

Inter-Regional Disparities In India

Mrs.Priya

Research Scholar

Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo

&

Dr.Gursimran Kaur

Assistant Professor

Guru Kashi University, Talwandi Sabo

Abstract:-Historically, India had been ruled over by many kings and kingdoms which divided the country into different regions. Each region has its own cultural and religious heritage. The livelihood pattern and the economic activities are very uneven across these regions which resulted into occurrence of regional disparity in the country. Regional inequality inhibits the economic growth and therefore, by a large, it is remain the major concern of economic policies of number of developing countries. The reduction in regional disparities could be an essential tool for socio-economic development, national integration, political stability and unity of a country.

Keywords: - Education, Health, Income, Disparities,

Introduction:-Regional disparities with respect to economic and social development have been the key indicators in the planning process since independence in India. Backwards regions were the priority areas of the government investment and massive investments were made by the public and private sector to minimize the regional gap. Besides all these efforts, the achievement could not commensurate with these efforts and still considerable level of regional disparities remained prevailing in the country (Ponmuthusaravanan and Ravi, 2016).

1.1 Region-wise population of India

Table 1.1 reveals that northern region leading the country in terms of population. As per the estimates, the northern region constituted about 28 per cent share in the total population of India during 1981 census, while the respective share came out to be 28.70%, 29.91 % and 30.46 % during the 1991, 2001 and 2011, respectively.

Table 1.1: Region-wise population of India, 1981 to 2011

Regions	1981	1991	2001	2011
Population (in crores)				
North region	19.18	24.29	30.77	36.88
East region	15.09	18.61	22.69	27.03
South region	16.52	19.73	22.43	25.25
West region	9.81	12.17	14.93	17.49
Central India	5.22	6.62	8.12	9.82
North-east region	2.53	3.22	3.92	4.62

INDIA	68.33	84.64	102.86	121.09
% share to total				
North region	28.06	28.70	29.91	30.46
East region	22.08	21.99	22.06	22.33
South region	24.17	23.31	21.81	20.86
West region	14.35	14.37	14.51	14.44
Central India	7.64	7.82	7.89	8.11
North-east region	3.70	3.81	3.81	3.81
INDIA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

