A Study on Socioeconomic Disparity in Maharashtra: A District Level Analysis

Anju Chavan
N. L. Dalmia College of Arts Commerce and Science
Corresponding Author: Anju Chavan
DOI- 10.5281/zenodo.12703613

Abstract:

This study examines socioeconomic disparities across districts and divisions in Maharashtra, focusing on socio-economic factors influencing uneven development. Using data from the Human Development Index (HDI) 2011 and subsequent years, the study analyzes sector-wise contributions to the State Gross Domestic Product (SGDP), per capita income variations, gender-specific literacy rates, and industrial distribution. Results highlight significant contrasts between economically advanced regions like Mumbai and Pune versus less developed areas in Vidarbha and Marathwada. The findings underscore the impact of historical legacy, infrastructure disparities, and non-inclusive policies on Maharashtra's economic landscape. Recommendations include targeted investments in agriculture, industrial diversification, and skill development to promote balanced growth and reduce regional disparities.
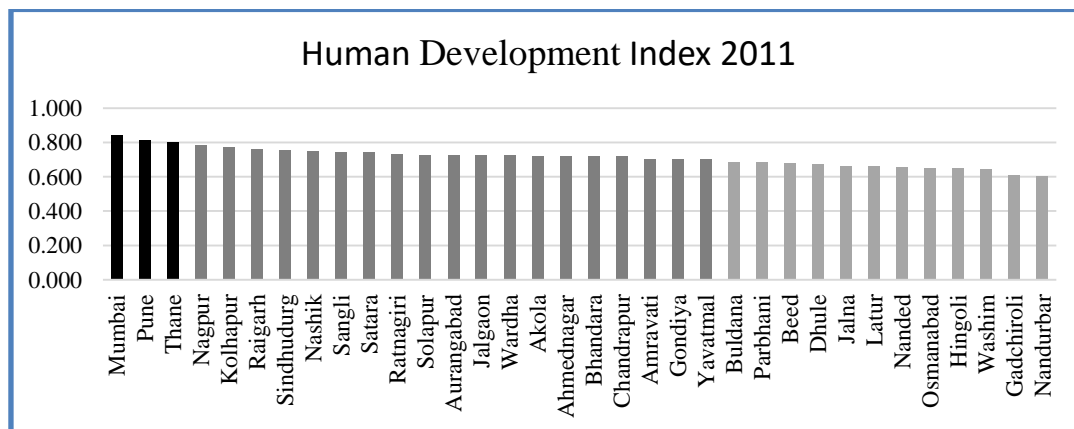
Keywords: Socioeconomics, Disparity, Districts, Development, Imbalance.

Introduction:

Maharashtra is most vibrant and diverse state in the country, and it holds significant role in India's cultural, political and economic landscape. Mumbai is the capital city which attracts people from all over the country and contributing highest not only in state economy but to the nation, other than Mumbai several other cities like Pune, Nagpur and Thane also have important role in its socioeconomic fabric. Maharashtra state is divided into 36 districts which consist of six administrative divisions. While state experiences vital growth and development, there are indeed imbalance in pace and nature of growth across its different district and divisions. Imbalance in Maharashtra arises due to factors like historical legacy, geographical features, industrialization pattern, disparity in infrastructure and non -inclusive government policies.

The Human Development Report (HDI) 2011 which measures the economy on its socioeconomic background by its three key indicators life expectancy, education and per capita income has shown disparities across district of Maharashtra.

Source- Maharashtra Human Development Report 2011, Gov. Of Maharashtra

Maharashtra's HDI varied significantly from district to district by reflecting disparity in access to education, health and standard of living. Districts such as Mumbai, Pune and Thane scores very high development due to its bustling urban centers and robust infrastructure. Marathwada and Vidarbha region scores comparatively lower HDI ranking.

Above HDI of Maharashtra represents the district wise disparity from very high development (Mumbai) to medium developed district Nandurbar at last. The present study work attempt to construct a district level growth imbalance in the state of

Maharashtra by taking various socioeconomic factors.

