A STUDY ABOUT HUMAN DEPRIVATION IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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To assess a state's/country's development with the help of income approach is traditional one. Now the focus is shifted towards human development and human poverty approaches .The concept of human development analyses the development not only in mere income increase aspects as is done above but also the equal distribution of that increased income. Moreover, the expansion of output and wealth is only a means and the end of development must be human well being. The progress in human development has two perspectives. One is attainment and another one is shortfall from the development targets. The various indicators of these attainments and composite indices that they support could capture the process of development and well being of people from two perspectives. The 'conglomerative' perspective' capture advances made by the society as a whole – and the ' deprivational perspective' assesses status of the deprived society. Lack of progress in reducing the disadvantages of the deprived can not be 'washed away' by large advances – no matter how large – made by the better- off people.   **(Sarvalingam and Sivakumar (2004).**

Despite plethora of studies on human development at the state level, there are only a few studies that assess the levels of human development within comparative framework.. The studies by Shiva kumar(1991), Tilk (1991), Pal and Pant(1993), Srinivasan and Sharif(1996) and Kundu, Sharif and Ghosh(2000) are a few that have computed the human development index for 15 major states and North Eastern Region . The ranking of Himachal Pradesh in all above-mentioned studies goes up and down from 4 to 9 **(Kundu, Shariff & Ghosh)**

There is another study by **Sarvalingam and   Sivakumar (2004)** which ranked Himachal Pradesh at 8th rank by constructing human deprivation index based on the poverty line(1999-2000), illiteracy(2001) and infant mortality rate(2001). The study assesses the   status of human development in   three dimensions. They are standard of living, educational and health. Deprivation in decent standard of living is measured by the poverty ratio, education deprivation is measured by illiteracy and health deprivation is measured by infant mortality (IMR).

The most straightforward way to measure poverty is to calculate the percentage of population with income or consumption level below the poverty line. The poverty line is defined as the aggregate per capita monthly expenditure of that group whose per capita, per diem 'calorie' intake (obtained from the expenditure on food items) confirms to certain specified norms. The caloric norms were fixed at 2434 kcal per capita per diem for rural areas and 2095 Kcal for urban areas (rounded off to 2400 and 2100 Kcal respectively).

Literacy is a person's first step in learning and knowledge building and therefore, literacy indicators were essential for any measurement of human

development. Illiteracy rate has been taken for measuring education deprivation. Illiteracy rate is calculated as 100 minus literacy rate.

A complex set of biological; socio-economic, demographic and cultural factors underlie infant mortality (IMR). Infant mortality rate is a sensitive index of socio-economic condition of a population. It is an excellent indicator of the level and quality of health care and other social infrastructure available to a population. Infant and child mortality rates provide a good approximation of a community's current health status and by implications, of the welfare of the population and the quality of life itself. Infant mortality rate is the number of infants who die before reaching 1 year of age, expressed per 1,000 live births in a given year.

All the above-mentioned studies relate to the post reform period i.e. from 1991to 2001and no study has compared the changes taking place in human development/ human deprivation with the pre- reform period. So main objective of this study is to measure the human deprivation in Himachal Pradesh at three points of time i.e. 1981, 1991(pre-reform time) and 2001(post reform time) and compare the changes noticed in the status of human development over a period of time.

Based on the poverty line, illiteracy rate and infant mortality rate and by giving equal weight age, the study applies the following methodology as applied by **Sarvalingam and Sivakumar** for constructing the human deprivation index:

Human Deprivation Index=   1/3 (PL) + 1/3 (IR) + 1/3 (IMR)

PL= Poverty Line, IR= Illiteracy Rate,   IMR= Infant Mortality Rate.

