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Original Article

# Spatial and Temporal Variations in Social Well-Being in South Konkan Region of Maharashtra

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***Abstract***

*Social well-being as a whole can be measured by taking both dimensions, subjective and objective, into account. Subjective well-being is related to the fulfilment of human needs and expectations, which means that an individual himself can assess his well-being the best. Objective well-being refers to the resources available to people in the society for having social well-being (Korreveski K., 2011). Development is continuous process. Human resource development in any region can be achieved only with social harmony and well-being. Social well-being in the region influences the process of development in the region. Human development cannot be achieved in isolation. Lacks of social amenities create chaos in the society which in turn adversely affects the development process. The present research work examines the resources available to the people in the society for maintaining social well-being in the society in the South Konkan region of Maharashtra.*

*It clearly indicates that there is not a single tahsil in the category of highly developed in terms of social well-being in all the decades from 1991-2011. It means that, there is immense scope for improvement in this dimension. Only five tahsils namely Chiplun, Ratnagiri from Ratnagiri district and Devgad, Kudal and Sawantwadi from Sindhudurg district are observed in moderately developed category of social well-being with index value above 0.60. It is mainly due to the better number of educational amenities, medical amenities, transport and communication facilities and also good numbers of banking and credit societies in these tahsils compare to other tahsils. Remaining all the 12 tahsils are observed in the category of low developed with having index value below 0.60. It is not good sign for the development of South Konkan region. There is distinctive spatial and temporal variation in terms of social well-being at district and tahsil level. These imbalances and inequalities should be addressed in coming future by the policy makers, administrators and political leaders. More attentions should be paid in the equal distribution of social amenities at tahsil level.*

***Key Words**: Social well-being, Human Resource Development, Spatial Variation, Temporal Variation, Social well-being Index*

**Introduction:**

"One of the most important tasks of social geographers in the present times is to measure spatial inequalities in social ethos. Among the various aspects of social situation, the phenomenon of social well-being is too complex to understand and measure as it includes both the objective and subjective realities and measurable and non-measurable aspects. The social well-being of any society over the world has varying degree environmental, institutional (including cultural) and technological overtones. However, the aspects of social well-being can be understood in terms of social needs and social attainment as they vary with geographical conditions including climatic, physiological and cultural aspects". Social well-being is a multifaceted phenomenon which means welfare in general and health prosperity in particular (Kulkarni K.M., 1990).

Social well-being as a whole can be measured by taking both dimensions, subjective and objective, into account. Subjective well-being is related to the fulfilment of human needs and expectations, which means that an individual himself can assess his well-being the best.

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Objective well-being refers to the resources available to people in the society for having social well-being (Korreveski K., 2011). The phenomena of social well-being include both the objective and subjective realities, measureable and non-measureable aspects of human living. There is no unanimity among researcher regarding the meaning of 'social well-being' in terms of indicators, as the phenomena of well-being is a manifestation of regional culture. Thus, the geographical scale not only influences the selection of indicators but also the pattern of social well-being in terms of the extent of generalization. The smaller unit of study area lends to the greater efficiency of the pattern of social well-being. With the increase in the size of geographical scale the micro-differences merge with the border and generalized pattern. Therefore, the phenomena of social well-being become more realistic in the micro-regional framework rather than in the meso or macro region (Kulkarni K.M., 1990).

Development is continuous process. Human resource development in any region can be achieved only with social harmony and well-being. Social well-being in the region influences the process of development in the region. Human development cannot be achieved in isolation. Lacks of social amenities create chaos in the society which in turn adversely affects the development process. The present unit examines the resources available to the people in the society for maintaining social well-being in the society.

**Objectives:**

Present paper examines the spatial and temporal variations in social well-being in South Konkan region of Maharashtra**.**

**Database:**

The present study is entirely based on secondary data. It has been collected from District Census Handbook and District Social, Economic and Statistical Abstract for the year 1991, 2001 and 2011

**Methodology:**

Social well-being as a whole can be measured by taking both dimensions, subjective and objective, into account. Subjective well-being is related to the fulfilment of human needs and expectations, which means that an individual himself can assess his well-being the best. Objective well-being refers to the resources available to people in the society for having social well-being. In the present work only objective social well-being indicators, which cover domains like social connection and infrastructural facilities, basic social amenities like water, drainage, toilet, housing facilities, leisure etc. Following are the indicators used for computing social well-being index.

