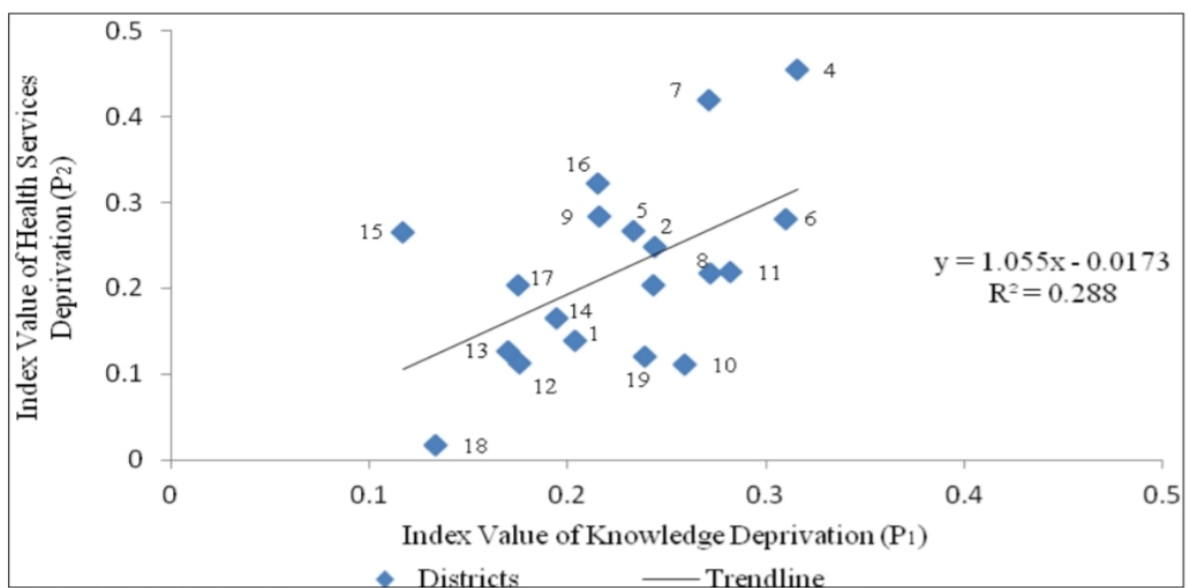
After analyzing the data in the prescribed methodology, a clear picture about the spatial pattern of human poverty can be observed. Human development is a key factor of this kind of spatial pattern. Table-1 reflects the district-wise status of health services deprivation on the basis of percentage of non-institutional deliveries. Non institutional deliveries not only means there are lack of necessary health infrastructure especially for the pregnant, but also denote the overall poor condition of health services. Kolkata with a score of 0.017 ranked first in this index on the other hand Uttar Dinajpur is far behind with a score of 0.455. Percentage of non-institutional deliveries generally increases with the lack of health care infrastructure and poverty. Kolkata, Bankura, Hugli and Nadia are the districts where occurrences of non-institutional deliveries are much lower than Uttar Dinajpur, Murshidabad, South 24 Parganas and Bardhaman. There are serious relationship between knowledge deprivation and health service deprivation. Because non-institutional deliveries are also happen due to lack of awareness among the households.

Table 1: District-wise health services deprivation (P1)

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	Koch bihar	20.5	0.205	9
4	Utter dinajpur	45.5	0.455	19
5	Dakshin dinajpur	26.7	0.267	13
6	Malda	28.0	0.280	15
7	Murshidabad	41.9	0.419	18
8	Birbhum	21.7	0.217	10

9	Bardhaman	28.4	0.284	16
10	Bankura	11.1	0.111	2
11	Puruliya	21.9	0.219	11
12	Hoogly	11.2	0.112	3
13	Howrah	12.6	0.126	5
14	Paschim medinipur	16.5	0.165	7
15	Purbo medinipur	26.5	0.265	14
16	South 24 Pargana	32.3	0.323	17
17	North 24 Pargana	20.4	0.204	8
18	Kolkata	01.7	0.017	1
19	Nadia	12.0	0.120	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

