Indicators Of Economic Development Of The Lohar Community In Phaltan Tahsil : A Theoretical Approach

Mr. Mahadev Balu Chavan[1] & Dr. Vijay D.Gaikwad[2]

[1]*Research Scholar, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.*

[2]*Research Guide, Head Dept. of Geography, Devchand College,Arjunnagar Tal.Kagal Dist.Kolhapur*

Corresponding Author - Mr. Mahadev Balu Chavan

Abstract:

In Economic geography, Economic development is of major concern for a welfare Government like India. The present paper is intended the highlight the theoretical considerations in selecting the indicator of economic development. Since the level of economic development cannot be measured directly, one must select suitable indicators. A development indicator should represent some Lohar Community aspect of development such as Industrialization, Educational, Urbanization etc. it may be direct measure of an economic or social variable or more often, an indirect measure of some non-measurable phenomena, viz. standard of living. Economic development Indicators may be disaggregated, composite or representative. There is no foolproof method of reaching an operational index from the theoretical concept except by making a number of judgments. The choice of Lohar Community indicators of regional development should distinguish between the basic forces and derivative result and base itself on the intrinsic relationship between spatial and sectoral processes in a holistic.

Keywords: Economic Development Indicators, Theoretical Considerations, Types of Indicators etc.

Introduction:

Regional disparity in levels of economic development is of major concern for a welfare Government like the Union Republic of India. The main aim of the Government is to reduce regional disparity and provide every citizen all possible facilities for their development. The present paper is intended to highlight the Lohar Community theoretical considerations in selecting the indicators of economic development.

Study Area:

Phaltan Tahsil is selected for the research paper. The choice of topic under investigation is influenced by many considerations. Firstly, researcher belongs to Phaltan Tahsil hence is familiar with study area. Secondly study area falls in drought prone region of Deccan trap of Maharashtra state, receiving annual average rainfall between 450 -500 mm. It is distributed unevenly in study area. Thirdly irrigation is a dominant factor in

the study area having considerable impact on land use of Phaltan Tahsil. The Banganga River, the Banganga canal, The Nira River and Nira right bank canal, wells and tube wells are the sources of irrigation in study area. It lies between $17^0 58^{'}$ North to $18^0 5'$ North latitude and $74^0 20^{'}$ East to $74^0 40^{'}$ East longitude. It has total geographical area of 1190 sq.km.with128 villages and one urban settlement (2011 census). This area is bounded by the Nira River in the northern side. The region attains 576 metres height (M.S.L.) with northward slopping land drained mainly by the Banganga River, a right bank tributary of the Nira River.

The medium black and deep black soil appears within study area. The soil fertility encourages growth of various crops like sugarcane, jowar, bajara, onion, vegetables. According to 2011 census the area has 342667 population, out of these 176250 are males and 1 66417 are females and density of population is 287 per square kilometre. Phaltan is an administrative head quarter of this Tahsil.
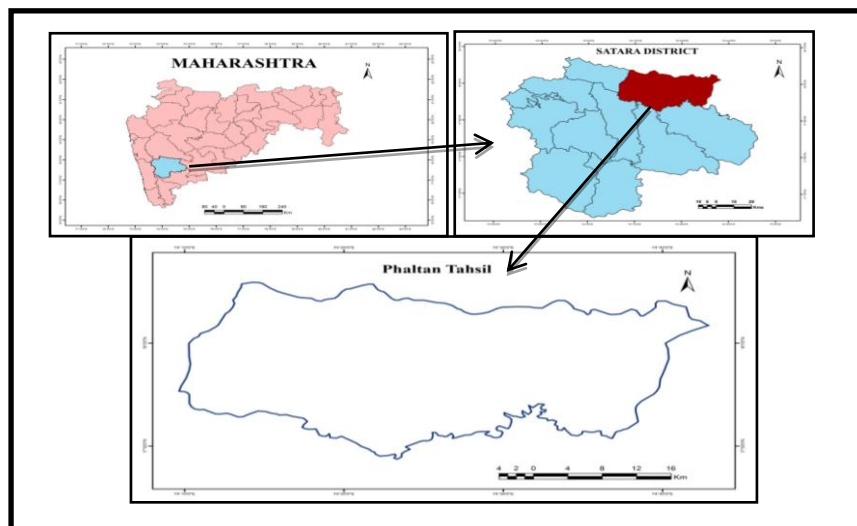
Location Map of Phaltan Tahsil

Fig. – 1 Location Map of Phaltan Tahsil

Theoretical Considerations:

The levels economic of development are not directly measurable one must select suitable indicators. A development indicator should represent some aspect of development such as industrialization, health, equality, participation etc., because development involves changes in structure, capacity and output. Indicators may be disaggregated, composite or representative. In the first case a complex phenomena is broken into a number of elements or components and indicators are selected to represent the different components. Ideally these elements should be homogeneous, mutually exhaustive and mutually exclusive. In the second case, a single indicator is constructed by combining a number of indices, involving some system of weighing indices, third one a representative indicator is selected as the best measure of a particular phenomenon on the basis of some criteria such as

Mr.Mahadev Balu Chavan & Dr.Vijay D.Gaikwad

closeness of correlation with other indicators of the same phenomenon. In all three cases the validation of the indicator depends on its reliability, sensitivity, accuracy and on the consistency of its relation to other development indicators. The mean things of the levels of development have had different connotations to various scholars. These can roughly be grouped in to categories.

1) Selecting an indicator or indicators for formulating composite index.

2) Deciding the nature of relationship among the variables of the composite index.

