

## An assessment of changing scenario of development in Odisha

Dr. Sibabrata Das

Department of Applied Geography, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack

### Abstract

In spite of rich history and extensive natural resources, the Indian state of Odisha faces formidable social and economic problems. However, the state has experienced impressive rate of economic growth in the last two decades. The cause of worry is the poor levels of social development. This paper attempts to study the changing levels of socioeconomic development in Odisha by using select socioeconomic indicators.

**Keywords:** Development, Growth, per capita Income, Literacy, Mortality, Life Expectancy.

### 1. Introduction

Understanding the changing scenario of socio-economic aspects of population living in any region is essential for future planning for development. In the any discourse of India's regional development, Odisha takes the centre-stage because of its low performance in many indicators of development. Based on consumption expenditure estimates by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), in the year 2004-05 it was the poorest state in India with 40 percent of its population being poverty ridden<sup>[1]</sup>, well above the corresponding national figure. The state is characterised by comparatively lower level of literacy. More importantly, female literacy rate is 64.37, comparatively lower than many states of India as per the 2011 census<sup>[2]</sup>. According to the 2011 Census, only around one-sixth of the population live in urban areas. The share of socially disadvantaged sections of the society in the state is substantial; Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes comprise 22 percent and 16 percent of the total population respectively<sup>[3]</sup>. In this context this paper attempts to assess the changing levels of socioeconomic development in Odisha over time.

### 2. The Setting

The State of Odisha is located in the eastern part of India extending from 17° 49' to 22° 34' North Latitude and 81° 29' to 87° 29' East Longitude. Odisha is surrounded by Andhra Pradesh on the South-East, Chhattisgarh on the West, Bihar in North, West Bengal in North-East and Bay of Bengal in the East. The State has total area of 15, 5707 sq. km. Climate of Odisha is usually humid or hot and moist. Average rainfall in Odisha is 1482 mm, whereas annual average temperature is 26.2° Centigrade.

The coastal plain of Odisha is a fertile green tract which is known as 'rice bowl' of Odisha. It extends from the Subarnarekha in the north-east to the Rushikulya in the south-west. The river Mahanadi crosses this plain and its big delta merges into the deltas formed by the Brahmini and Baitarani rivers. All these rivers bring enormous water and sometimes cause dangerous floods during monsoon period. The largest Salt Lake 'Chilka Lake' is situated in this part of the state. The coastal low land receives about 152 cm rain a year because it

comes directly under the influence of tropical depression originating in the Bay of Bengal during the monsoon rainy season. Thus a distinctive climatic feature is introduced into the climate of this region by tropical cyclone which sometimes causes immense damage to property and the standing crops particularly sugarcane, coconuts both of strong wind and heavy downpour. Mangroves grow along the delta where it meets the sea. Major parts of the state are mountainous; 'the mountainous portions of Odisha cover three-fourths of the entire state as per the present configuration and hence determine the economic standard of the state'<sup>[4]</sup>

### 3. Data and Methods

A number of indicators are available to describe the well (ill) being of the Indian population. As it is accepted that only monetary indicators do not reveal the true picture of well-being, a set of indicators has been selected to represent economic and social dimensions of development. The selected indicators are based on a variety of sources: poverty data from National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), Per capita income from the Economic Survey Reports, literacy data from the census of India, and health indicators from the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS), Sample Registration System (SRS) and Annual Health Surveys (AHS).

