

## Divisional Disparities of Social Infrastructure in Vidharbha region in Maharashtra

**Umendra B. Sangolkar**

HOD in Economics Dr.H.N.Sinha Degree College, Patur, Distt. Akola. (M.S.), India

### Abstract

Balanced development of all regions in a country is necessary for social, economic & cultural development. Especially, in the developing countries due to lack of well thought out policies and programmes, economic growth has been confined to few developed regions while, greater part of the economies remaining in the backwarders of economic degeneration. Central and State governments formulated numbers of policies and programmes to reduce all kinds of imbalance. In this context the present study aims at measuring disparities of infrastructure facilities in Vidharbha region. The present study was based on secondary data and collected from various Govt. Departments. Interpretation of data to finding the causes of disparities of the region. The present study divided into two division i.e. Eastern Vidharbha and Western Vidharbha. Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, and Gadchiroli districts are represent of Eastern Vidharbha and Amravati, Akola, Yeotmal, Buldhana and Washim districts are represent of Western Vidharbha, respectively. There are three indicators i.e. Health, Education and Literacy & Sex-ratio. The Intra-Divisional comparison of Health, Education facilities are no uniformity. During the study period reveals that in all the services in Vidharbha region lags behind the state. Therefore, it is necessary on the part of the government to focus on the skewed spread of development.

**KEYWORDS-** Divisional Disparities, Social Infrastructure, Balanced Development, Infrastructure Indicators

### Introduction-

Balanced development of all regions in a country is necessary to draw the available human and material resources into the development process and to enable people residing everywhere to share the benefits of development. If fair and equitable development does not take place in different regions of a country through conscious and well thought development efforts both by government planning and policy and by private investment, there may result numerous forms of economic, social and political unrest that may accompany them. In the developing countries due to lack of well thought out policies and programmes, economic growth has been confined to few developed regions while grater parts of the economies remaining in the back warders of economic degeneration.

India being a developing country is no exception to the imbalanced growth development process reveals that the process has been confined to few regions due to the colonial dominance in the past. Later, lack of well thought-out planning process has led to the growth of not only regional imbalance but also Divisional imbalance. Therefore, it was also imperative on the part of the government of the independent India to evolve suitable policies and programmes, to reduce regional imbalance and Divisional imbalance.

Over the years governments at the national and state level have formulated number of policies and programmes, to reduce all kinds of imbalances existing in the economy and make balanced development a reality. The spatial structure of socio-economic unrests in the country, the social tensions and violence prevalent in states of Jammu-Kashmir, Assam, West-Bengal, Bihar, A.P. etc. may be attributed to this. Further, the regional imbalances and within the regional imbalances in the India presents a grim picture of regional variation in terms of almost all indicators of economic growth, such a variations in per capita income, agriculture out-put, transportation, medical and educational facilities, percentage of workers in Industrial units etc.

Maharashtra state divide into four region on the basis of geographical condition, that is Konkan, Central Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidharbha. Moreover, state divide into six Division on the basis of administration purpose, that is Thane, Nashik, Pune, Aurangabad, Amravati and Nagpur. Further, the Konkan and Western Maharashtra is comparatively more developed on the basis of socio-economic development to other remain region. Further, in Marathwada, Vidharbha and Northern Maharashtra itself all the districts are not homogeneously developed. Several districts are lagging much

behind in the level of development compared to the other districts. Indicating Intra-regional disparities and Intra-divisional disparities. In this context the present study aims at measuring disparities of infrastructure facilities in vidharbha region which considered underdeveloped. For the sake of study, vidharbha region has been further divided into two divisions called Eastern Vidharbha and Western Vidharbha comprises eleven districts i.e. Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Amravati, Akola, Yeotmal, Buldhanda and Washim. To measure the development of social infrastructure indicators such as (a)No. of Dispensaries per 50,000 population (b)No. of Dispensaries per 100 sq. kms. (c) No. of Hospital Beds per 50,000 population (d)No. of primary schools per 50,000 population (e)No. of primary schools per 100 sq. kms. (f)No. of secondary schools per 50,000 population (g)No. of secondary schools per 100 sq. kms. have been selected.