Table 1.   Human deprivation index for Himachal Pradesh

YEAR	POVERTY RATIO(%)	ILLITERACY RATE (%)	IMR	DEPRIVATION INDEX
1981	16.40(based on poverty ratio of 1983)	48.82	143	69.41
1991	28.44(based on poverty ratio of 93-94)	36.14	82	48.86
2001	7.63(based on poverty ratio of 99-2000)	24.09	64	31.90

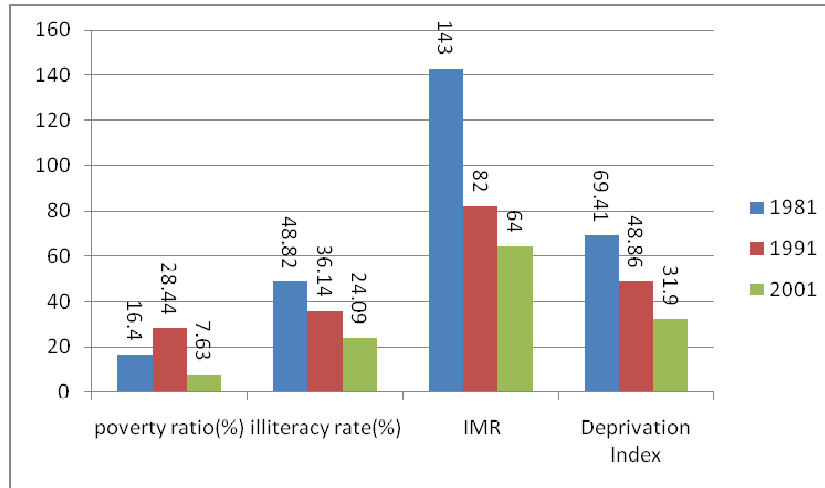Source: National Human Development Report 2001. India

Graph-1

Table: 1& Graph-1 reveals a sharp decline in human deprivation in the years 1991 and 2001 as compared to the year 1981 in Himachal Pradesh. The deprivation index was very high at 69.41 points in 1981 which declined sharply to 48.86 points i.e. by 20.55 points in 1991 . The index again fell down to 31.90 points in 2001i.e. by almost 17 points as compared to 1991. All this indicates that the state is doing well on human development front.

The table further reveals that the illiteracy in the state has declined almost at the same rate i.e. by 12 percentage points during the period under study. It was 48.82% in 1981, 36.14% in 1991& 24.09 percent in 2001

As far as the infant mortality rate (IMR) is concerned, it was high at 143 per 1, 000 live births in 1981. Although IMR showed decline throughout the period under study but it declined very sharply by 61 points in 1991 as compared to 1981. In spite of better performance of the state in terms of eradicating education and health deprivation, the state's performance was noticed worse in terms of poverty eradication during the pre reform period . The poverty ratio increased significantly from 16.4% in 1983 to 28.44 % in 1993-94 i.e. by 12 percentage points. But the state's performance during post reform time has been found consistently better in terms of all the three aspects of human development. The state was successful in eradication of poverty drastically by 20.81 percentage points in 1999-2000. The poverty ratio which was as high as 28.44 per cent in 1993-94 reached as low as 7.63% in 1999-2000.

Deprivation trends

If the trends found above continues the state will achieve 100% literacy by the year 2021. As far as the poverty ratio is concerned, the state may achieve near zero poverty ratio in the next population census of 2011 if the poverty shows a polynomial trend. If poverty shows a linear falling trend then by the year 2030, state

