

## Statistical Evaluation of Social Development at District Level

Prem Narain, S.D. Sharma, S.C. Rai and V.K. Bhatia  
*Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, IASRI Campus,*  
*New Delhi – 110 012*

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### SUMMARY

Special programmes of socio-economic development have been launched in the country for improving the quality of life of people. The level of socio-economic development was estimated for different districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh), Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal) from the period 1991 to 2005. The status of development in agriculture sector and infrastructural facilities was evaluated for different districts. The evaluation of industrial development was also undertaken in some of the states. About 282 districts belonging to these states were covered in the study. The status of development had been worked out on the basis of a number of developmental indicators. The level of development was estimated with the help of composite index based on optimum combination of all the developmental indicators. The districts falling in different stages of development such as high level developed, middle level developed and low level developed have been identified for all the states covered in the study. Association among the levels of development in agricultural sector and overall socio-economic sector had been worked out. For enhancing the level of development of low developed districts, model districts had been identified and potential targets of important developmental indicators had been estimated.

*Key words:* Developmental indicators, Composite Index, Socio-economic development.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Developmental programmes have been taken up in the country in a planned way through various Five Year Plans with the main objective of enhancing the quality of life of people by providing the basic necessities as well as improving their social and economic well-being. The green revolution in agricultural sector and commendable progress in industrial front have certainly increased the total production in agriculture and manufactured goods, but there is no indication that these activities have been able to reduce substantially the level of regional disparities in terms of development. For focusing the attention of scientists, planners, policy makers and administrators on the problems of estimation of level of development, a

seminar was organized jointly by Planning Commission, Government of India and State Planning Institute, Government of Uttar Pradesh during April 1982. Realizing the seriousness and importance of the problem of estimation of level of development, the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics conducted a series of research investigations in this direction. The level of socio-economic development was estimated for different states for the year 1971-72 and 1981-82 by Narain *et al.* (1991). The study revealed that there were wide disparities in the level of development among different states. For making deeper analysis on the estimation of level of development, the data mostly pertaining to the year 1991-92 were analyzed at the district level. