International Journal of Scientific Engineering and Research (IJSER)
www.ijser.in
ISSN (Online): 2347-3878, Impact Factor (2014): 3.05

Block Level Disparity in Social Development: A Case Study of Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, India

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Abstract: ***A social scientist has their own perception of development processes. Economic development seems to be of little relevance in the absence of social development. Social development essentially is one of dimensions focusing on overall development. Social development has its focus on development of people in terms of their mutual relations and the institutional and structural change in the society. The two most significant parameters of measuring social development include quality of life and social justice. The quality of life in this context is measured in terms of social harmony and social cohesion and social justices that have it focus on equal right and opportunities to all segments of a society. Social development generally includes the basic social needs which are very essential to lead a healthy lifestyle within society. This paper emphasis on block level disparity of social development of Paschim Medinipur. Composite index is taken into consideration for analysis of development scenario at block level. Ranks are assigning according to composite development value. Ghatal holds the first (52.11) position where as Nayagram rank 29th in social development.***

Keywords: Social development, Composite index, Quality of life, Social justice, Social harmony

1. Introduction

The social indicators play significant role in the development process of a region. The present study aimed at identifying the inter-block regional disparity and imbalances in the levels of social development in Paschim Medinipur district. In addition to the aggregate picture of regional disparity in the levels of social development, differential patterns of sectoral development in education, health and public-utility are taken into consideration to understand the spatial pattern. It further attempts to identify the contributory geographical and other important factors which in turn would account for such imbalances in spatial social pattern. Social Development Index (SDI) is important to know the aggregate picture of social development based on all the indicators already choosen for different sectors, to understand the nature and pattern of spatial inequality.

2. Study Area

Paschim Medinipur located in the southern part of West Bengal, has been carved from the erstwhile Medinipur district, the then largest district of India and came into existence in the present form from the 1st January 2002. Paschim Medinipur district is the southernmost district of the Burdwan Division, is situated between $21^0$36' 35" and $22^0$57' 10" North latitudes and between $86^0$33' 50" and 88^0 12' 40" East longitudes. Its boundary lies in Bankura and Purulia districts in the north, Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts of Odisha in the south, Hugli and Purba Medinipur districts in the east and Singbhum district of Jharkhand and part of Odisha in the west. The total geographical area of Paschim Medinipur district is 9345.00 sq. km.

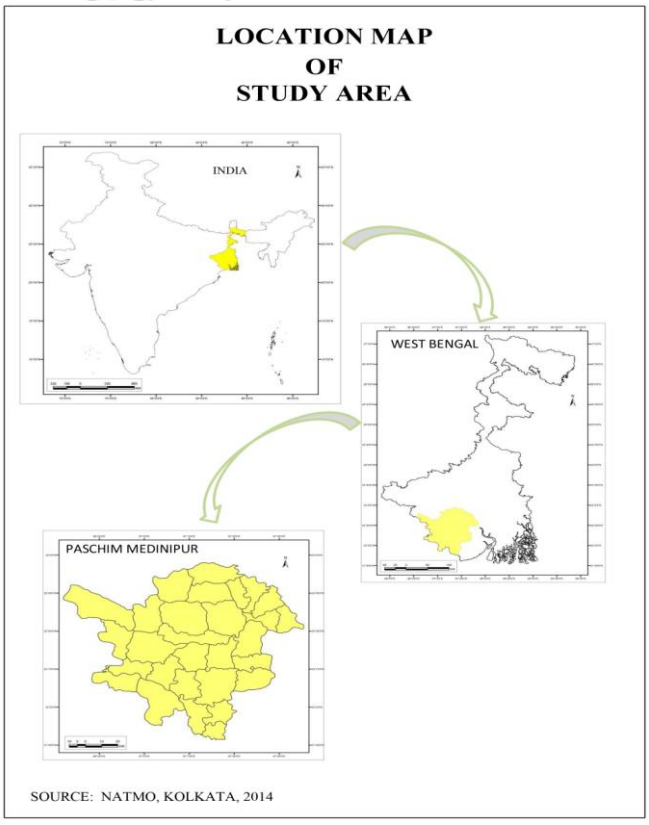

Figure No 1.1

3. Objectives

The major objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To identify the magnitude of block wise imbalances in social development in Paschim Medinipur.
2. To study the various aspect of disparity in social development.
3. To find out the root causes of this disparity and its spatial variation and pattern in this district.
4. To understand the nature and pattern of spatial inequality in terms of social development.