**Selected Indicators for Social Well-Being Index:**

There are number of constituents and dimensions which should be incorporate while analysing the social well-being of any region e.g. social amenities, social security, affluence, etc. However, the data regarding all these dimensions and indicators is not available for all the decades. Hence, only those indicators have been selected which data is available for all the decades and also at tahsil level.

List of selected indicators is as below.

X1. Percentage of villages served by educational amenities

X2. Percentage of villages served by medical amenities

X3. Percentage of villages served by post office (PO), telegraph office (TO) and post & telegraph office (PTO)

X4. Percentage of villages served telephone amenity

X5. Percentage of villages having availability of news paper

X6. Number of seats available in cinema hall and video center per 100000 populations

X7. Numbers of available play ground and gym per 100000 populations

X8. Percentage of villages linked with pucca road

X9. Road length per 100 sq.km.

X10. Percentage of villages having transport and communication facilities (includes bus service, rail amenity and navigable waterway)

X11. Percentage of electrified villages

X12 Percentage of villages served by bank amenity

X13. Percentage of villages served by agricultural credit society

Dimension index has been worked out for each indicator by using following formula as per classical HDI propounded by UN (Roy, 2008).

$$\text{Iij} = \frac{Xij - Min.Xij}{Max.Xij - Min.Xij}$$

Where, Iij = Factor score for the J$^{th}$ districts tahsil with respect to i$^{th}$ variable
Xij = actual value for the selected variable
Min Xij = Minimum goal post the selected variable

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Max Xij = Maximum goal post the selected variable

In the second and final stage, the composite index of social well-being is worked out by aggregating the component indices and dividing it by total number of indices. It is worked out with the help of following formula.

$$Ij = \frac{\sum Iij}{\sum n}$$

Where, Ij = Composite index

$\sum Iij$ = Summation of component indices

$\sum n$ = number of variables.

There is danger in the choice of maximum and minimum goal posts as they are subjective and change over time. Hence, these goal posts are selected on the basis of the levels that can be achievable or have been achieved elsewhere in the district and have universal validity. However, the goal posts for some variables are minimum or maximum values in the data series. This does pose a problem of changing goal post with change in data over the time (Hirway and Mahadevia, 1999). In the present research work, minimum and maximum goal posts have been selected based on extreme values observed in the last few decades ( for minimum) or expected in the next few decades (for maximum) (Karnataka-HDR,2005).

Table-1 shows selected goal post for computing social well-being index.

**Table 1**

**Goal Post for Social Well-Being Index**

| Sr.No. | Indicator | Minimum Goal Post | Maximum Goal Post |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Percentage of villages served by educational amenities | 0 | 100 |
| 2 | Percentage of villages served by medical amenities | 0 | 100 |
| 3 | Percentage of villages served by post office (PO),telegraph office (TO) and post & telegraph office (PTO) | 0 | 100 |
| 4 | Percentage of villages served telephone amenity | 0 | 100 |
| 5 | Percentage of villages having availability of news paper | 0 | 100 |
| 6 | Number of seats available in cinema hall and video center per 100000 populations | 0 | 100 |
| 7 | Numbers of available play ground and gym per 100000 populations | 0 | 100 |
| 8 | Percentage of villages linked with pucca road, | 0 | 100 |
| 9 | Road length per 100 sq.km. | 0 | 200 |
| 10 | P Percentage of villages having transport and communication facilities (includes bus service, rail amenity and navigable waterway) | 0 | 100 |
| 11 | Percentage of electrified villages | 0 | 100 |
| 12 | Percentage of villages served by bank amenity | 0 | 100 |
| 13 | Percentage of villages served by agricultural credit society | 0 | 100 |