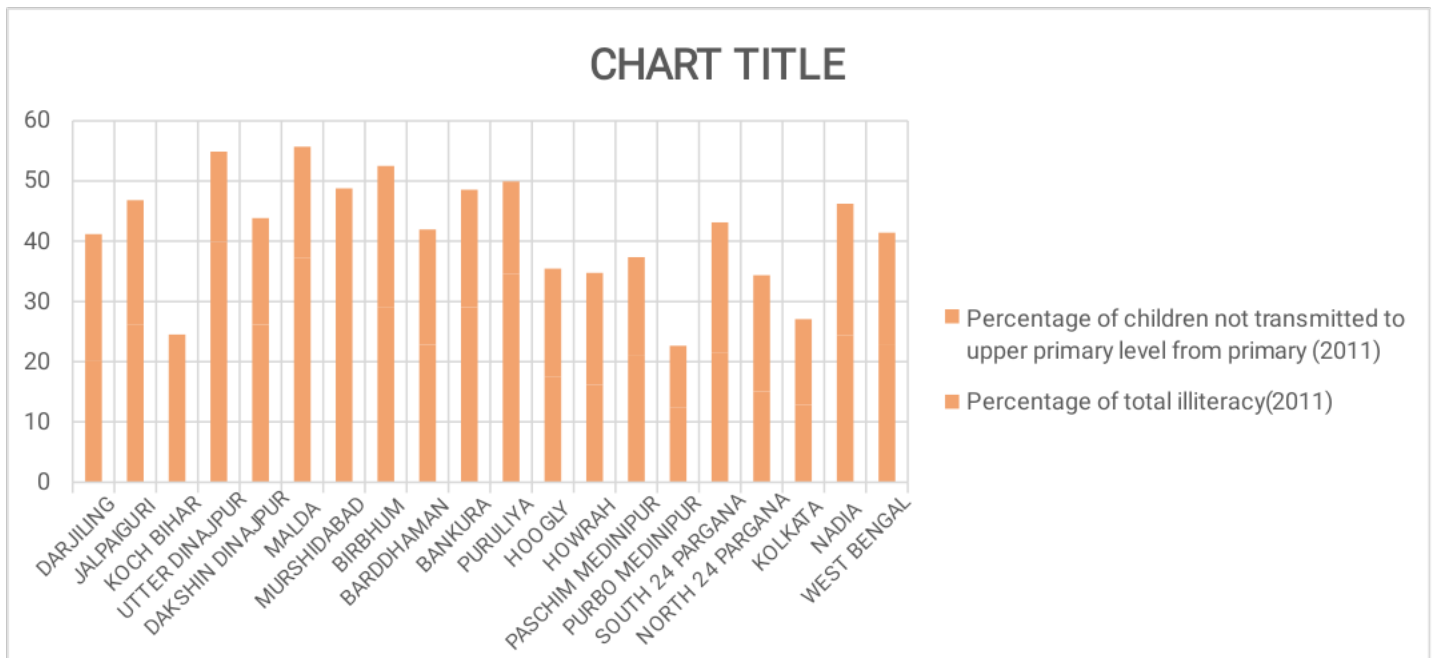
Human poverty index of West Bengal Three deprivation indexes are constructed in three different tables. Table-1 reflects the district-wise status of index of knowledge deprivation where Purba Medinipur ranked first with an index value of 0.117 and Uttar Dinajpur ranked last with 0.316. In case of percentage 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 2: District-wise knowledge deprivation (P2)

SL.No	District	Percentage of total illiteracy(2011)	Percentage of children not transmitted to upper primary level from primary (2011)	Index of knowledge deprivation	Rank
1	Darjiling	20.08	21.1	0.204	8
2	Jalpaiguri	26.21	20.6	0.244	13
3	Koch bihar	24.51	23..80	0.243	12
4	Utter dinajpur	39.87	15	0.316	19
5	Dakshin dinajpur	26.14	17.7	0.233	10
6	Malda	37.29	18.4	0.31	18
7	Murshidabad	32.47	16.3	0.271	15
8	Birbhum	29.1	23.4	0.272	16
9	Barddhaman	22.85	19.1	0.216	9
10	Bankura	29.05	19.5	0.259	14