These represents physical infrastructure in this sector as well as government expenditures. The other three indicators selected are the overall literacy and sex-ratio, these three are the out- come of the social infrastructure. Especially, the availability of basic education and sex-ratio based on these indicators the intra-divisional disparities in the region has been analysed.

### **Objectives of the Study-**

-To trace out the disparities of infrastructure facilities between Eastern and Western vidharbha.

-To trace out the disparities of infrastructure facilities into the inter-district of each Division.

-To trace out the cause of disparities of infrastructure facilities.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The present study was based on secondary data. The secondary data had been collected from Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Maharashtra, Population Census 2011 of Maharashtra, District-Wise Socio-Economic Reports, Journals and from related published materials.

The obtained data were analysed with the help of percentage, ratio and average to appropriate stages of the present study.

## RESULTS AND DATA ANALYSIS

### 1. Intra-Divisional Disparities in Eastern Vidharbha (Nagpur) Division-

**A) Health :-** Table-1 exhibit disparities in the development of social infrastructure in Eastern Vidharbha (Nagpur) Division. The values relating to the dispensaries per 50,000 population show that from 1980-81 to 1990-91 there was more Dispensaries to serve the fifty thousand population in Bhandara district of Eastern Vidharbha Division. After 1990-91 onwards and till the end of 2010-11 there was more dispensaries to serve the 50,000 population in Gadchiroli district. Coming to the second indicator i.e. No of Dispensaries per 100 sq.kms. Nagpur district possessed relatively more dispensaries compared to the other districts of Eastern Vidharbha till end 2000-01. In 2010-11 Wardha district possessed relatively more dispensaries compared to the other districts. Regarding to the third indicator i.e. No of Beds per fifty thousand population Bhandara, Nagpur and Gondia districts possessed relatively more beds compared to the other districts of the Eastern Vidharbha Division.

**B) Education :-** This consists of four related indicators i.e., two each concerning to primary school and secondary school education. Suggests that 1980-81 there were 45.51 primary schools per 50,000 population in Eastern Vidharbha Division, Chandrapur district had the highest number of schools i.e., 51.65 serving 50,000 population in the division and the lowest was in Nagpur district i.e., 36.35. The average number of primary schools are gradually volatile over the years in Eastern Vidharbha Division i.e. 45.51, 38.05, 47.83 and 41.17, respectively.

In so far as the coverage of primary schools per 100 sq. kms. is concerned the results were different. Nagpur district has 25 primary schools, Wardha district 16.75, Gondia district 16.51, Chandrapur 15.43, Bhandara 12.7 and Gadchiroli only 9.68 schools were there per 100 sq. kms. by the end of the same corresponding year. The data relating to the primary schools per 100 sq. km that the No of primary schools was lowest in Gadchiroli i.e. only 2.9 in 1990-91. Another important education indicator is secondary education. The values in the Table-1 gives strange information if it is seen within the six districts of the region. The secondary schools per fifty thousand population is highest in Wardha district in 1980-81, Nagpur district in 1990-91, Gadchiroli district in 2000-01 and 2010-11, respectively.

On the other hand secondary schools per 100 sq. kms. gives different results. It may be seen that Nagpur district secures first place during all the four benchmark years, followed by Bhandara, Wardha and last one is Gadchiroli district in Eastern Vidharbha Division.

Table-1

#### Intra-Divisional Disparities in Social Infrastructure – EV Division

| Districts of EV Division | 1              | 2     | 3  | 4      | Indicators 5 | 6     | 7     | 8     | 9     | 10  |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------|----|--------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| <b>Year</b>              | <b>1980-91</b> |       |    |        |              |       |       |       |       |     |
| Nagpur                   | 2.704          | 1.415 | 99 | 36.346 | 18.951       | 5.948 | 3.101 | 54.56 | 44.62 | 924 |

