

District Development Indices

(A Historical Perspective)

Recently considerable effort is being made to document the level of development at district level since this is considered to be an important factor indicating prevalence of poverty and backwardness at district level. Sources of under development of a particular district also indicate the remedial measures required to take that particular district up the development scale. An effort in this direction was made by Institute of Economic & Market Research Pvt. Ltd. as early as 1972 with a grant from UNICEF as part of a larger study on statistical profile of children and youth in India.

In this study for identification of under developed districts several criteria were adopted. These are listed at Annexure 1.

It will be observed that in 1972 the statistical system was not as well developed as at present nor was data easily accessible on portals and websites. The data required for this study was, therefore, assembled with reference to their basic sources. Even here some of the data available was as old as few years away from the year of reference that was 1971. Based on available data districts were ranked according to value of each indicator in descending order of magnitude except in the case of two indicators i.e. density of population and percentage of agricultural workers. Here the ranking has been drawn according to ascending order as these are considered to be inversely associated with the stage of development.

Source: S.P.Ahuja, Hony. Director, Centre for Research Planning & Action, New Delhi

A further deviation was made in the case of density of population in as much as all the districts having density of 250 per sq. km have been given rank 1, 251 to 500 per sq.km rank 2, 501 to 1000 rank 3, 1001 to 2000 rank 4 and above 2000 per sq.km. rank 5. This has been done because in the context of development activities it is considered that the population density has a mild inverse association with the stage of development.

The level of development of each district as finally computed is inversely related to size of its total rank suggesting that more developed districts will have lower ranks. In order to classify districts as developed, partially developed and under developed the ranks in each state have been arranged in ascending order. This gives a distribution showing number of districts and their ranks

The distribution of the districts by level of development has been divided into three parts by following the formula of percentiles. All districts having ranks lower than the value of 33.3 have been defined as developed; districts having rank of higher than the value of 66.6 as under developed. The districts having ranks lying between the values 66.6 to 33.3 have been defined as partially developed.

District-wise ranks used are within the States and do not allow for inter state comparison of levels of development of districts located in different States.

As far as possible at that point of time an attempt was made to secure the latest available data for each of the criteria listed. However, at that point of time in some cases latest possible data was 5 to 7 years old. It has been assumed that any changes in these data over time between the period for which the data has been used and 1971 which is the reference year of the study has been evenly distributed as between districts without disturbing the distribution as between developed, partially developed and under developed.

The districts identified as developed, partially developed and under developed based on the criteria presented above are given in annexure II. This annexure gives development ranking district- wise for 16 major states as existing at that time which are :

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|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 7. Kerala | 14. Tamil Nadu |
| 2. Assam | 8. Madhya Pradesh | 15. Uttar Pradesh |
| 3. Bihar | 9. Maharashtra | 16. West Bengal |
| 4. Gujarat | 10. Mysore | |
| 5. Haryana | 11. Orissa | |
| 6. Jammu & Kashmir | 12. Punjab | |
| | 13. Rajasthan | |

For U.P. the development level district-wise has been presented separately for 8 hill districts as these existed at that point of time.

District-wise rank obtained by different districts within each state are also indicated in bracket which show the level of distinction within the districts as between developed, partially developed and under developed districts.

The source of data used at that point of time included

(i) General Population Tables: 1971, Office of Registrar General, Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, (ii) State Statistical Abstracts; (iii) Agricultural Situation in India (Monthly), Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, (iv) Basic Road Statistics; (v) Agricultural Statistical Abstract, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, (vi) Tables with notes on the annual survey of Industries 1965, census sector and sample sector, (vii) Educational statistics in states (District-wise), Ministry of Education and Youth Services, Government of India, (viii) Tables of net irrigated and sown area in India – 1967-68, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture. The basic data as developed for each district are presented state-wise in Annexures I-XVI.

It may be observed that data presented refers to 317 districts. Of these 105 districts are developed, 113 districts are partially developed and 99 as under developed. It may be added that these were the districts as in 1971 though as at present we have nearly 600 districts. For this important reason the district-wise development level as indicated for 1971 may be treated as suggestive of the situation at that point of time and may form useful basis for comparison with levels of development reached today, district by district, indicating which districts have performed better than others over time, under the impact of variety of development initiative taken since then both by central and state government and also non-state actors.

This presentation is intended to facilitate comparative analysis of district-wise development studies which are currently in progress in some states with the hope that it will be useful to the scholars working in this area.