Objectives:

1. To examine the sector wise contribution of district and administrative divisions in SGDP of Maharashtra
2. To compare the per capita income disparity in various districts.
3. To analyse the gender wise literacy rate of districts.
4. To find variation in variation in industries and their workers.
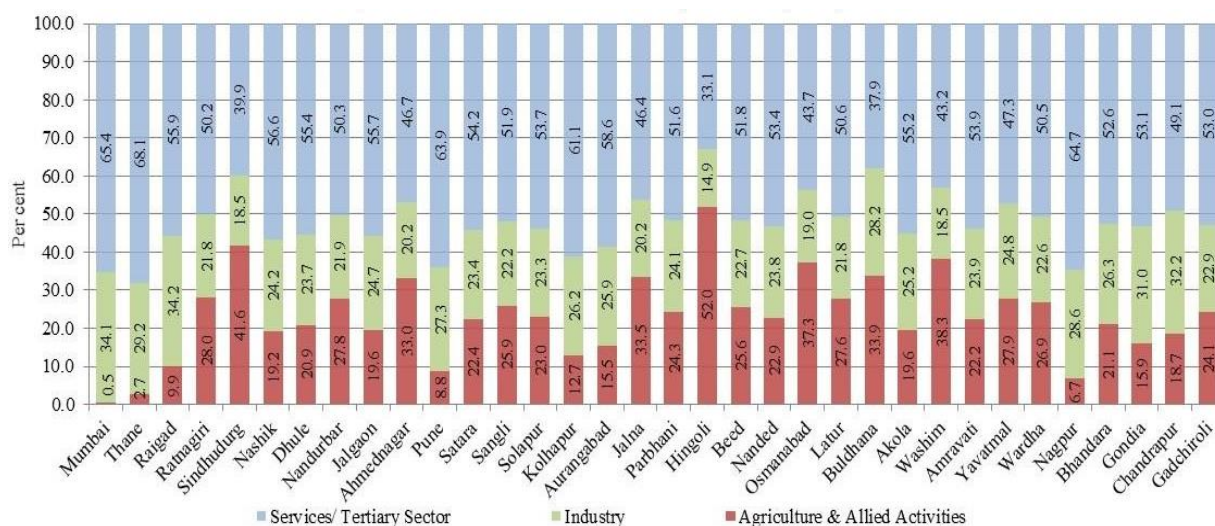
Research Methodology:

To achieve the objectives of this research work data has be taken from secondary sources. The study has taken data of the census year 2011 and further years according to availability of data at district level in Maharashtra. To analyse the data and find disparity between the districts, tabular and graphical functions are used.

A) Sector wise contribution in SGDP of Maharashtra:

Maharashtra, a diverse and economically strongest state of India, thrives across multiple sectors that fuel its growth and development. The State Gross Domestic Product of Maharashtra is (SDGP) is approximately USD435 billion in year 2022-23 and 12.92% accounts for India's GDP, which makes it the largest economy of the country. Three sectors of the economy play a significant role to make Maharashtra's per capita income higher than the national average.
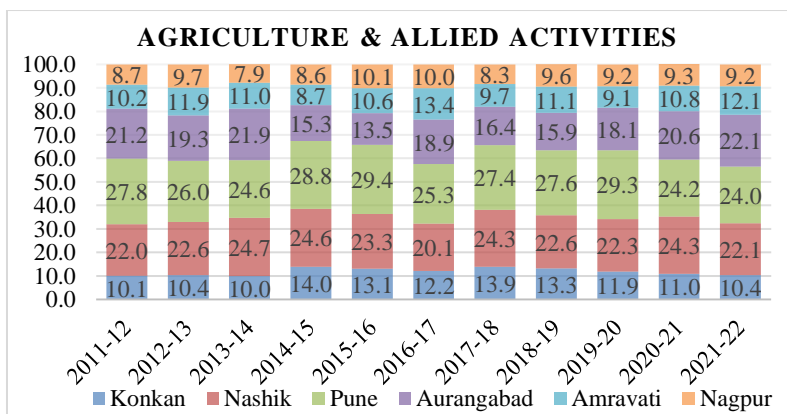
Sector wise share in GDVA 2021-22

Source- Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Planning Department, Government Of Maharashtra, Mumbai.