|             |                |       |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |
|-------------|----------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|
| Wardha      | 3.180          | 0.935 | 58.5   | 50.270 | 14.777 | 6.472  | 1.903  | 41.71 | 30.27 | 948    |
| Bhandara    | 3.846          | 1.356 | 240.5  | 43.789 | 15.433 | 5.296  | 1.867  | 35.40 | 2.6   | NA     |
| Gadchiroli  | -              | -     | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -     | -     | -      |
| Chandrapur  | 2.214          | 0.351 | 13.5   | 51.654 | 8.189  | 4.063  | 0.644  | 34.7  | 22.2  | 959    |
| Gondia      | -              | -     | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -     | -     | -      |
| EV Division | 2.985          | 1.014 | 102.88 | 45.515 | 14.338 | 5.445  | 1.879  | 41.59 | 29.42 | 943.67 |
| Vidharbha   | 2.876          | 0.919 | 63.938 | 46.661 | 14.087 | 5.527  | 1.760  | 42.82 | 30.66 | 946.71 |
| <b>Year</b> | <b>1990-91</b> |       |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |
| Nagpur      | 2.050          | 1.365 | 75     | 25.068 | 16.659 | 16.018 | 10.645 | 73.64 | 64.74 | 922    |
| Wardha      | 2.109          | 0.713 | 68.5   | 46.345 | 15.676 | 6.139  | 2.076  | 69.95 | 61.02 | 939    |
| Bhandara    | 1.878          | 0.878 | 978    | 41.754 | 19.522 | 7.816  | 3.844  | 43.92 | 29.49 | 989    |
| Gadchiroli  | 5.102          | 0.451 | 44.5   | 33.281 | 2.942  | 6.515  | 0.576  | 24.49 | 12.66 | 978    |
| Chandrapur  | 0.677          | 0.210 | 27     | 43.821 | 13.572 | 6.687  | 2.071  | 59.40 | 46.80 | 948    |
| Gondia      | -              | -     | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -     | -     | -      |
| EV Division | 2.363          | 0.723 | 238.6  | 38.054 | 13.674 | 8.635  | 3.842  | 54.28 | 42.94 | 955.2  |
| Vidharbha   | 2.351          | 0.815 | 204.6  | 38.933 | 14.216 | 7.716  | 3.184  | 57.27 | 46.09 | 950.48 |
| <b>Year</b> | <b>2000-01</b> |       |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |
| Nagpur      | 1.524          | 1.254 | 61.5   | 30.359 | 24.975 | 8.542  | 7.027  | 84.03 | 77.62 | 932    |
| Wardha      | 1.951          | 0.761 | 70.5   | 42.927 | 16.735 | 6.626  | 2.583  | 69.95 | 61.03 | 939    |
| Bhandara    | 1.805          | 1.025 | 1026.5 | 38.116 | 21.650 | 10.431 | 5.925  | 78.60 | 68.11 | 982    |
| Gadchiroli  | 4.320          | 0.472 | 62     | 87.675 | 9.577  | 12.452 | 1.360  | 42.95 | 28.84 | 962    |
| Chandrapur  | 0.457          | 0.166 | 24.5   | 42.613 | 15.481 | 9.456  | 3.435  | 73.00 | 62.90 | 948    |
| Gondia      | 1.708          | 0.683 | NA     | 45.292 | 18.117 | 9.375  | 3.750  | 78.65 | 67.89 | 1005   |
| EV Division | 1.961          | 0.727 | 249    | 47.830 | 17.756 | 9.480  | 4.013  | 71.20 | 61.07 | 961.33 |
| Vidharbha   | 1.945          | 0.815 | 217.65 | 43.714 | 17.051 | 8.766  | 3.637  | 72.43 | 61.01 | 953.06 |
| <b>Year</b> | <b>2010-11</b> |       |        |        |        |        |        |       |       |        |
| Nagpur      | 1.289          | 0.010 | 38.50  | 26.764 | 25.182 | 8.703  | 8.188  | 88.39 | 84.51 | 951    |
| Wardha      | 1.691          | 0.697 | 121    | 40.630 | 16.751 | 10.148 | 4.184  | 86.99 | 81.81 | 946    |
| Bhandara    | 1.708          | 0.586 | 1002   | 37.031 | 12.700 | 11.413 | 3.914  | 83.76 | 77.08 | 982    |
| Gadchiroli  | 2.330          | 0.347 | 47.5   | 65.055 | 9.686  | 14.493 | 2.158  | 74.36 | 66.27 | 982    |
| Chandrapur  | 0.431          | 0.166 | 26.5   | 40.058 | 15.433 | 13.610 | 5.243  | 80.01 | 72.97 | 961    |
| Gondia      | 1.474          | 0.650 | 344    | 37.467 | 16.517 | 10.132 | 4.467  | 84.95 | 77.89 | 999    |
| EV Division | 1.487          | 0.409 | 263.25 | 41.168 | 16.045 | 11.417 | 4.692  | 83.08 | 76.76 | 970.17 |
| Vidharbha   | 1.524          | 0.639 | 229.50 | 38.814 | 17.039 | 10.805 | 4.809  | 84.03 | 77.77 | 956.39 |