Source: compiled by Researcher

**Spatial Variations in Social Well-Being:**

For analysing social well-being in the study region, composite index of selected parameters from 1991 to 2011 has been calculated and its comparative analysis has been presented in the Table 2. All the tahsils in the South Konkan region have been divided into following four categories on the basis of their composite index value. They are as below-

1. Tahsil with score < 0.40 index value considered very less developed in terms of social well-being
2. Tahsil with score 0.40 - 0.60 index value considered less developed in terms of social well-being
3. Tahsil with score 0.60- 0.80 index value considered moderately developed in terms of social well-being
4. Tahsil with score > 0.80 considered highly developed in terms of social well-being

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**Table-2 Levels of Social Well-Being in South Konkan 1991-2011**

| Sr.No. | Category | 1991 | 2001 | 2011 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Very Less Developed < 0.40 | =00 | =00 | =00 |
| 2 | Less Developed 0.40- 0.60 | Mandangad, Dapoli, Khed, Chiplun, Guhagar, Sangmeshwar, Lanja, Rajapur, Vaibhavvadi, Kankavli, Malwan, Kudal, Sawantwadi Ratnagiri, Vengurla, =15 | Mandangad, Guhagar, Rajapur, Dapoli, Khed, Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Sangmeshwar, Lanja, Vaibhavvadi, Malwan, Vengurla, Kudal, Dodamarg =14 | Mandangad, Dapoli, Khed, Guhagar, Sangmeshwar, Lanja, Rajapur, Vaibhavvadi, Kankavli, Malwan, Vengurla, Dodamarg =12 |
| 3 | Moderately Developed 0.60 – 0.80 | Devgad, =01 | Devgad, Kankavli, Sawantwadi, = 03 | Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Devgad, Kudal, Sawantwadi, =05 |
| 4 | Highly Developed > 0.80 | =00 | =00 | =00 |

Source: Compiled by Researcher

Table 2 indicates temporal variations in terms of social well-being in South Konkan region of Maharashtra from 1991 to 2011. In 1991, 15 tahsils out of 16 tahsils in South Konkan region are found in less developed category of health attainment with index value below 0.60. Devgad tahsils from Sindhudurg district is a single tahsil in the study region, which is observed in the category of moderately developed in terms of social well-being. It is mainly due to the good number of educational amenities, Po, To & PTO, seats in cinema hall and video centre. It also has better transport and road approach in the study region. Number of tahsils in the category of low developed decrease with one number in 2001, as compare to 1991 figures. However, number of tahsils in the category of moderately developed increases from 01 to 03 in numbers as compare to 1991 figures. In 2001, not a single tahsil is observed in the category of highly developed in terms of social well-being. Again three tahsils namely Devgad, Kankavli and Sawantwadi, which are found in the category of moderately developed, are from the district of Sindhudurg. It clearly indicates that Ratnagiri district lagging behind in terms of social well-being as compare to Sindhudurg district in the South Konkan region. In 2011, five tahsils namely Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Devgad, Kudal and Sawantwadi, are observed in moderately developed category of social well-being. It is mainly due to the better number of educational amenities, medical amenities, transport and communication facilities and also good numbers of banking and credit societies in these tahsils. Remaining all the 12 tahsils are observed in the category of low developed with having index value below 0.60. There is not a single tahsil from the South Konkan region in the category of highly developed in terms of social well-being. It is not good sign of development in terms of social well-being.

Table 3 represents decadal variations in growth rate of social well-being in South Konkan region of Maharashtra in the decade of 1991-2001 and 2001- 2011. During these two decades, there are number of tahsils show negative growth rate in terms of social well-being. In the decade of 1991-2001, four tahsils namely Khed, Rajapur from Ratnagiri district and Devgad, Kudal from Sindhudurg district show negative growth rate. It is mainly due to the incorporation of some new parameters which were not included in previous decades due to unavailability of data, e.g.

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availability of play grounds, telephone etc. These parameters have relatively les index value compares to other parameters. Remaining all other tahsils show positive growth rate in terms of social well-being.