4. Data base & Methodology

The study has been entirely based on secondary data and sources are Census of India, relevant issue, 2011 and District Statistical Handbook-2011 of Paschim Medinipur. Social development Index has been calculated from following data (i) Index of Urbanization=(urban population/ total population)x100 (ii) Index of literacy=(literate population/ total population)x100 (iii) Index of female literacy=(female literate population/ total female population)x100 (iv) Index of worker=(total worker/ total population)x100 (v) Index of school=(number of school/ total population)x100 (vi) Index of safe drinking water=(mouza having drinking water facility/ total mouza)x100 (vii) Index of electrification=(mouza having electricity facility/ total mouza)x100 (viii)) Index of hospital bed=(total bed/ total population)x100. Social development index is calculated by taking simple averages of all indicators in a group of study. The equation is:

$$Ij = (\Sigma Iij / n)$$

Where, Ij is development Index of jth unit of study, n is the no. of indicators under consideration in a particular group.

5. Result and Discussion

Social Development Index shows the levels of development in overall social development among twenty blocks of Paschim Medinipur. Social Development Index is highest in Medinipur and Jhargram (0.56) combinedly, followed by Jhargram (0.51) and lowest in Keshpur and Garbeta-I (0.21). All the blocks of the district may be arranged into five categories (Map No- 1.2) in descending order according to the development index.

Sl no	*Attribute*	*Index value*	*Name of the block*	*Total no of blocks*
1	Very highly developed	52.110000-48.894001	Ghatal, Chandrakona -I, Medinipur	**3**
2	Highly developed	48.89400-45.678001	Debra, Pingla, Dantan-II, Sabong, Daspur-I, Daspur-II, Chandrakona-II	**7**
3	Moderately developed	45.678000-42.462001	Jhargram, Garbeta-I, Garbeta-III, Mohanpur, Kharagpur-I	**5**
4	Low developed	42.462000-39.246001	Jamboni, Gopiballavpur-II, Salboni, Keshpur, Garbeta–II, Keshiary, Dantan-I, Narayangarh, Kharagpur-II	**9**
5	Very low developed	39.246001-36.030000	Binpur-I, Binpur-II, Nayagram, Sankrail, Gopiballavpur -I	**5**

1. Very Highly development: This category comprises of following blocks like Ghatal, Chandrakona -I, Medinipur. These blocks have higher percentage safe drinking water, electricity facility, number of school and literacy level. Being district headquarter urbanization rate is highest in Medinipur in comparison to other blocks and act as a educational and medical hub. The sole factor of Educational development in Ghatal is Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, a reformer icon of West Bengal, who gave emphasis on the development of education especially on female education. More than half of Schools and the University of Medinipur are named after Vidyasagar and one University of Medinipur. Ghatal shows remarkably 83.88 percentage of female literacy.

2. Highly development: Debra, Pingla, Dantan-II, Sabong, Daspur-I, Daspur-II, Chandrakona-II blocks are fall in this category. Daspur-I and Daspur-II blocks shows cent percentage electrification and safe drinking water facility along with these education levels is also very high. Other blocks of this category also show higher percentage of education and amenities attainment. But the poor performance in remaining sector is due to location of far distances from district headquarter and disproportional allocation of facilities causes lower development in comparison to the first category.

3. Moderately development: Jhargram, Garbeta-I, Garbeta-III, Mohanpur, Kharagpur-I blocks are fall in this category. These blocks are performing very well in education and medical facility. Jhargram is mainly dominated by the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) population and therefore received special privileges and Packages both from State and Central government. Having better transportation facility Kharagpur-I provides best health facilities to the people. These blocks are performed moderate to high in social development.