1.No. of Dispensaries per 50,000 population; 2.No. of Dispensaries per 100 sq. kms.; 3. No. of Hospital Beds per 50,000 population; 4. No. of primary schools per 50,000 population; 5. No. of primary schools per 100 sq. kms.; 6. No of secondary schools per 50,000 population; 7. No. of secondary schools per 100 sq. kms.; 8. Literacy Rate; 9. Female Literacy; 10. Sex-Ratio

Source – Computed from Govt. of Maharashtra, Directorate of economics and Statistics, Statistics Abstract 2011-12.

**Literacy & Sex-Ratio:-** Coming to another social sector indicator i.e. literacy rate, the values in the Table-1, suggests that both total literacy and female literacy have increased in Eastern VidharbhaDivision over the study periods. The district-wise figures shows that the Nagpur district achieved tremendous progress in spreading the literacy in general and female literacy in particular during all the four benchmark years, followed by Wardha, Bhandara, Chandrapur districts. But the Gadchiroli district position is worst in case of the both i.e. total literacy and female literacy of all the four benchmark years.

The last social-sector indicator of our study is sex-ratio. This indicator shows the symbol of equity. The indicator reveals that the disparity can be found in progressive Nagpur district about sex-ratio.

## 2. Intra-Divisional Disparities in Western Vidharbha (Amravati) Division –

**A) Health :-** Table- 2 highlights the detailed picture of disparity found within the Western Vidharbha (Amravati) Division, between the WV Division and Vidharbha region. The observation of the Table shows that the Vidharbhalevels values with regard to the above three health related components are nearly higher than the values of WV Division. It sufficiently shows that the people of WV Division does not have minimum health services when compared to the people living in the other part of the region.

The inter-district comparison of health facilities shows that No. of dispensaries for fifty thousand population, Amravati district stood first in two benchmark years, and the Akola district stood first in two benchmark years, respectively. But the Yeotmal and Washim districts position is worst on this regard. While coming to the other health related indicator i.e. No. of dispensaries per 100 sq. kms., Amravati district stood first in two benchmark years and Akola district stood first in two benchmark years, respectively. Further, with regard to the another health related indicator i.e. No. of Beds per fifty thousand population, Yeotmal district stood in first place during the three benchmark years out of four and followed by the Akola, Buldhana, and Washim districts, respectively.

**B) Education :-** The consists of four components i.e. two each pertaining to the primary and secondary education. Table-2 gives the detailed picture on these four indicators relating to the education. The values relating to the primary education indicators of WV Division are higher than the Vidharbha level values during the two benchmark years out of four benchmark years and other time WV Division are lower than the Vidharbha level values during the two benchmark years out of four years. Regarding the values relating to the inter-district disparities, it can be observed and found that in case of the No. of primary schools per fifty thousand population, Yeotmal district stood first during the three benchmark years and Washim district stood first during the one year. On the other hand the values of primary schools per 100 sq. kms. suggests that Akola district stood first in all the four benchmark years and it is followed by the Buldhana district stood second place in two benchmark years out of four years, Washim and Yeotmal districts stood first during the one year each.