The chart above shows the contribution of three sectors of districts in the year 2021-22. Thane has the highest contribution in the service sector at 68.1%, followed by Mumbai, with the lowest being Hingoli at 33.1%. In the case of industries, again Mumbai, Thane, and Raigad are on top, whereas Hingoli, Washim, and Sindhudurga are at the bottom but highest in contribution to the agricultural sector.

The districts showing the highest contribution to agriculture among all three sectors are from the Vidarbha and Marathwada administrative areas. Let's analyze graph given below, which provides trends of the state's agricultural growth contribution by different divisions from 2011-12 to 2021-22.
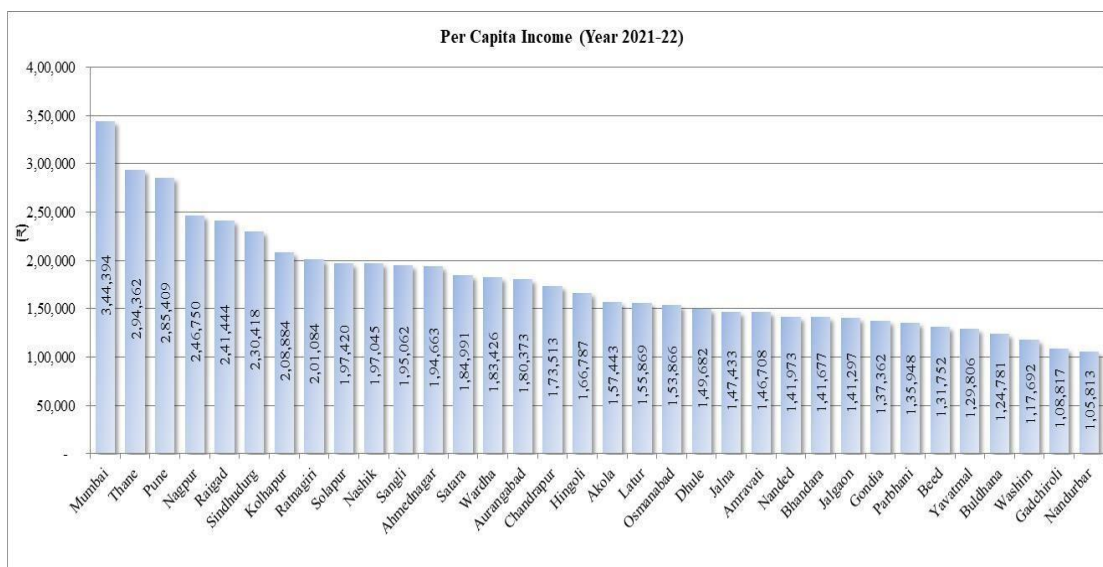

Source- Directorate Of Economics & Statistics, Planning Department, Government Of Maharashtra, Mumbai.

Anju Chavan

Nashik and Pune divisions have consistently shown the highest contribution in the agricultural sector, with the lowest being 22.1% in 2021-22 compared to Aurangabad, Amravati, and Nagpur (Marathwada and Vidarbha), which recorded the highest contribution of 22.1% in 2021-22 among all the years given in the chart. Districts of Marathwada and Vidarbha contribute significantly to the state's agricultural growth, but their agricultural production is much lower than the contribution of districts in the rest of Maharashtra.

B) District Wise Per Capita Income:

Per capita income, a key economic indicator, refers to the average income earned by individuals. It is obtained by dividing the total income of a region by its population. Higher per capita income signifies indicating a higher standard of living and potentially better access to goods and services, education, healthcare and other essential amenities.

Below is given district wise per capita income of Maharashtra for the year 2021-22.