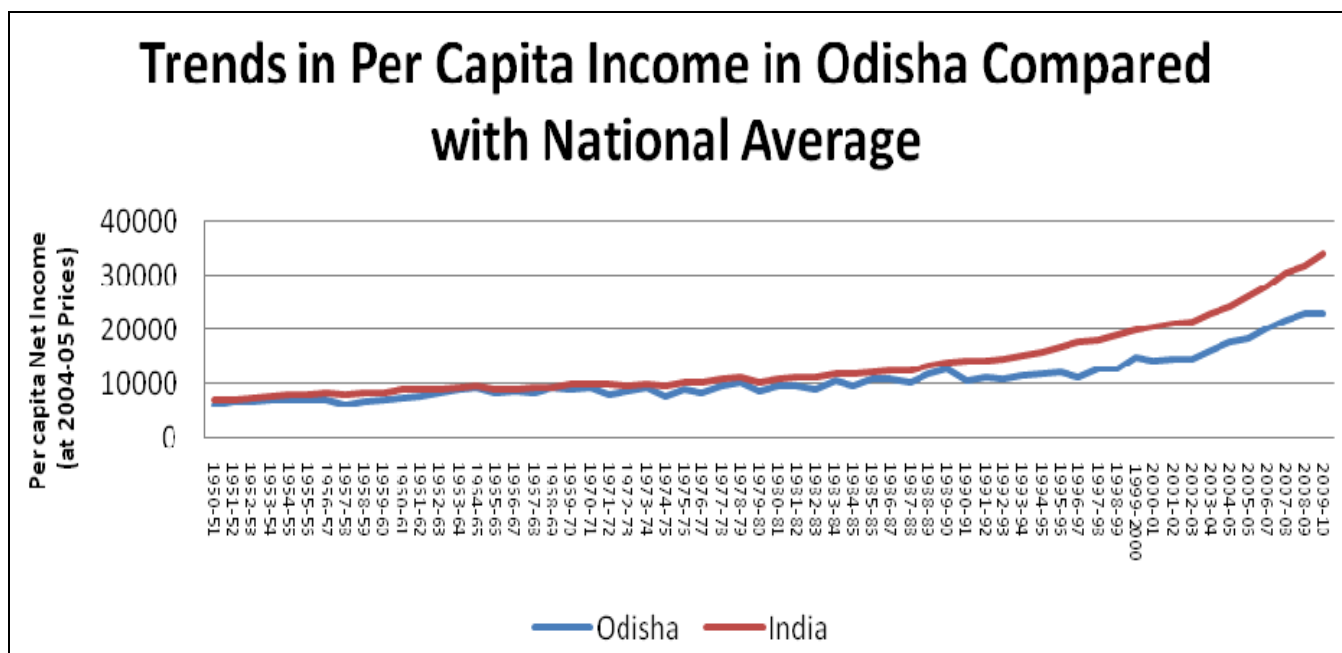
### 4. Findings

#### Economic Performance

On the economic front, Odisha is lagging behind most of the states of India. As per the statistical data, per capita Net Domestic Product (at 2004-05 prices) has increased significantly in India from Rs 7114 in 1951 to Rs 33901 in 2009-10. Compared to this national trend, Odisha's per capita Net State Domestic Product NSDP at 2004-05 prices increased from Rs 6395 to Rs 22846 which is much lower than the national figure. In 1950-51, there was a gap of Rs 719 between Odisha and India which increased to Rs 11055. This indicates towards the widening gap between the performance of Odisha and the country as a whole. However, in the first four decades in the post-independent India, the gap in per capita income between Odisha and the country was not wide (Figure 1). Particularly, in the era of New Economic Policy (NPP), the

gap has widened. It is not that Odisha is not progressing on the economic front; it could not catch up with the national growth figures. It is worth mentioning here that Odisha has performed remarkably well in the first decade of 21<sup>st</sup> century recording an increase from Rs 14263 in 2001-02 to Rs 22963 in 2008-09 as compared to the earlier decades. During an era of modest annualised economic growth (between 1993-94 and 2004-05), the overall percentage of poor has dropped by merely 2 percentage points from 48.6 % in 1993-94 to 46.4 % in 2004-05 (Figure 1). However, poverty rate based on Tendulkar Committee Methodology has declined by 20.2 percentage points between 2004-05 and 2009-10 pointing towards a kind

of trickle down effects of growth to the poor. In spite of its encouraging growth story and poverty reduction trend, Odisha remains as one of the poorest state of India. Odisha shows the highest head count ratio (HCR) of poverty at 46.6 % in 2004-05 among the states in the country. The Tendulkar committee methodology, however, gives a little higher figure for Odisha (57.20 %). The corresponding figure for Odisha in 2009-10 was 37 %. The states which had higher poverty rate than that of Odisha in 2009-10 are Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Bihar. Odisha remained the poorest state in India for the period between 1973-74 and 2004-05 [5].



Source: Based on data provided in Government of India (2013): Economic Survey, 2012-13 [6]

Fig 1: Trends in Per Capita Income in Odisha Based on three year Moving Average

### Demography and Health

As per the 2011 census, the population of Odisha is 41,947,358. It experienced a decadal growth rate of 13.97 during 2001-2011 compared to 16.25 percent during 1991-2001. The density of population is 269. The child sex ratio is 934 which declined from 953 in 2001. As per 2010 SRS estimates CBR and CDR in Odisha are found to be 20.5 and 8.6 respectively [7]. Among all the states and Union Territories, CDR in Odisha is the highest. On the other hand the CBR figure is lower than that of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Assam, Meghalaya and Dadara and Nagar Haveli. CBR figure is also lower than the national average (Table 1). Total Fertility Rate in Odisha was recorded to be 2.36 in 2005-06 which is higher than the national average of 2.06 (IIPS and Macro International, 2007). Relatively low birth rate in the state in spite of its poor economic condition has been a matter of great debate. Mortality rate in the early years of childhood is found to be relatively higher. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the year 2010 was 61, the second highest in the country after Madhya Pradesh (62). Similarly, child mortality and under-five mortality figures for Odisha are quite higher than the national average. It is one of the high childhood mortality states of India. Hence, Odisha represents a situation of low fertility and

High mortality, which does not comply with the well accepted demographic principle of direct association between fertility and mortality.