11	Puruliya	34.62	15.3	0.282	17
12	Hoogly	17.45	18	0.176	5
13	Howrah	16.15	18.6	0.17	3
14	Paschim medinipur	20.96	16.4	0.194	6
15	Purbo medinipur	12.34	10.3	0.117	1
16	South 24 Pargana	21.43	21.7	0.215	7
17	North 24 Pargana	15.05	19.3	0.175	4
18	Kolkata	12.86	14.2	0.133	2
19	Nadia	24.42	21.8	0.239	11
20	West Bengal	22.92	18.5	0.215	_

Source: Col.2- Census-2011, Col.3 – Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India



Source: Col.2- Census-2011, Col.3 – Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India

It is evident from fig. 2 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 the districts.

Table 3: District-wise provisioning deprivation.

District	Percentage of household having no electricity	Percentage of Household Having No Latrine Facilities within the Premises	Percentage of Household Having No Access to Safe Drinking Water	Index of Provisioning Deprivation	Rank
Darjiling	18.99	27.70	27.69	0.248	3
Jalpaiguri	55.26	50.25	16.67	0.408	10
Koch Bihar	72.37	40.76	06.40	0.398	9
Utter dinajpur	66.68	72.48	12.91	0.507	15
Dakhiya dinajpur	57.58	63.16	25.42	0.487	13
Malda	64.51	68.26	27.52	0.531	16
Murshidabad	64.35	60.47	25.28	0.497	14
Birbhum	58.95	75.92	35.03	0.566	17
Bardhaman	38.44	44.32	25.88	0.362	8
Bankura	55.76	79.70	37.84	0.578	18

Puruliya	66.64	88.15	50.52	0.684	19
Hoogly	23.96	28.79	24.91	0.259	4
Howrah	22.56	25.31	30.14	0.260	5
Pashim medinipur	47.41	53.86	34.83	0.454	12
Purbo medinipur	51.73	14.72	41.87	0.361	7
South24 Pargana	52.67	37.41	42.24	0.441	11
North 24 Pargana	29.55	12.50	20.06	0.207	2
Kolkata	03.79	05.07	06.06	0.050	1
Nadia	49.37	22.41	11.69	0.275	6
West Bengal	45.51	41.15	26.64	0.375	-