will achieve zero or near zero poverty ratio. Another possibility is of poverty ratio showing falling exponential trend. , the state then will have poverty ratio below the level of 2% by the year 2040.(See Graph-2 for different trends equations).
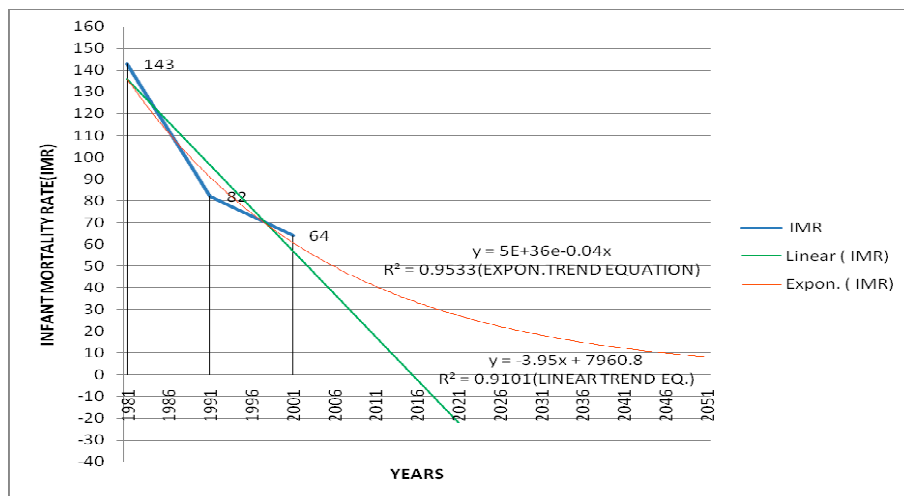
Graph-2
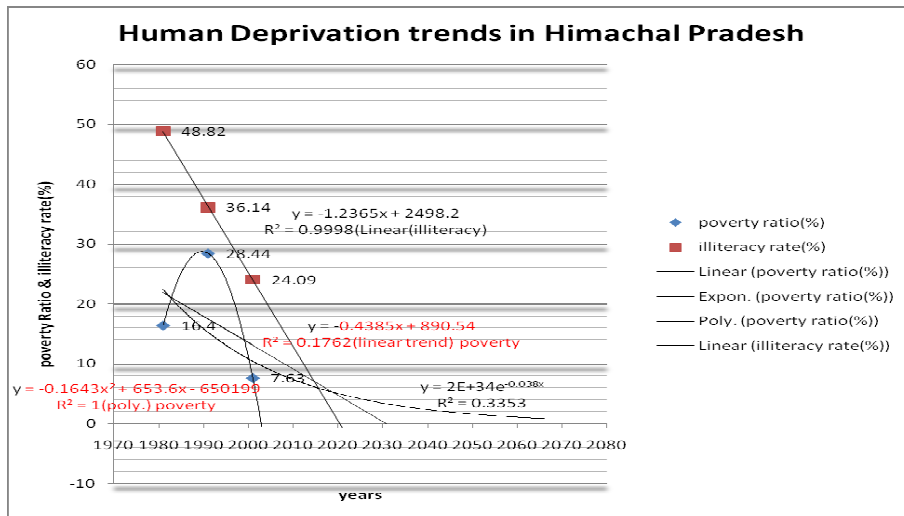
So out of the three possible trends reflected in the above Graph-2, it seems logical to assume that the state may achieve a very low or negligible poverty level somewhere between the years 2030 & 2040.

Infant mortality rate trends

GRAPH-3

Graph -3 reveals the linear & non linear trend equation for IMR. It is observed from the Graph that the IMR may show a falling exponential trend, as the value of R^2 is significantly high as compare to linear trend. If this is the case then the state may be able to achieve a low rate of IMR i.e. below 10 after a longer period i.e. by the year 2041or 2046. So the state needs to pay special attention/efforts on improving the health infrasructure/ services if the state really wants to reach the level of Kerala – the least deprived state.

State wise comparison

State wise human deprivation Index based on poverty line (1999-2000), illiteracy rate(2001) and IMR(2001) prepared by **A. Sarvalingam and M. Sivakumar** found Kerala as the least deprived state with only 12.59 deprivation points followed by Mizoram(17.98 points), Goa(19.35 points), Tamil Nadu(23.54 points), Manipur(28.21 points), Punjab (30.06 points) , J&K with 31.34 points and Himachal Pradesh with 31.90 points ranked 8th .

Human deprivation was found highest in Orissa with 60.50 deprivation points followed by Madhya Pradesh with 56.77 points, Bihar with 54.02 points, Uttar Pradesh with 52.92 points, Assam with 49.93 points and Rajasthan with 45.74 points. These six are the most deprived states and are also above the national deprivation index points(43.96).

So the position of Himachal Pradesh in terms of Human Deprivation is far better as compared to many states of India. It is important to mention here that Punjab, Haryana and J&K are the neighboring states of Himachal Pradesh and the position of Himachal Pradesh in terms of human deprivation with 31.90 points is close to Punjab(30.06 points) and J&k(31.34 points) and even much better than Haryana as the latter had 36.38 deprivation points.

But the matter of fact is that the state has still 2.5 times more deprivation points as compared to Kerala- the least deprived state. So the state should take necessary steps especially in the area of health services to improve human development further to eliminate deprivation completely.

References

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