**Table- 3**

**Tehsil-wise Decadal Variations in Growth Rate of Social Well-Being in South Konkan - 1991-2011 (In Percentage)**

| Sr. No. | Tehsil | Health Attainment | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1991-2001 | 2001-2011 |
| 1 | Mandangad | 14.28 | -10.42 |
| 2 | Dapoli | 10.87 | 00.00 |
| 3 | Khed | -17.54 | 08.51 |
| 4 | Chiplun | 05.36 | 01.69 |
| 5 | Guhagar | 07.14 | 22.22 |
| 6 | Ratnagiri | 00.00 | 03.45 |
| 7 | Sangmeshwar | 07.69 | -03.57 |
| 8 | Lanja | 04.16 | 04.00 |
| 9 | Rajapur | -02.08 | 00.00 |
| | **Ratnagiri District Total** | 08.16 | 0.00 |
| 10 | Devgad | -13.04 | 03.33 |
| 11 | Vaibhavvadi | 01.82 | 07.14 |
| 12 | Kankavli | 16.92 | -10.77 |
| 13 | Malwan | 07.41 | -08.62 |
| 14 | Vengurla | 12.00 | 01.78 |
| 15 | Kudal | -01.72 | 08.77 |
| 16 | Sawantwadi | 14.28 | -01.56 |
| 17 | Dodamarg | - | 06.25 |
| | **Sindhudurg District Total** | 01.82 | 01.78 |
| | **South Konkan** | 05.77 | 00.89 |
| | **Maharashtra** | 28.95 | 40.81 |

Source:
Compiled by Researcher

In the decade of 1991-2001, highest growth in terms of social well-being is registered in Kankavli tahsil (16.92%) of Sindhudurg district, while lowest growth rate in terms of health attainment is observed in Khed tahsil (-17.54%) of Ratnagiri district. Decadal growth rate in terms of social well-being is not good in all the tahsils of South Konkan region (5.77%) compare to state's averages growth rate (28.95%). There is immense scope for development in the sector of social well-being in South Konkan region as compares to Maharashtra state. In the decade of 2001-2011, five tahsils namely Mandangad, Sangmeshwar, Kankavli, Malwan and Sawantwadi show negative growth rate in terms of social well-being. It is mainly due to the incorporation of some new parameters which were not included in previous decades due to unavailability of data, e.g. Newspaper and also poor achievement in the sector of medical amenities and number of PO, TO, and PTO. The number of PO, TO, and PTO may be decreases as these are out-dated mediums of communication and on the other hand new technology like e-mail, sms, have replaced the place of these out-dated communication mediums. Remaining all other tahsils show positive growth rate in terms of social well-being. In the decade of 2001-2011, highest growth in terms of social well-being is registered in Guhagar tahsil (22.00%) of Ratnagiri district, while lowest growth rate in terms of health attainment is observed in Kankavli tahsil (-10.77%) of Sindhudurg district. Decadal growth rate in terms of social well-being is not good in all the tahsils of South Konkan region (00.89%) compare to state's averages growth rate (40.81%). There is immense scope for development in the sector of social well-being in South Konkan region.

**Conclusion:**

The present study clearly indicates that there is not a single tahsil in the category of highly developed in terms of social well-being in all the decades from 1991-2011. It means that, there is immense scope for improvement in this dimension. Only five tahsils namely Chiplun, Ratnagiri from Ratnagiri district and Devgad, Kudal and Sawantwadi from Sindhudurg district are observed in moderately

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developed category of social well-being with index value above 0.60. It is mainly due to the better number of educational amenities, medical amenities, transport and communication facilities and also good numbers of banking and credit societies in these tahsils compare to other tahsils. Remaining all the 12 tahsils are observed in the category of low developed with having index value below 0.60. It is not good sign for the development of South Konkan region. It clearly points out that South Konkan region is lagging behind in terms of social well-being in Maharashtra. Again, decadal growth rate of social well-being is also unsatisfactory. There is distinctive spatial and temporal variation in terms of social well-being at district and tahsil level. These imbalances and inequalities should be addressed in coming future by the policy makers, administrators and political leaders. More attentions should be paid in the equal distribution of social amenities at tahsil level. This dimension of human development should be given top priority in coming future, since South Konkan region is lagging much behind in this sector.

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**Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper

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