Source: Col. 2, 3, 4 – Census-2011

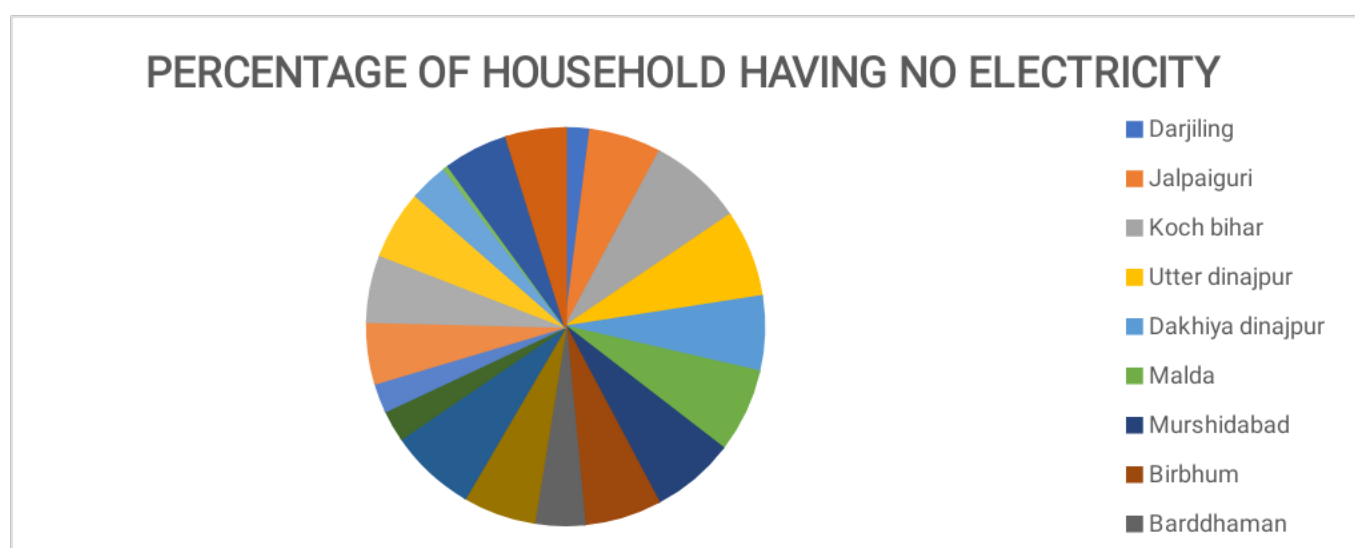
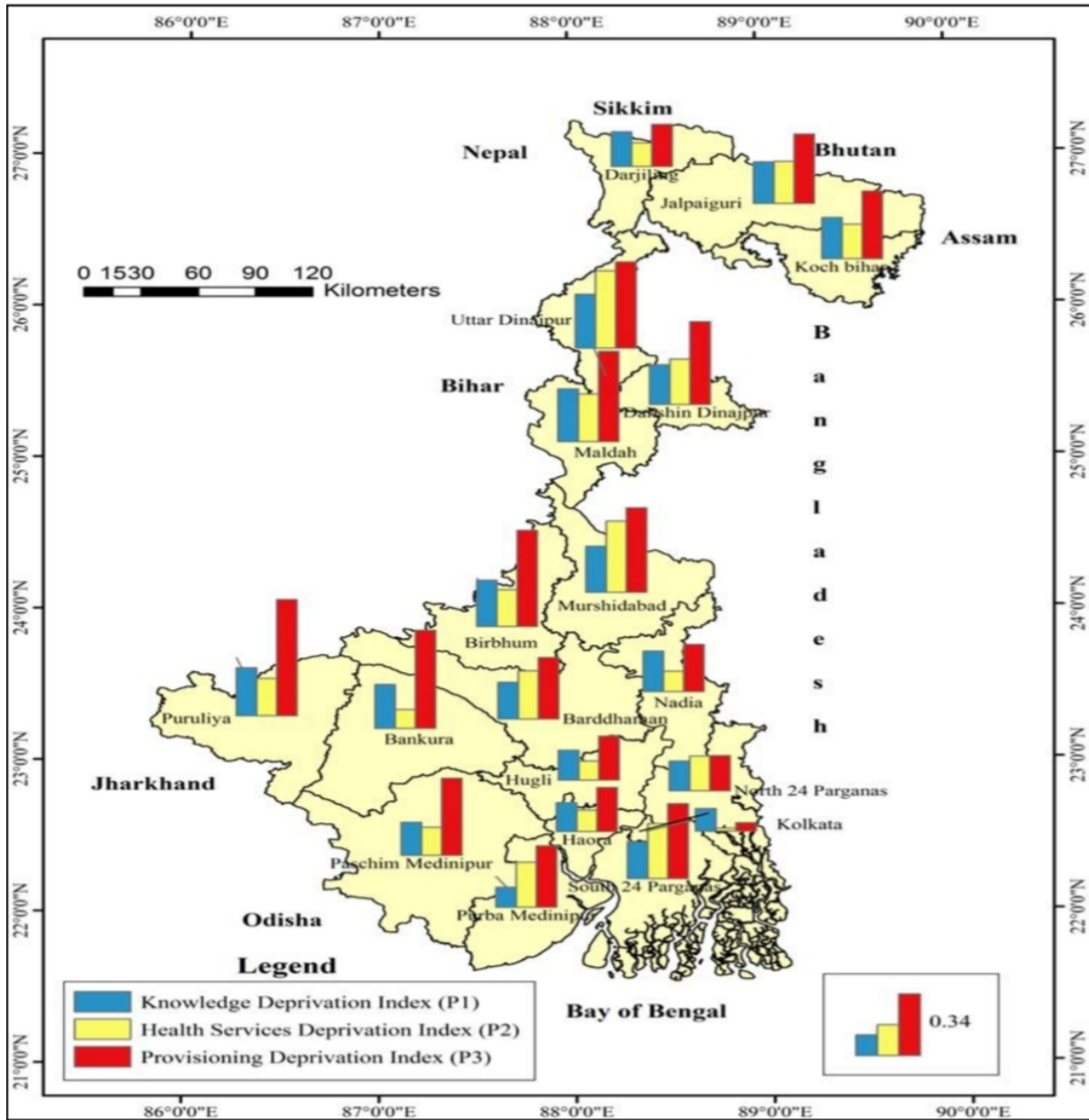