4. Low development: Nine blocks are come to this category. These blocks are mainly dominated by the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) population and therefore received special privileges and Packages both from State and Central government. Many of the blocks are fall under the jurisdiction of "Paschim Anchyal Unnayan Parisad", the development authority which acts for development of blocks as well as entire western part of Paschim Medinipur districts by providing special privilege and financial assistance. Inspite of assistancy attainment in education and bed in hospital is very low.

5. Very low development: Binpur-I, Binpur-II, Nayagram, Sankrail, Gopiballavpur –I blocks are belongs to this category. It is important to notice that these blocks consistently performed badly in all sectors of the social development. Unplanned allocation of facility in accordance with the size of population of settlement attributed to low level of development. Besides, due to political biasness the transfer of government funds and proper execution regarding local problems, people demands as well as requirements for development are not being made at grass root level in western part of the district which is consequently lagged behind. In sharp contrast to the low level of literacy and weakness in the planning process in past has led to the growth of a large scale backward region.

Spatial distributions of the blocks are mainly concentrated within Silai basin and which are situated in north eastern and central part of the district. Physical conditions of these blocks are also responsible for the higher level development plain Physiography with nutrient enriched alluvial mineral deposits, good quality and productive soil and favorable climate allow luxurious growth of agriculture, sustain the economic base of the rural people. Along with agricultural development, public utility and transport system of the blocks are also developed. Medium category blocks have been lie in three pockets viz northern, eastern and southern part of the district and the regions are physiographically plain land having fertile soil and favourable climatic condition which allow higher population concentration and endowed with higher agricultural development. Poor economic performance of backward blocks may be traced to their poor performance in the development of social infrastructure. Low developed blocks of western part of the district with rugged topography, infertile soil with dense forest coverage and high concentration of SC and ST population.

Table Number 1.1

Name of the blocks	Index of Urbanization	Index of Literacy	Index of Female Literacy	Index of Worker	Index of School	Index of Safe drinking Water	Index of Electrified Mouza	Index of hospital bed	Social Development Index	Social Development Index	Rank
Jhargram	26.62	68.18	61.73	43.24	0.59	81.13	73.12	0.17	44.35	Moderate	12
Binpur -I	0.00	54.35	52.48	40.09	0.51	77.22	73.14	0.04	37.23	Very Low	27
Binpur -II	3.48	62.17	53.11	47.89	0.81	85.74	58.1	0.05	38.92	Very Low	25
Jamboni	0.00	63.91	55.36	45.20	0.49	84.02	71.53	0.03	40.07	Low	24
Nayagram	0.00	55.82	46.74	49.26	0.83	95.83	39.73	0.04	36.03	Very Low	29
Sankrail	0.00	65.01	58.13	45.40	0.79	85.71	46.77	0.04	37.73	Very Low	26
Gopiballavpur-I	0.00	57.50	48.56	43.40	0.75	99.54	43.88	0.05	36.71	Very Low	28
Gopiballavpur-II	0.00	63.34	55.13	42.41	0.73	91.15	71.26	0.05	40.51	Low	23
Salboni	0.00	65.72	58.50	45.64	0.58	77.46	86.55	0.04	41.81	Low	18
Keshpur	0.00	67.57	60.86	38.65	0.47	88.96	76.72	0.02	41.66	Low	20
Garbeta-I	4.50	63.33	57.36	39.21	0.52	83.02	100	0.04	43.50	Moderate	14
Garbeta-II	0.00	67.13	59.72	46.08	0.75	82.34	72.08	0.03	41.02	Low	22
Garbeta-III	12.22	64.23	58.25	42.83	0.51	83.62	95.83	0.22	44.71	Moderate	13
Medinipur	46.89	70.36	65.15	38.53	0.40	83.39	100	0.32	50.63	Very High	2
Debra	4.78	72.97	66.84	45.70	0.59	99.16	98.91	0.08	48.63	High	5
Pingla	0.00	73.83	67.67	50.97	0.48	96.15	99.42	0.03	48.57	High	6
Keshiary	0.00	68.04	61.21	45.07	0.60	91.36	72.36	0.04	42.34	Low	17
Dantan-I	3.59	64.85	57.19	36.90	0.59	97.49	73.18	0.02	41.73	Low	19
Dantan-II	0.00	72.99	66.73	36.07	0.46	92.97	99.14	0.03	46.05	High	10
Narayangarh	2.98	69.19	62.36	44.73	0.69	91.09	68.35	0.05	42.43	Low	16
Mohanpur	0.00	71.41	64.70	34.25	0.56	100.00	89.11	0.04	45.01	Moderate	11
Sabong	0.00	76.66	70.74	59.22	0.51	96.98	85.78	0.03	48.74	High	4
Kharagpur-I	24.23	72.69	67.14	35.76	0.30	85.87	55.31	0.21	42.69	Moderate	15
Kharagpur-II	0.00	66.73	59.63	43.38	0.53	98.02	63.89	0.04	41.53	Low	21
Chandrakona-I	20.93	71.04	67.71	38.96	0.51	97.73	98.43	0.04	49.42	Very High	3
Chandrakona-II	16.09	68.56	62.93	38.05	0.49	93.13	99.18	0.06	47.31	High	9
Ghatal	23.30	70.31	83.88	38.68	0.58	100.00	100	0.12	52.11	Very High	1
Daspur-I	0.00	74.61	68.25	41.12	0.43	100.00	100	0.28	48.09	High	8
Daspur-II	0.00	76.46	70.99	38.64	0.46	100.00	100	0.04	48.32	High	7