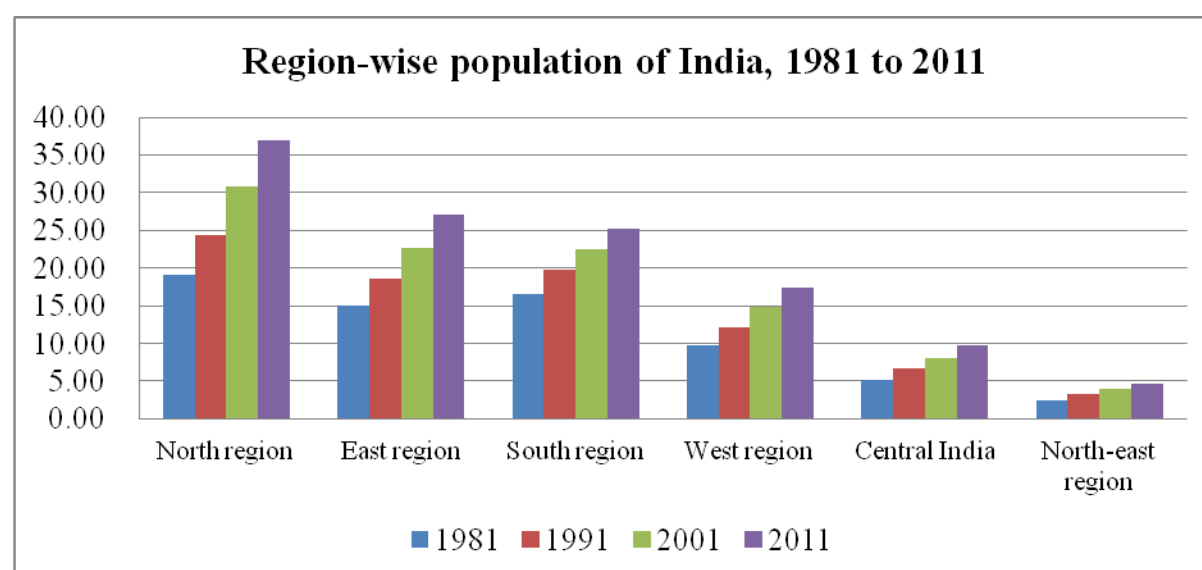


Figure: I

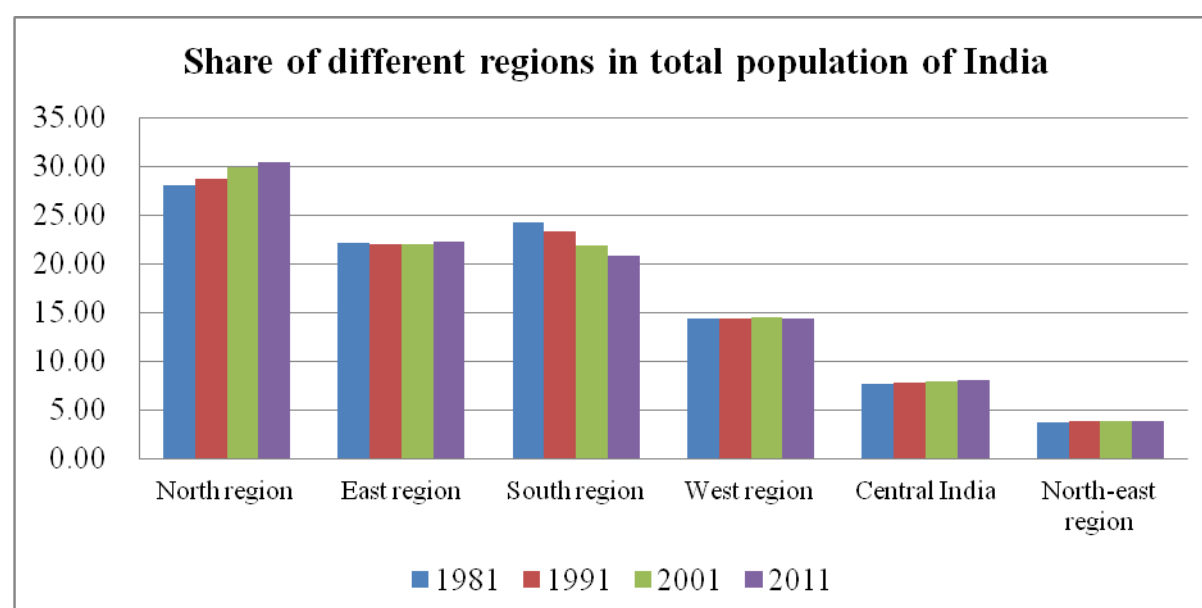


Figure: II

1.2 Sex ratio and population density of different regions in India

Table 1.2 reveals that southern region have been leading the country in terms of sex ratio (1001), followed by north-east region (959), central India (946), east region (942), west region (925) and least in north region (911). East region (646) of the country recognized as mostly dense area in terms of population density. The population density estimated to be 365, 344, 397, 221 and 171 in north, west, south, central and north-east region of the country, respectively. The analysis revealed the sex was the highest and ideal in south region. Sex ratio reported to be higher than national figure (943) in north-east (959) and central India (946), however, northern states are very much irrational in terms of sex ratio.

Table 1.2: Sex ratio and population density of different regions in India, census, 2011

Regions	Sex ratio	Density (person/sq. km)
North region	911	365
West region	925	344
South region	1001	397
East region	942	646
Central India	946	221
North-east region	959	171
INDIA	943	368

1.3 Regional disparity of various health indicators

The regional disparity estimates with respect to various health indicators are given in Table 1.3 The value of regional disparity index in northern region worked out to be 7.10, 5.88, 7.38, 7.44, 7.20, 9.91 and 7.48 in case of crude birth rate, crude death rate, neo-natal mortality rate (NNMR), infant mortality rate (IMR), under five years mortality rate (U5MR), maternal mortality rate and total fertility rate. It is evident that the degree of regional disparity with respect to all health indicators turned out to be the highest in northern region of the country. The regional disparity index reported to be consistently low in north-east region of the state. Central India, eastern and western regions of the country have shown moderate variations in terms of regional disparity. Central India has been following northern region in terms of regional variations in case of all health indicators except crude birth rate, crude death rate, and total fertility rate, whereas eastern states following to northern states in case of crude birth rate and total fertility rate, while western states following northern states in case of crude death rate, respectively.

Table 1.3: Regional disparity with respect to various health indicators

Regions	C.B.R. (Crude Birth Rate)	C.D.R. (Crude Death Rate)	"NNMR (Neo- natal Mortality	I.M.R. (Infant Mortality Rate)	Under 5 Mortality Rate 2015	Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)	T.F.R. (Total Fertility Rate)
Northern States	7.10	5.88	7.38	7.44	7.20	9.91	7.48
Western States	3.65	4.23	3.18	2.94	3.08	2.11	3.65
Southern States	1.64	2.09	1.80	1.69	1.64	1.66	1.49
Eastern States	3.86	2.58	3.17	3.23	3.27	3.16	4.20
Central India	3.55	2.98	4.45	4.39	4.85	3.50	3.55
North-eastern States	0.92	0.91	0.98	1.21	1.43	1.67	0.86