Annexure 1

Criteria for Ranking

| Sl.No. | Ranking | | | | | |
|--------|---|------|-------|-----------------|------|-------|
| 1. | Density of Population per Sq.Km. 1971 | | | | | |
| 2. | Percentage of Agricultural workers to total workers 1971 | | | | | |
| 3. | Cultivable Area per Agricultural worker (acres) 1966-67 | | | | | |
| 4. | Net area sown per Agricultural worker (acres) 1966-67 | | | | | |
| 5. | Percentage of gross irrigated area to gross sown area 1967-68 | | | | | |
| 6. | Percentage of area sown more than once to net sown area 1967-68 | | | | | |
| 7. | Per capita population (R) Gross value of agricultural output 1966-67 | | | | | |
| 8. | Establishment using electricity 1968 | | | | | |
| 9. | No. of workers per lakh of population in registered factories 1965 | | | | | |
| 10. | Mileage of Surfaced Roads | | | | | |
| | Per '000 Sq. miles 1965-66 | | | | | |
| | Per lakh of population 1965-66 | | | | | |
| 11. | No. of commercial vehicles registered as on 31 st March 1967 | | | | | |
| 12. | Percentage of Literate population in 1971 | | | | | |
| | Men | | Women | | | |
| 13. | Percentage of School going children 1965-66 | | | | | |
| | Age Group 6-11 | Boys | Girls | Age group 11-14 | Boys | Girls |
| | | | | | | |
| 14. | No. of Seats per million population for Technical Training | | | | | |
| | Crafts Man | | | Diploma Level | | |
| 15. | Hospital Beds per lakh of population 1966-67 | | | | | |
| 16. | Percentage of Scheduled Castes to the total population | | | | | |
| 17. | Percentage of Scheduled Tribes to the total population | | | | | |

Annexure 2**Distribution of Districts by Levels of Development : State-wise**

| State | Developed Districts | | Partially Developed Districts | | Under Developed Districts | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | 1. | Krishna (96) | 1. | Vishakhapatnam(185) | 1. | Srikakulam (259) |
| | 2. | Hyderabad (106) | 2. | Cuddahpah (190) | 2. | Mehbub Nagar (274) |
| | 3. | Guntur (119) | 3. | Chittoor (199) | 3. | Nalgonda (278) |
| | 4. | East Godawari (122) | 4. | Anantapur (200) | 4. | Karim Nagar (284) |
| | 5. | West Godawari (137) | 5. | Nizamabad (225) | 5. | Khammam (286) |
| | 6. | Nellore (167) | 6. | Warrangal (229) | 6. | Medak (296) |
| | 7. | Kurnool (172) | 7. | Ongole (255) | 7. | Adilabad (310) |
| Assam | 1. | Sibsagar (77) | 1. | Nowgong (114) | 1. | Golapara (152) |
| | 2. | U.K.& J.Hills (97) | 2. | Darrang (118) | 2. | Garo Hills (167) |
| | 3. | Lakhimpur (101) | 3. | Cachar (133) | 3. | U.M & N.C.Hills (194) |
| | 4. | Kamrup(106) | 4. | Mizo Hills (137) | | |
| Bihar | 1. | Patna (89) | 1. | Gaya (179) | 1. | Muzaffarpur (221) |
| | 2. | Shahabad (121) | 2. | Moghyr (183) | 2. | Purnea (222) |
| | 3. | Ranchi (124) | 3. | Hazaribagh (191) | 3. | Champanan (224) |
| | 4. | Dhanbad (130) | 4. | Santhal Paraganas(207) | 4. | Darbhangha (229) |
| | 5. | Singhbum (144) | 5. | Palamau (208) | 5. | Saharsa (263) |
| | 6. | Bhagalpur (147) | 6. | Saran (209) | | |
| Gujarat | 1. | Ahmedabad (100) | 1. | Baroda (182) | 1. | Sabar Kantha(213) |
| | 2. | Rajkot (130) | 2. | Bhavnagar (195) | 2. | Kutch (236) |
| | 3. | Surat (152) | 3. | Surendra Nagar(198) | 3. | The Dangs (256) |
| | 4. | Jamnagar (170) | 4. | Junagadh (201) | 4. | Panchmahals (258) |
| | 5. | Kaira (172) | 5. | Baroach (202) | 5. | Banas Kantha (266) |
| | 6. | Mehesana (177) | 6. | Amreli (204) | 6. | Gandhu Nagar (293) |
| | | | 7. | Bulsar (189) | | |
| Haryana | 1 | Ambala (64) | 1. | Gurgaon (78) | 1. | Mahendragarh(93) |
| | 2. | Rohtak (65) | 2. | Hissar (79) | 2. | Jind (125) |
| | | | 3. | Karnal (85) | | |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 1. | Jammu (60) | 1. | Udhampur(98) | 1. | Doda (118) |
| | 2. | Kathua (67) | 2. | Punch (103) | 2 | Rajouri (123) |
| | 3. | Srinagar (75) | 3. | Anantnag (105) | 3 | Laddakh (133) |
| | | | 4. | Baramula (116) | | |
| Kerala | 1. | Ernakulam (79) | 1. | Kotayyam (91) | 1. | Cannanore (127) |