Source: Computed by authors, 2015

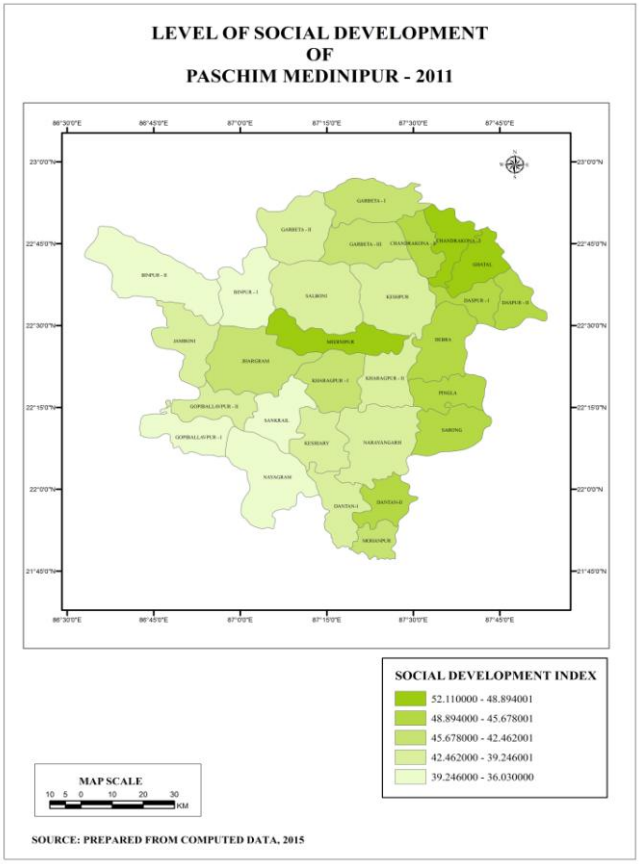

Figure 1.2

6. Conclusion

Any sorts of development requires some facilities like proper literacy system, availability of safe drinking water, proper electrification, availability of proper medical care facilities which ultimately influence the nature of urbanization. Paschim Medinipur district with its great areal expense, coped with different physical and social character. It can be noted down that lack of well transportation network and job opportunity, some blocks are in vulnerable condition. It can also noted down that lack of proper initiatives, improper coordination between different authorities the planning and proposals are not properly implemented. So as a result some mouzas are really in miserable condition. A strong initiative from local to higher authorities with a positive approach can minimize this inter block disparity as well as develop the district in long run. The east west divide Paschim Medinipur is the main backdrops of social development.

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