1.4 Regional distribution with respect to educational institutions, level of enrollment and teachers in India

Region wise distribution with respect to status of education is given in Table 1.4. The analysis shows that northern region leading the country in terms of number of educational institutions, level of enrolment at various levels of education and number of teachers. Against the total national figure, northern region constituted about 32.29 per cent share in total educational institutions, 33.05 per cent share in total enrolment at school level, 33.75 per cent share in total enrolment at secondary level, 33.82 per cent share in total enrolment at diploma courses and 31.36 per cent share in total teachers in India. Whereas, the southern states occupied the highest share i.e. 34.48 per cent share in total enrolments at higher level of education of the country. It is evident that three regions namely northern, southern and eastern regions emerged as highly competitive regions of the country in terms of distribution of educational institutions, level of enrolment at different level of education and number of teachers in India. These three regions together, constituted more than sixty per cent share in the total national figure of the country. The distribution of educational institutions, level of enrolment at different level of education and number of teachers is directly proportional to the size of population. In-depth overview of the estimates indicated that the distribution of educational institutions, level of enrolment and number of teachers was the least in north-eastern states of India, while it was moderately concentrated in western, eastern and central regions of India.

Table 1.4: Regional distribution with respect to total educational institutions, enrollment and teachers

Regions	Total institutions	Enrollment at school level	Enrollment at secondary level	Enrollment at diploma courses	Enrollment at higher education	Total Teachers
Northern States	5,24,576	8,59,83,081	1,15,07,250	1,08,73,710	11,91,089	27,19,142
Western States	1,80,724	3,45,29,168	52,17,821	49,98,959	5,92,129	11,36,977
Southern States	2,90,715	4,49,50,199	94,47,792	89,13,784	13,71,561	17,91,209
Eastern States	3,07,332	6,15,78,478	48,29,883	46,12,380	4,27,380	16,03,833
Central India	2,11,695	2,26,60,113	21,60,334	19,17,600	2,79,390	8,33,678

North-eastern States	1,09,606	1,04,56,912	9,36,291	8,36,215	1,16,857	5,86,879
India	16,24,648	26,01,57,951	3,40,99,371	3,21,52,648	39,78,406	86,71,718
% share						
Northern States	32.29	33.05	33.75	33.82	29.94	31.36
Western States	11.12	13.27	15.30	15.55	14.88	13.11
Southern States	17.89	17.28	27.71	27.72	34.48	20.66
Eastern States	18.92	23.67	14.16	14.35	10.74	18.49
Central India	13.03	8.71	6.34	5.96	7.02	9.61
North-eastern States	6.75	4.02	2.75	2.60	2.94	6.77
India	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

1.5 Regional distribution of number of population below poverty line, net state domestic product and per capita net state domestic product

Region wise distribution of number of population below poverty line, net state domestic product (NSDP) and per capita NSDP in India is given in Table 1.5. Poverty is another most important economic indicator that needs to be studied in the context of national income. As per the estimates, the eastern and northern regions have been leading the country in terms of population below poverty line. The former and later region constituted 29.92 and 29.72 per cent share to the total national figure (269785000) of the country. The share of other regions namely central, southern, western, and north-east region turned out to be 12.55, 11.74, 11.17, and 4.89 per cent to the total population below poverty line in India. Hence, the concentration of population below poverty line was relatively more in eastern and northern states of the country. These two regions together, constituted more than sixty per cent share to the total national figure of the country.

The analysis shows that southern region leading the country in terms of NSDP. Against the total national figure (Rs 102661 billion), southern region constituted 31.63 per cent share in total NSDP of the country. Northern states are the next best states which occupied 28.81 per cent share in the total NSDP of the country. Similarly, the western, eastern, central and north-eastern region of the country constituted 22.71, 7.43, 6.33 and 3.09 in total NSDP of the country, respectively. Hence, the distribution of NSDP was observed to relatively more in three regions of the country namely south, north and west regions. These three regions together, constituted more than third-fourth of the total national figure of the country. In-depth overview of the estimates indicated that the distribution of NSDP was very poor in north-eastern states of India and fairly poor in east and central regions of India.

Similarly, it is evident that that the per capita NSDP turned out to be the highest in western region (Rs 133787), followed by southern region (Rs 128613), northern region (Rs 80442), north-east region (Rs 69319), central region (Rs 66150) and least in eastern states (Rs 28208), respectively. The estimates on per capita NSDP indicated that level of per capita NSDP in western and southern region of the country turned out to be 57.52 and 51.43 per cent higher than that of national figure (Rs 84931), while the per capita NSDP of all other region was less than national average figure, respectively. Hence, two regions namely western and southern was observed to relatively more stable in terms of per capita NSDP

than all other regions of the country. Eastern region emerged as very poor region in terms of per capita NSDP in India.