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| | 2. | Trivandrum (81) | 2. | Appeccy (104) | 2. | Palghat (154) |
| | 3. | Trichur (86) | 3. | Quilon (107) | 3. | Malappuram (195) |
| | | | 4. | Kozhikode (115) | | |

| State | Developed Districts | | Partially Developed Districts | | Under Developed Districts | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Madhya Pradesh | 1. | Gwalior (145) | 1. | Balghat (379) | 1. | Bilaspur (481) |
| | 2. | Indore (148) | 2. | Raipur (392) | 2. | Rewa (485) |
| | 3. | Jabalpur (215) | 3. | Betul (393) | 3. | Datia (486) |
| | 4. | Hoshangabad (272) | 4. | Raisen (407) | 4. | Vidisha (508) |
| | 5. | Khandwa (278) | 5. | Satna (420) | 5. | Panna (512) |
| | 6. | Ujjain (287) | 6. | Bhind (421) | 6. | Mandla (519) |
| | 7. | Sehore (290) | 7. | Dewas (423) | 7. | Rajgarh (524) |
| | 8. | Narshimhapur (304) | 8. | Seoni (439) | 8. | Tikamgarh (540) |
| | 9. | Sagar (307) | 9. | Chatarpur (442) | 9. | Shahdol (574) |
| | 10. | Ratlam (308) | 10. | Dhar (458) | 10. | Raigarh (577) |
| | 11. | Mandsaur (315) | 11. | Morena (462) | 11. | Jhabua (646) |
| | 12. | Damoh (320) | 12. | Shajapur (463) | 12. | Surguja (686) |
| | 13. | Durg (363) | 13. | Shivpuri (464) | 13. | Bastar (689) |
| | 14. | Chhindwara (374) | 14. | Khargone (469) | 14. | Sidhi (691) |
| | | 15. | | 15. | Guna (479) | |
| Maharashtra | 1. | Poona (127) | 1. | Jalgaon (236) | 1. | Kolaba (297) |
| | 2. | Nagpur (170) | 2. | Nasik (247) | 2. | Bhandara (328) |
| | 3. | Satara (177) | 3. | Ratnagiri (254) | 3. | Yeotmal (341) |
| | 4. | Greater Mumbai (198) | 4. | Aurangabad (256) | 4. | Bhir (346) |
| | 5. | Sholapur (199) | 5. | Thana (257) | 5. | Chanda (347) |
| | 6. | Ahmednagar (202) | 6. | Kolhapur (259) | 6. | Osmanabad (352) |
| | 7. | Wardha (207) | 7. | Akola (263) | 7. | Nanded (377) |
| | 8. | Sangli (216) | 8. | Buldhana (277) | 8. | Parbhani (378) |
| | 9. | Amravati (231) | 9. | Dhulia (293) | | |
| Mysore | 1. | South Kanara (130) | 1. | Mysore (191) | 1. | Kolar (235) |
| | 2. | Coorg (138) | 2. | North Kanara (192) | 2. | Mandya (244) |
| | 3. | Shimoga (141) | 3. | Hassan (197) | 3. | Tumkur (251) |
| | 4. | Dharwar(158) | 4. | Chickmangalur (204) | 4. | Gulbarga (273) |
| | 5. | Bangalore (161) | 5. | Bellary (216) | 5. | Raichur (279) |
| | 6. | Chitradurga (186) | 6. | Bijapur (225) | 6. | Bidar (319) |
| | | | 7. | Belgaum (234) | | |
| Orissa | 1. | Cuttack (77) | 1. | Sundergarh (130) | 1. | Kalahandi (222) |
| | 2. | Samalpur (98) | 2. | Ganjam (144) | 2. | Phulbani (188) |
| | 3. | Puri (120) | 3. | Koraput (177) | 3. | Mayurbhanj (187) |
| | 4. | Balasore (129) | 4. | Keonjhar (174) | 4. | Balangir (189) |
| | 5. | | 5. | Dhenkanal (133) | | |