Fig2:Source: Col. 2, 3, 4 – Census-2011

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 poverty especially from the developing countries. Fig-2 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 the low level of human development and vice-versa.



Source: Computed by the author

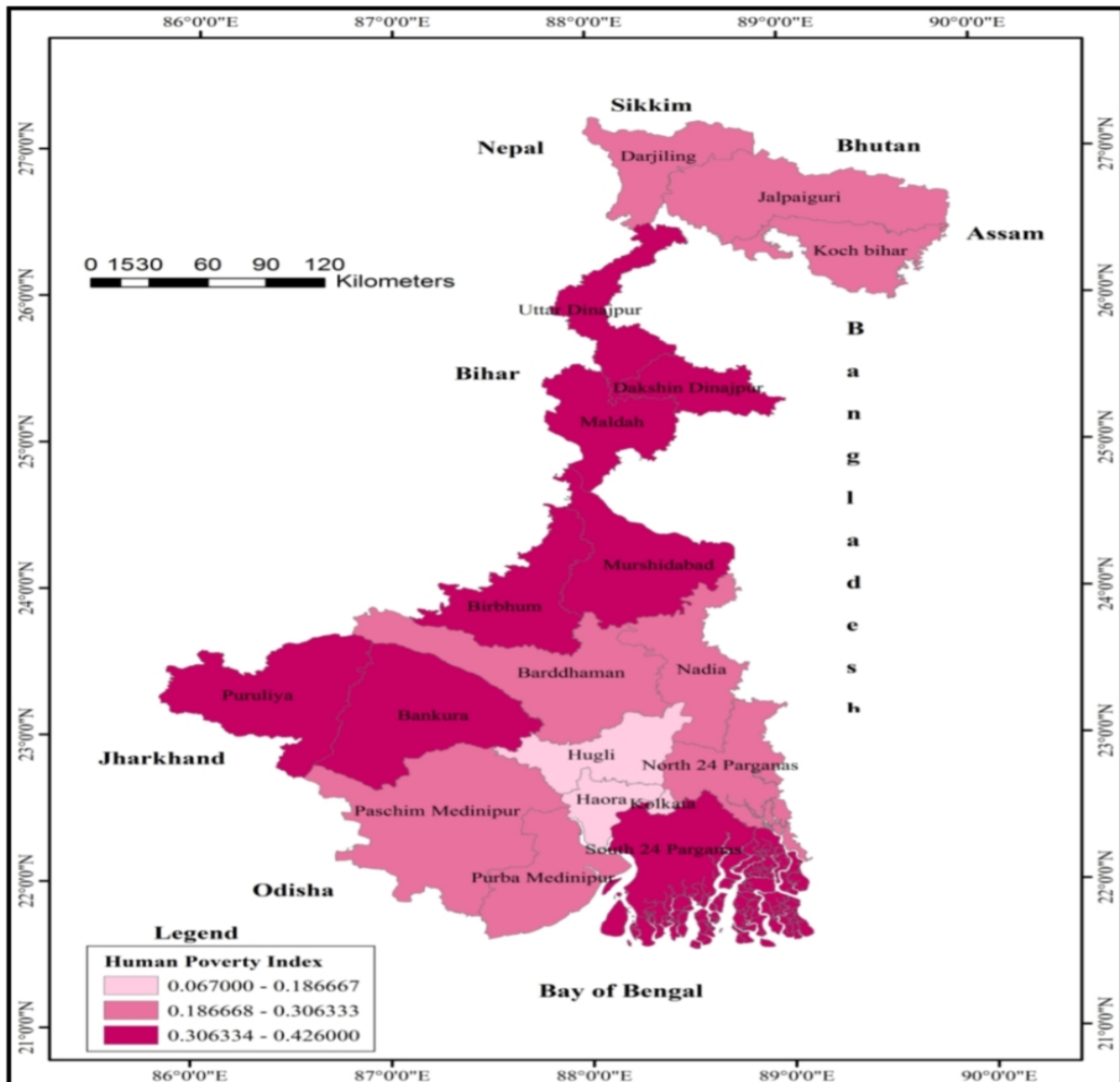
Fig 5: District-wise Spatial Pattern of Different Deprivation Indexes in West Bengal, 2011-12