Table 1.5: Region-wise distribution of poverty and income estimates

Regions	Number of population below poverty line	NSDP at current (Rs billion)	Per capita NSDP
Northern States	8,00,54,000	29,581	80442
Western States	3,00,90,000	23,315	133787
Southern States	3,16,36,000	32,472	128613
Eastern States	8,05,99,000	7,626	28208
Central India	3,38,17,000	6,494	66150
North-eastern States	1,31,79,000	3,173	69319
India	26,93,75,000	1,02,661	84931
% share			
Northern States	29.72	28.81	-5.29
Western States	11.17	22.71	57.52
Southern States	11.74	31.63	51.43
Eastern States	29.92	7.43	-66.79
Central India	12.55	6.33	-22.11
North-eastern States	4.89	3.09	-18.38
India	100.00	100.00	-

Note: Negative sign indicates per cent less than national figure in case of per capita NSDP

1.6 Regional disparity with respect to number of population below poverty line, net state domestic product and per capita net state domestic product

Regional disparity has been examined on the basis of regional disparity index and the estimates of disparity index with regard to number of population below poverty line, net state

domestic product and per capita net state domestic product of different regions of the country are presented in Table 1.6. The analysis showed that the distribution population below poverty line was very uneven in northern region of the country. The value of disparity index was the highest in northern region (7.56), followed by eastern region (3.99), western region (3.66), central region (3.41), southern region (1.95) and north-eastern region (1.28) of India. It may be concluded that the distribution of population below poverty line was very much inconsistent in north and east region of the country. The degree of regional disparity noticed to be very high in these two regions, followed by west, central and south region of the country. North-eastern states were relatively more consistent and deprived in terms of distribution of population below poverty line, respectively. .

The value of disparity index with respect to NSDP came out to be 7.12, the highest in the western region, followed by 3.24 in southern region, 2.77 in northern region, 1.79 in central region, 0.80 in eastern region and least 0.80 in north-east region. It is revealed that the value of disparity index was the highest in western regions in case of NSDP. The value of disparity index was reported to be consistently low in north-eastern region of the country. The degree of regional disparity noticed to be very high in western, followed by north and south region of the country. Eastern and north-eastern states emerged as consistently deprived region in terms of NSDP of the country.

The results with regard to disparity index in case of per capita NSDP came out to be very unstable in the western region (17.78), followed eastern (10.81), north-east (7.31), central region (6.90), northern region (6.38) and in southern region (2.66). This indicates that degree of regional disparity noticed to be very high in western, followed by eastern and north-eastern region of the country. Southern region emerged as relatively better region in terms of per capita NSDP of the country.

Table 1.6: Regional disparity with respect to poverty and income estimates

Regions	Number of population below poverty line	NSDP at current Rs billion	Per capita NSDP
Northern States	7.56	2.77	6.38
Western States	3.66	7.12	17.78
Southern States	1.95	3.24	2.66
Eastern States	3.99	0.80	10.81
Central India	3.41	1.79	6.90
North-eastern States	1.28	0.59	7.31

1.7 Overall disparity index

The uneven distribution of economic indicators over the different region of the country is not the good sign of economic development. By applying very comprehensive technique, an overall disparity index of different regions have been developed by taking into account the degree of disparities with regard to three major economic indicators i.e. health income and education. The results in this regard have been presented in Table 1.7. The results indicated that the value of regional disparity index in favour of health, education and income turned out to the highest in northern region of the country. The value of disparity index in favour of health worked out to be 3.259, 0.482, 0.292, 1.011, 1.536 and 0.490 in the case of north, west, south, east, central and north-east regions of the country, whereas, the corresponding figures in case of education was 1.828, 1.221, 0.586, 0.911, 0.817 and 0.238, while the respective figures in favour of income estimated to the tune of 2.489, 1.658, 0.920, 1.369 and 1.321, respectively. An overall disparity index clearly revealed that the degree of region disparity on an overall basis worked out to be the highest in northern region (2.525), followed by central region (1.225), western region (1.121), eastern region (1.097), southern region (0.599) and least in north-east region (0.373), respectively.

Table 1.7: Overall disparity index

Regions	Health	Education	Income	Overall
Northern States	3.259	1.828	2.489	2.525
Western States	0.482	1.221	1.658	1.121
Southern States	0.292	0.586	0.920	0.599
Eastern States	1.011	0.911	1.369	1.097
Central India	1.536	0.817	1.321	1.225
North-eastern States	0.490	0.238	0.390	0.373

Conclusion

It can be said that although, the northern region of the country has been dominated over all other regions in terms of health facilities, educational infrastructure, and inflows of income, but still the distribution with regard to these economic parameters reported to be very

uneven in this region as compared to all other region of the country. In contrast, it is relatively more consistent in north-east region regardless; this region was very poor in terms of economic infrastructure in the respect of health, education and income, respectively. All other regions were reported to lie between these two regions in terms of regional disparity.

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