Table-2

### Intra-Divisional Disparities in Social Infrastructure – WV Division

| Districts of WV Division | 1              | 2     | 3    | 4      | Indicators | 6     | 7     | 8     | 9     | 10     |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------|------|--------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| <b>Year</b>              | <b>1980-81</b> |       |      |        |            |       |       |       |       |        |
| Akola                    | 2.408          | 0.832 | 33   | 45.048 | 15.565     | 5.337 | 1.844 | 47.82 | 35.45 | 948    |
| Amravati                 | 4.487          | 1.368 | 34   | 40.811 | 12.441     | 6.099 | 1.859 | 51.82 | 42.55 | 936    |
| Yeotmal                  | 0.374          | 0.096 | 6.5  | 53.109 | 13.582     | 4.980 | 1.274 | 39.29 | 26.86 | 958    |
| Buldhana                 | 3.800          | 1.00  | 26.5 | 52.257 | 13.750     | 6.017 | 1.583 | 37.30 | 22.70 | 957    |
| Washim                   | -              | -     | -    | -      | -          | -     | -     | -     | -     | -      |
| WV Division              | 2.767          | 0.824 | 25   | 47.806 | 13.835     | 5.608 | 1.640 | 44.06 | 31.89 | 949.75 |

|             |                |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |        |
|-------------|----------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Vidharbha   | 2.876          | 0.919 | 63.938 | 46.661 | 14.087 | 5.527  | 1.760 | 42.82 | 30.66 | 946.71 |
| <b>Year</b> | <b>1990-91</b> |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |        |
| Akola       | 2.958          | 1.239 | 34.5   | 39.313 | 16.463 | 6.503  | 2.723 | 65.83 | 53.28 | 939    |
| Amravati    | 4.045          | 1.458 | 33.5   | 38.000 | 13.694 | 9.182  | 3.309 | 70.06 | 61.13 | 936    |
| Yeotmal     | 0.409          | 0.125 | 583    | 46.245 | 14.142 | 6.380  | 1.951 | 57.96 | 44.81 | 951    |
| Buldhana    | 1.943          | 0.802 | 31     | 35.689 | 14.729 | 5.124  | 2.115 | 47.18 | 37.79 | 957    |
| Washim      | -              | -     | -      | -      | -      | -      | -     | -     | -     | -      |
| WV Division | 2.339          | 0.906 | 170.5  | 39.812 | 14.757 | 6.797  | 2.525 | 60.26 | 49.25 | 945.75 |
| Vidharbha   | 2.351          | 0.815 | 204.6  | 38.933 | 14.216 | 7.716  | 3.184 | 57.27 | 46.09 | 950.48 |
| <b>Year</b> | <b>2000-01</b> |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |        |
| Akola       | 4.110          | 2.359 | 65     | 34.075 | 19.560 | 5.459  | 3.134 | 81.40 | 73.40 | 938.91 |
| Amravati    | 2.397          | 1.024 | 32.5   | 36.057 | 15.397 | 9.609  | 4.103 | 82.50 | 75.70 | 938    |
| Yeotmal     | 0.407          | 0.147 | 773    | 42.474 | 15.376 | 8.177  | 2.960 | 73.61 | 62.52 | 942    |
| Buldhana    | 2.034          | 0.844 | 34     | 37.243 | 15.448 | 5.339  | 2.240 | 61.69 | 46.13 | 953    |
| Washim      | 0.697          | 0.231 | 27     | 48.142 | 15.942 | 11.672 | 3.865 | 69.05 | 46.93 | 952    |
| WV Division | 1.929          | 0.921 | 186.3  | 39.598 | 16.345 | 8.051  | 3.260 | 73.65 | 60.94 | 944.78 |
| Vidharbha   | 1.945          | 0.815 | 217.65 | 43.714 | 17.051 | 8.766  | 3.637 | 72.43 | 61.01 | 953.06 |
| <b>Year</b> | <b>2010-11</b> |       |        |        |        |        |       |       |       |        |
| Akola       | 3.583          | 2.289 | 67.5   | 33.216 | 21.215 | 6.009  | 3.838 | 87.38 | 83.10 | 951    |
| Amravati    | 2.025          | 0.958 | 39     | 33.305 | 15.758 | 11.442 | 5.414 | 88.05 | 83.54 | 946    |
| Yeotmal     | 0.379          | 0.155 | 828.5  | 48.010 | 19.597 | 13.310 | 5.433 | 82.82 | 75.93 | 952    |
| Buldhana    | 1.353          | 0.729 | 23.5   | 30.430 | 16.396 | 8.178  | 4.406 | 83.40 | 75.84 | 934    |
| Washim      | 0.459          | 0.212 | 20.5   | 37.338 | 17.192 | 12.028 | 5.538 | 83.25 | 75.48 | 930    |
| WV Division | 1.560          | 0.869 | 195.8  | 36.460 | 18.032 | 10.193 | 4.926 | 84.98 | 78.78 | 942.60 |
| Vidharbha   | 1.524          | 0.639 | 229.5  | 38.814 | 17.039 | 10.805 | 4.809 | 84.03 | 77.77 | 956.39 |