In 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. Hoogly ,Howrah, 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 (P1)	Health Services Deprivation Index (P2)	Provisioning Deprivation Index (P3)	Modified Human Poverty Index	Rank
Darjiling	0.204	0.139	0.248	0.197	5
Jalpaiguri	0.244	0.248	0.408	0.300	11
Koch bihar	0.243	0.204	0.398	0.282	9
Utter dinajpur	0.316	0.455	0.507	0.426	19
Dakhiya 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	0.259	0.111	0.578	0.316	12
Puruliya	0.282	0.219	0.684	0.395	17
Hoogly	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
Purbo medinipur	0.117	0.265	0.361	0.248	7
South 24 Parganas	0.215	0.323	0.441	0.326	13
North 24 Parganas	0.175	0.204	0.207	0.195	4
Kolkata	0.133	0.017	0.050	0.067	1
Nadia	0.249	0.120	0.278	0.212	6
West Bengal	0.215	0.254	0.378	0.282	—



Source : Computed by the author

Fig 6: Spatial Pattern of Human Poverty in West Bengal, 2011-12

Fig-4 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.

POLICY SUGGESTION

While the importance of HD is underlined, India must concentrate on its regional and inter-personal disparity and distributional effects. Huge diversity among regions and groups of people create serious inequality among people both across states and within the same state. To resolve these issues, important tools in the hands of the policy makers seems to be provisioning of social infrastructure. In this era of withdrawing state support, a few words in this context are worth mentioning. Social infrastructure provisioning in India has always been burdened with the preconceived notion that these are not profitable activities and the provisioning of those services has to be the responsibility of the State. Theoretically, this is justified by the 'Social Good' character of these services and the related External Economies. However, this method is facing increasing problems because of excess demand, inefficient services, failure of the Government to upgrade technology and inefficient management. The state has had to shoulder the financial burden of providing such services, which have become increasingly costly over time. There has been no effort to recover 'user charges' or even any analysis to gauge the prices that the users are willing to pay. Consequently, these sectors have always been a drain on the public exchequer. As the resource crunch has become serious in recent times, the allocation of funds to these sectors has slowed down and the State is increasingly unable to meet the rising demand for such services. But withdrawal of the State affects the poorer section of the people and not the rich who can afford private purchase of those services. Galbraith's comment about 'Private affluence amid public squalor' is most appropriate to describe the situation. As a result, human development is bound to suffer a setback (At the higher ends of human development levels, availability or otherwise of services does not have much effect as they are already on the higher HD trajectory. But at the lower ends of the scale, huge marginal impacts are evident). Consequently, instead of withdrawing its services in blanket terms, the govt. must adopt a differential price policy. Differential prices must be based on 'Block Tariff' policy, where a subsidized rate is charged for first few units of service (called the 'lifeline' rate) so that the poor can access the service, at least up to the basic minimum necessity level. Beyond that, the rates must be taxed to recoup the subsidy - so that rich or heavy users pay more than the cost. This will

make the services sustainable without sacrificing the goals of social equity. In other words, we must sincerely endeavour to create an environment and policy atmosphere that will uplift and empower the socially marginalized and hitherto excluded mass of people. The real answer lies in adopting a development model based on 'equality of opportunity' and centrality of human beings, where fixation with growth does not overshadow the real people for whom growth is advocated. After 50 years, the struggle for independence is still on.

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