Source- Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Planning Department, Government Of Maharashtra, Mumbai.
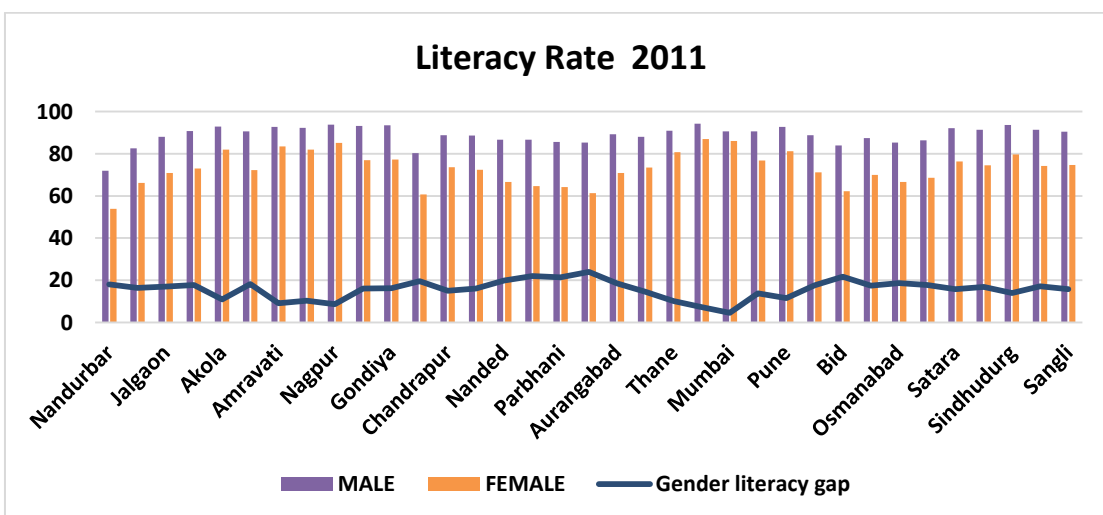
In terms of per capita income, there is a significant amount of disparity. Mumbai (including Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban taken together) leads with ₹3,44,394, followed by Thane (including Palghar) with ₹2,94,362, and Pune with ₹2,85,409. On the other hand, Nandurbar (₹1,05,813), Gadchiroli (₹1,08,817), and Washim (₹1,17,692) have the lowest per capita income, based on the same estimates for the year 2021-22.

The state average income was estimated at Rs215,000 (Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2022-

23). Only six districts have an average income higher than the state per capita income, from Konkan and Pune divisions, which contribute the most to SGDP. Districts with lower per capita income at the bottom are mostly from Marathwada and Vidarbha divisions.

C) District Wise Literacy Rate

Maharashtra boasts a literacy rate of approximately 82% and ranked among the relatively high literacy rate state in India.

Source- Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India

Anju Chavan

The literacy rate of males is higher than that of females in all the districts of Maharashtra. The highest literacy rate is in Mumbai Suburban district at 90.9%, followed by Nagpur at 89.52% and Mumbai at 88.48%. The lowest gender gap in literacy is 4.51% in Mumbai district, where males are at 93.54% and females at 86.03%.

There is a district-wise disparity in literacy rates, with the lowest literacy rates found in Nandurbar at 63.04% and Gadchiroli at 70.55%. Seventeen districts have a literacy rate lower than the state average, and twenty-four districts have a gender literacy gap of more than 15%. Jalna has the highest gap at 23.97% in literacy rate, with males at 85.25% and females at 61.28%, followed by Hingoli (22%), Beed (21.07%), Prabhani (21.39%), and Nanded (19.09%).

D) District Wise Number of Factory and Workers

Factories are serving as the backbone of industrial production and economic development. Beyond their economic significance, factories have profound social implications, shaping urban landscape, fostering community development and influencing standard of living.