1.No. of Dispensaries per 50,000 population; 2.No. of Dispensaries per 100 sq. kms.; 3. No. of Hospital Beds per 50,000 population; 4. No. of primary schools per 50,000 population; 5. No. of primary schools per 100 sq. kms.; 6. No of secondary schools per 50,000 population; 7. No. of secondary schools per 100 sq. kms.; 8. Literacy Rate; 9. Female Literacy; 10. Sex-Ratio

Source -Computed from Govt. of Maharashtra, Directorate of economics and Statistics, Statistics Abstract 2011-12.

With respect to secondary school education in WV Division. It is revealed that WV Division values on two secondary school education indicators when compared with the Vidharbha level values, make it clear that the WV Division values are lower than the Vidharbha level values during three years out of four benchmark years. If we look into the inter-district differences on these indicator i.e. the No. of secondary schools per fifty thousand population, and Washim , Amravati district stood first during the one year each out of four benchmark years in regarding to the No. of secondary schools per 100 sq. kms.

**C) Literacy & Sex-Ratio :-** The next social sector indicator of our study is literacy. This indicator consists of two components one is literacy rate and another is female literacy rate. On both of the these components the Table-2 reveals that the WV Division values were higher than the vidharbha level in three years out of four benchmark years. The disparity can also be found among the five districts. While looking at the table, Amravati district stood first place in all the four benchmark years. But the Buldhana district position is worst in case of all the years. However, the literacy position become bad to worst in Buldhana district.



### **Conclusion :-**

The social infrastructure, which is essential for human resource development shows that in Maharashtra there has been substantial improvement in the social infrastructure over the years. However, as far as spread of development of social infrastructure in the state as well as Vidharbha region is concerned there is no uniformity. Analysis of data relating to various indicators chosen for the purpose of measuring development of social infrastructure during the study period reveals that in all the services i.e. health, education vidharbha region lags behind the state. The poor growth of social infrastructure has its impact in the form of low literacy rate in the region. The more concerning fact is the poor female literacy rate in the study region. Further, within the Western Vidharbha Division there is backwardness in the development of social infrastructure facilities.

The social infrastructure development within the Eastern Vidharbha Division shows that during the study period there has been progress in the social infrastructure. However, inter-district comparisons reveals that wide spread disparities exists among the districts on number of indicators. The social infrastructure development is quite slow in WV Division.

Therefore, it is necessary on the part of the government to focus on the skewed spread of development process while formulating policy prescription.

### **References:**

1. Gangshetty R.V., Economic Development and Regional Disparities. Current Publication Agra. 2009.
2. Government of Maharashtra. Final Report of the High Power Committee for Redressal of Regional Imbalance.2002.
3. Economic Survey of Govt. of Maharashtra.2008-09.
4. Parimal Chandra sarkar, Regional Disparities in India. Issues and Measurement.Himalaya Publishing House, New Delhi. 1999. Pg.21.
- 5.Gangshetty R.V., M.S.Kumar and Sharanabasappa M.B., Regional Disparities of Social Infrastructure in North Karnataka. Southern Economist, June 11, Vol.50. pg.19-24.