



punjab geographer



A DOUBLE BLIND PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL OF APG AND ISPER INDIA INDEXED IN SCOPUS

VOLUME 16

ISSN- 0973-3485

OCTOBER 2020



DYNAMICS AND PATTERN OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AHIRWAL REGION OF HARYANA

Doctoral Dissertation Abstract (2019)

Author: **Ankita**

Supervisor: **Dr. M. S. Jaglan**
Professor

Department of Geography, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra

Development is a process which culminates in improving and sustaining the quality of life of people. It is a value positive concept which represents the change for betterment. It is a process devised to progressively improve the social and economic conditions of the people. Development is a dynamic concept and measured in terms of various parameters like economic growth, education, health services, degree of modernization, status of women, level of nutrition, housing condition, distribution of goods and services and access to communication. Development has a spatial and temporal context too. The level of development in a region is generally estimated separately for economic, demographic, educational, health, infrastructural and environmental sustainability parameters. Disparities in social and economic development across the regions and intra-regional disparities among different segments of the society have been the major area of concern that has also guided the planning in India since independence. Socio-economic and regional planning has been used in our country as an instrument for bringing about uniform regional development because one of the main objectives of the developmental programmes has been a

progressive reduction in regional disparities through the process of development.

The present study is a modest attempt to investigate the dynamics and pattern of social and economic development in Ahirwal region of Haryana during post liberalization period. It is a socio-cultural region lying in the cradle of Aravalli range in south-western Haryana. It has been one of the socially and economically backward areas of the state. However, areas of this region located in the vicinity of national capital have experienced the pulse of industrial-economic advancement following restructuring of Indian economy since early 1990s. The present study examines the spatio-socio-economic transformation and differentiation in the study area over the period 1991 to 2011. It evaluates the changing spatial pattern of the parameters and levels of social, economic and infrastructural development and overall socio-economic development in Ahirwal region vis-à-vis the rest of state of Haryana. The study also examines, at the micro level, the socio-economic differentiation and disparity in the access to fruits of development in rural society of Ahirwal region.

Objectives of the Study

Major objectives of the study are:

- to evaluate the levels of social development in terms of demographic, educational and household amenities parameters;
- to study the levels of economic development in terms of indicators of agriculture, industry and workforce structure change;
- to evaluate the levels of infrastructural development with reference to parameters of education, health care facilities, road transport, banking and communication infrastructure;
- to assess the dynamics and spatial pattern of levels of socio-economic development and
- to examine at the micro level, the socio-economic differentiation and disparity to access the fruits of development in rural society of Ahirwal region.

Database and Methodology

The study utilizes both primary and secondary sources of data. The household level data have been collected through the field survey of 515 households in Ahirwal region. The secondary data related to various aspects of social, economic and infrastructural development have been collected from Statistical Abstracts, Department of Economic and Statistical Analysis, Haryana. In addition, data pertaining to population, sex ratio, literacy rate and workforce structure, availability of toilet, electricity, bathroom and kitchen facility have been collected for 1991, 2001 and 2011 from Census of India, Office of the Registrar General of India. District level indirect estimates of infant mortality rate have been obtained from National Health Systems Resource Centre. There are 58 indicators taken for computing the indices of develop-

ment. The composite indices of social development, economic development and infrastructural development have been constructed by dividing the observations of the indicators by the state average.

Major Findings

Till 2001, the level of overall social development in Ahirwal region has been lower than the rest of state average. But the scenario has changed during first decade of 21st century. Consequently, in 2011, Ahirwal region has been slightly at higher level of social development in comparison to the rest of Haryana. There has been consistent progression in the level of social development in all the districts of Ahirwal region. But Gurugram district has gained the most during last decade. Rewari district has also been beneficiary in this regard during last two decades. But Mahendragarh district has remained a socially backward district within Ahirwal region over the period.

The study also explores the process and pattern of economic development in Ahirwal region during post-liberalization period. It has been found that agriculture has played a specific role in defining the contours of economic development in Haryana. It has emerged as one of the agriculturally developed states of the country during post Green Revolution period. But Ahirwal region of the state has not fared well on this account. Most of the industrial enterprises of Ahirwal region are concentrated in Gurugram district. Therefore, difference in levels of industrialization within region is so high that Gurugram district is about twelve times more developed than Mahendragarh district.

Economically, Ahirwal region has been a backward area in comparison to rest of Haryana during pre-liberalization period.

However, the situation changed with economic liberalization during early 1990s that induced fast industrialization around Gurugram town. By 2011, Ahirwal region emerged as economically very developed region of the state. However, the inter district gap in the level of economic development has increased during 2001 and 2011. The level of economic development in Gurugram district has been almost three times higher than that of Mahendragarh district in 2011.

The level of infrastructural development in Ahirwal region has been higher than rest of Haryana in 1991 and it maintained its lead during next decade too. Rewari district has maintained highest level of infrastructural development in the region during last two decades. Mahendragarh district has improved its position continuously during this period. In 1991, in terms of level of overall socio-economic development, Ahirwal has been a backward region in comparison to rest of Haryana. It is mainly attributed to the low level of development in economic and social sectors. But the parameters of socio-economic development changed within a decade. The fastest positive change in the parameters of socio-economic development in Ahirwal region has been recorded during first decade of 21st century. Consequently, Ahirwal attained higher level of socio-economic development in comparison to rest of Haryana in 2011. It has been mainly contributed by sharp increase in the level of economic development in the region.

The study also describes the socio-demographic characteristics of the population in the sampled households based on primary survey. The socio-economic differentials have been measured in terms of difference in selected socio-demographic parameters across social hierarchy based caste groups and

main occupation of the head of the household. There has been a minor difference in the level of social development between higher and lower castes. The service occupation households have been placed on the top in this regard followed by agriculture occupation households. Interestingly, it has been the business occupation households who have recorded lowest level of development on socio-demographic parameters. The other occupation category and casual labour households also have recorded comparatively low socio-demographic status.

In rural area of Ahirwal region, upper castes have been found to be most advanced on account of economic parameters. Intermediary castes have also performed very well in this regard. Contrary to this, scheduled castes have been found to be least economically developed. There has been a large difference in level of economic development across occupational categories as well. The conditions of housing, sanitation and amenities vary strongly across the caste groups in Ahirwal region. The intermediary caste households in the region are most developed in this regard. On the other hand, scheduled caste households have been found to be least developed in terms of these parameters. The housing and sanitation conditions also differ significantly across occupational status of the head of households.

The processes and patterns of development are not uniform as they vary across the social and economic classes in the society. This is evident in the rural area of Ahirwal region as well. The higher level of socio-economic development among intermediary castes is mainly attributed to better housing, sanitation and household amenities. It is observed that scheduled caste households are least developed in terms of overall socio-

economic characteristics due to their backwardness in all the parameters of development. Among the occupational categories, the service occupation households have been found to be most developed in term of socio-economic parameters very closely followed by business occupation households. But the households engaged in casual labour occupation have lowest socio-economic development. The lowest socio-economic status of

casual labourers is primarily due to their very poor housing and sanitation conditions and low economic status. However, they are close to the average in terms of socio-demographic status mainly due to high overall sex ratio, child sex ratio and higher autonomy of women. The other occupation households also have low socio-economic status but they are better placed in comparison to casual labour households.

punjab geographer