District Wise Disparity in No. of Factories and No. of Workers in 2011

Sr.No	District Name	No.of Factories	No. of Workers
1	Mumbai(C)	1646	75619
2	Mumbai(S)	3521	169214
3	Thane	7817	418573
4	Raigad	1251	91212
5	Ratnagari	339	18435
6	Sindhudurg	134	3270
7	Nasik	1933	100601
8	Dhule	316	9876
9	Nandurbar	87	2893
10	Jalgaon	827	32005
11	Ahmednagar	884	36080
12	Pune	4453	426273
13	Satara	488	34597
14	Sangli	821	33683
15	Solapur	3853	38348
16	Kolhapur	1799	81528
17	Aurangabad	950	66433
18	Jalna	258	10720
19	Parbhani	61	2171
20	Beed	140	6554
21	Nanded	167	3054
22	Osmanabad	37	3234
23	Latur	136	5358
24	Hingoli	50	1814
25	Buldhana	357	8838
26	Akola	441	8210
27	Amravati	382	5440
28	Yavatmal	316	9028
29	Washim	112	1675
30	Wardha	144	13129
31	Nagpur	1690	70589
32	Bhandara	118	4074
33	Chandrapur	209	18969
34	Gadchiroli	46	1547
35	Gondia	93	1574
Total	35876	1814618	
Mean	1025.029	51846.23	
Standard Deviation	1625.504	99893.73	
C.V.	1.585814	1.926731	

Source- Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India

Anju Chavan

The table above shows a high Coefficient of Variation (C.V.) in the number of factories and the number of workers in Maharashtra, which are 1.5 and 1.9, respectively. The range in the number of factories is a minimum of 37 in Osmanabad and a maximum of 7,817 in Thane. In the case of the number of workers, the lowest count is 1,547 in Gadchiroli, and the highest count is 4,262,73 in Pune. Districts with fewer than 100 factories include Osmanabad, Gadchiroli, Hingoli, Parbhani, Nandurbar, and Gondia.

Conclusion:

Maharashtra is indeed an economically robust state in India, yet it exhibits significant imbalances in its socioeconomic factors. Based on the socioeconomic development status of its districts, it's evident that Vidarbha and Marathwada regions lag behind Konkan and Pune divisions. Districts such as Mumbai, Mumbai Suburb, Thane, Pune, Nagpur, Raigad, and Nashik are socioeconomically advanced, whereas Hingoli, Nandurbar, Gadchiroli, Washim, Beed, Parbhani, and Nanded face developmental challenges.

Disparities in Maharashtra stem from districts primarily reliant on the primary sector. To address this, identifying their factor endowment in agriculture production and encouraging it through agricultural advancement, improved irrigation, modern techniques, and infrastructure investments like roads and railways to enhance connectivity is essential. The government should make efforts to attract investment for industrialization, diversifying the economy and creating employment opportunities. Additionally, skill development programs targeting youth empowerment and the implementation of water management projects at the grassroots level are crucial.

References:
1. Desarda, H. M. (1996). The Other Side of Development - Maharashtra's Backward Regions. EPW, 31(50), 14 Dec.
2. Kelkar, V., Pethe, A., Borade, V., Bang, A., Chitale, M., Deshpande, V., Kamdar, S., Nachane, D., Mayande, V. M., Chahande, S., & Bakshi, K. P. (2013). Report of the High-Level Committee on Balanced Regional Development Issues in Maharashtra. Government of Maharashtra Planning Department. GIPE Digitised Books [22617]. http://hdl.handle.net/10973/33424
3. Kamble, S. V., Gaikwad, M. M., & Gohad, R. N. (2022). Addressing Socio-Economic Imbalance in Maharashtra: A Convex Hull Analysis of MIDC Distribution and Proposals for Balanced Development. Dogo Rangsang Research Journal, 12(08), 07.
4. Mundhe, N. (2020). Status of Human Development in Maharashtra: A District Level Analysis. Shanlax International Journal of Economics, 8(3), 88–96. https://doi.org/10.34293/economics.v8i3.2445
5. Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2022-23. (2023). Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Planning Department, Government of Maharashtra. (62nd Issue). Mumbai. https://mahades.maharashtra.gov.in/esm.do?type=R

Anju Chavan