Types of Indicators:

1) General Indicators:

The general indicators indicate per capita income is perhaps the best single measure of economic development of a region. It is an aggregative type of indicator, whole research of evaluating the combined effect of several indicators of the economy in grading the districts on the ladder of development. However, the variation in the real purchasing power of money may reduce its suitability as a good indicator of economic development. Moreover, it would not distinguish between the qualitative differences of development as the same monetary income from primitive practice of cultivation and modern industry or government service does not have the same bearing on the current stage of development.

2) Indicators Of Agricultural Development:

Though overdependence on agriculture and related pursuits indicate backwardness of the economy, there is needed to study the relative development of agriculture for measuring the economic condition of the people engaged in cultivation. The level of the development in this case can best be reflected in agricultural efficiency. Thus is reflected in the total production from a particular unit area and in per acre yield. However, the gross value of agriculture output per agricultural workers would be the best indicator of agricultural development. It accounts for total production as well as their market value.Following indirect indicators can be studied.i) Cultivable area per agricultural worker ii) Net area sown per agricultural worker iii) Area sown more than once as percentage net sown area iv) Percentage of gross irrigated area to gross sown area v) Wage rates of agricultural workers.

3) Indicators Of Industrial Development:

The role of industries in economic development cannot be over emphasized. It is a modern sector of economy on which the development in other sectors depends. Hence the incises formed to measure industrial development are very important. The per capita value of industrial output could have been the best single indicators of industrial development, because it accounts for industrial output, income

Mr.Mahadev Balu Chavan & Dr.Vijay D.Gaikwad

generated and value added by manufacturing etc.

4) Indicators Of Trade And Commerce:

Simultaneously with urban and industrial development tertiary activities particularly trade and commerce, develop in a region. No trade statistics worth mention are available on district level. The per capita sales tax structure were the same in all the states. Moreover, such data is collected on the basis of commercial circles which do not correspond to the districts. In its absence the percentage of workers in trade and commerce out of total workers can be taken as a indicator.The development of regional infra- structure is a prerequisite for the development of agriculture, industry and urban centres. It includes development of transportation network, power supply, irrigational facilities, educational and technical institutions etc.

5) Indicators of Transport Development:

Roads constitute a very important infrastructural item of economic development. The mileage of surface roads per 100 sq. km and per lakh of population are generally the two indicators adopted to measure the relative development of different areas.The per capita motor spirit tax is a good indicator of the development of road transport,because it combines in itself the number of vehicles, miles run and also the load carried, because the consumption of petrol or diesel is higher in heavy transport vehicles. The direct aspect

of the road traffic concerning the economy of the district is the number of goods carriers.

6) Health Indicators:

With economic development health condition and educational facilities also improve. So the indicators of health and educational development would certainly point out the level of economic development. The expectancy of life if available district wise, would have been a good indicator of health condition. Since this is not available the general death rate can serve the purpose but the compilation of such a rate still suffers from the defect of incomplete coverage as deaths are generally not reported, and the data is also not properly compiled in different areas. The maternal death rate per 000 birth is another indicator or the health conditions.

7) Indicators of Educational Development:

Effective literacy is a good indicator of educational development, particularly in a case like India where literacy is very low. However in absence of the data for effective literacy crude literacy can be taken as an indicator of educational development. It is a general index of cultural and technological advance. The percentage of school going children in the age group 6 to 14 years is another good indicator of the state of affairs in educational sphere. It throws light on the effort with which the lack in education is being made up. The scholars per lakh of population, per capita

Mr.Mahadev Balu Chavan & Dr.Vijay D.Gaikwad

expenditure on education and educational institutions per lakh of population are other possible indicators.

8) Indicators of Power Development:

As economic prosperity rises, the per capita electric power consumption generally increases. Hence, per capita consumption of electricity can be a good indicator of economic development. Another indicator would be per capita consumption of inanimate energy per kg. of coal equivalent.

9) The Human Development Index (Hdi):

The HDI was introduced in 1990 as part of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to provide a means of measuring economic development in three broad areas – per capita income, heath and education. The HDI tracks changes in the level of development of countries over time. Each year, the UNDP produces a development report, which provides an update of changes during the year, along with a report on a special theme, such as global warming and development, and migration and development. The introduction of the index was an explicit acceptance that development is a considerably broader concept than growth, and should include a range of social and economic factors.

Conclusion:

To summarize it can be said that levels of economic development cannot be measured directly. One must select suitable indicators for measuring it. The indicators should represent some aspects of development. The proper choice of indicators constitutes crux of the methodology in studying levels of economic development which depends on theoretical assumptions.

References:
1. Agarwal, A. K. Economic Problems and Planning in North Eeast India, Sterling Publishers Pvt.Ltd, New Delhi.
2. Baster. N. (1972) Development Indicators: introduction in measuring development frank case & Co. Ltd.
3. Chopra, J.K. An Overview of Indian Economy. Unique publisher 2008
4. Choudhary S .K : Planning and Employment Trends in India; Deep & Deep New Delhi 1987 20.
5. Kumar, B.B : Trends of British Annexation of North East India; Omsons Publication 1994 36.
6. Kumar. S: Productivity and Factor Substitution; Deep & Deep New Delhi 2001 37.
7. Machenzie A: The Northeast Frontier of India 2004
8. Satya Sundaram: Rural Development; Himalaya Publishing House 2009 53.
9. Sen, R. K & Chatterjee B: Indian Economics (Agenda for the 21st century) 2003
10. Thakur D: Research Methodology in Social Science; Deep & Deep New Delhi 2008 62.

Mr.Mahadev Balu Chavan & Dr.Vijay D.Gaikwad