Table 1: Socio-Economic, Demographic and Health Indicators in Odisha and India

Characteristics	Odisha	India
Population (in million)*	41.9	1210.2
Share of Population (in %) *	3	--
Percent of Population in ages 0-6 population	12	13.1
Child sex ratio(female per thousand male in 0-6 age group)*	934	914
Sex ratio*	978	940
Level Urbanisation (in %)*	17	27.8
Area (in sq. km)*	155707	3,287,240
Population density (Persons per square km)*	269	382
Scheduled Caste population(in million) †	0.6	16.6
Scheduled Tribe population (in million) †	0.8	8.4
Proportion of SC population (in %) †	16.5	8.2
Proportion of ST population (in %) †	22.1	16.2
Literacy rate (in %) *	73.45	74.4
Female literacy rate (in %) *	64.4	74.0
Poverty rate***	37.0	29.8
Total fertility rate**	2.36	2.06

Crude Birth Rate (CBR) ****	20.5	22.1
Crude Death Rate (CDR) ****	8.60	7.20
Neo Natal Mortality Rate ****	42.0	33.0
Infant Mortality Rate****	61.0	47.0
Child Mortality Rate****	17.1	13.3
Under Five Mortality Rate****	78.0	59.0
Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR)	258	212
Underweight (children of age below five years) **	40.7	42.5
Stunting (children of age below five years) **	45.0	48.0
Wasting (children of age below five years) **	19.5	19.8

Sources: \* Census, 2011: India, Registrar General (2011) [2], † Census, 2001: India, Registrar General (2004) [3], \*\* NFHS-3: International Institute of Population Sciences and ORC Macro (2007) [8], \*\*\* NSSO, 2009-10: Government of India (2012) [9], and \*\*\*\* SRS, 2010: Registrar General of India (2012) [6].

**Table 2:** Trends in Life Expectancy at Birth, Odisha

Year	Total	Rural	Urban	Urban-Rural Gap
1970-75	45.7	45.1	55.4	10.3
1976-80	49.4	48.5	58.2	9.7
1981-85	53.0	52.4	59.6	7.2
1986-90	54.4	53.8	61.7	7.9
1991-95	56.5	55.7	64.4	8.7
1996-00	57.9	57.3	65.3	8.0
2001-05	59.2	58.5	66.2	7.7
2002-06	59.6	58.8	66.4	7.6
2006-10*	63.0	62.4	67.1	4.7

Source: India, Registrar General (2010) [10].

\* India, Registrar General (2012) [11].

Life expectancy at birth in Odisha during the period 2002-06 was 59.6 which was lower than national average and many states of the country. However, Table 2 shows an improving trend in life expectancy at birth. Rural-Urban gap in life expectancy has been substantial, which was 10 years in 1970-75, decreased to 7.6 in 2002-06. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) during 2007-09 was 258 in Odisha compared to the national figure of 212 (RGI, 2011). As per NFHS-3 estimates 61.2 percent of the ever married women in the age group of 15-49 were anaemic. Similarly, 41.4 percent of the women in the 15-49 age groups were suffering from Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED).

Child health status in the state is also equally disturbing. 40, 44 and 24 percent of the children below three years were underweight, stunted and wasted respectively. Besides, 65 percent of the children in the age group of 6-59 months were anaemic. This is quite surprising, given other demographic indicators, such as relatively low levels of fertility and the quite high levels of antenatal care coverage in this state compared with other comparatively poor states. Therefore, Odisha has been grouped with other backward states in National Population Policy 2000 as the goal is not only to achieve TFR of 2.1 but also to take care of reduction in IMR, MMR, and malnutrition.

### Education

The literacy rate in Odisha was 15.80 percent in the first census of post-independence India, increased to 65 percent in 2001 and 74 percent in 2011. Though achievement is substantial, still around one-quarter of the population of the state is illiterate. Most importantly, gender disparity in literacy is quite appalling; only 65 percent of the female population

was able to read and write as contrast to the 82.4 percent of the male population. The positive signs are the increasing overall literacy rate and declining gender disparity therein.

### 4. Conclusions

Odisha has seen an impressive rate economic growth in last two decades. However, Odisha continues to lag behind major states in terms of per capita income and poverty reduction. Similarly, the progress in social development, such as education and health, is slower in comparison to other states. The general refrain of these is that there are certain built-in and permanent factors such as the regular visits of cyclones and floods in the coastal part and drought in the western part of the state which would necessarily make Odisha's economy lag far behind the economies of other states. If this is the case, there should be proper and efficient disaster management mechanism in place to mitigate the impact of natural disaster on the economy. However, there is a need of concerted efforts by the union and state Governments to accelerate the process of development in Odisha.

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