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Punjab | 1. | Ludhiana (76) | 1. | Gurdaspur (121) | 1. | Hoshiarpur (143) |
| | 2. | Kapurthala (101) | 2. | Ropar (131) | 2. | Bhatinda (158) |
| | 3. | Jalandhar (105) | 3. | Patiala (136) | 3. | Sangrur (161) |
| | 4. | Amritsar (110) | 4. | Ferozpur (138) | 4. | |
| State | Developed Districts | | Partially Developed Districts | | Under Developed Districts | |
| Rajasthan | 1. | Bikaner (128) | 1. | Udaipur (239) | 1. | Tonk (324) |
| | 2. | Ajmer (130) | 2. | Sirohi (246) | 2. | Dungarpur (377) |
| | 3. | Kota (149) | 3. | Jhunjhunu (253) | 3. | Jalore (385) |
| | 4. | Jodhpur (164) | 4. | Pali (256) | 4. | Bhilwara (334) |
| | 5. | Jaipur (210) | 5. | Jhalawar (258) | 5. | Barmer (370) |
| | 6. | Ganganagar (211) | 6. | Churu (264) | 6. | Swai Modhopur (345) |
| | 7. | Alwar (224) | 7. | Sikar (290) | 7. | Banswara (343) |
| | 8. | Bundi (226) | 8. | Chittaurgarh (305) | 8. | Jaisalmer (331) |
| | 9. | Bharatpur (227) | 9. | Nagaur (310) | | |
| Tamil Nadu | 1. | Madras (30) | 1. | Ramanathpuram (151) | 1. | Salem (189) |
| | 2. | Kanya Kumari (83) | 2. | Madurai (153) | 2. | North Arcot (189) |
| | 3. | Coimbatore (121) | 3. | Thanjavur (161) | 3. | South Arcot (191) |
| | 4. | Tirunelveli (127) | 4. | Tiruchirapalli (167) | 4. | Dharmapur (223) |
| | 5. | Chingleput (130) | 5. | Nilgiris (172) | | |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1. | Meerut (145) | 1. | Farrukhabad (346) | 1. | Ghazipur (491) |
| | 2. | Mathura (187) | 2. | Allahabad (372) | 2. | Deoria (495) |
| | 3. | Saharanpur (194) | 3. | Etah (374) | 3. | Jaunpur (499) |
| | 4. | Kanpur (204) | 4. | Bareilly (379) | 4. | Fatehpur (501) |
| | 5. | Agra (209) | 5. | Pilibhit (385) | 5. | Banda (507) |
| | 6. | Aligarh (226) | 6. | Jalaun (388) | 6. | Sitapur (535) |
| | 7. | Varanasi (226) | 7. | Rampur (397) | 7. | Rae Barelli (537) |
| | 8. | Muzaffarnagar (233) | 8. | Kheri (435) | 8. | Hardoi (545) |
| | 9. | Lucknow (239) | 9. | Ballia (442) | 9. | Gonda (569) |
| | 10. | Bulandshahr (274) | 10. | Hamirpur (452) | 10. | Pratapgarh (571) |
| | 11. | Bijnor (311) | 11. | Gorakhpur (457) | 11. | Badaun (572) |
| | 12. | Etawah (312) | 12. | Shahjahanpur (460) | 12. | Azamgarh (586) |
| | 13. | Mainpuri (317) | 13. | Faizabad (464) | 13. | Barabanki (595) |
| | 14. | Jhansi (335) | 14. | Unnao (470) | 14. | Basti (624) |
| | 15. | Moradabad (339) | 15. | Mirzapur (479) | 15. | Baharaich (642) |
| | | | 16. | Sultanpur (482) | | |
| Hill Regions (U.P.) | 16. | Dehradun (27) | 17. | Garhwal (61) | 16. | Tehri Garhwal (85) |
| | 17. | Nainital (44) | 18. | Almora (65) | 17. | Uttar Kashi (85) |
| | | | 19. | Pithoragarh (76) | 18. | Chamoli (88) |
| West Bengal | 1. | Howrah (127) | 1. | 24-Parganas(164) | 1. | Murshidabad (225) |

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| | 2. | Hooghly (128) | 2. | Darjeeling (167) | 2. | Purulia (236) |
| | 3. | Kolkata (135) | 3. | Midanpur (175) | 3. | West Dinajpur (238) |
| | 4. | Nadia (141) | 4. | Jalpaiguri (181) | 4. | Cooch Bahar (248) |
| | 5. | Burdwan 9131) | 5. | Birbhum (184) | 5. | Malda (265) |
| | | | 6. | Bankura (192) | | |

Note :- Ranks are within States and do not allow for inter-state comparison of levels of development of districts located in different states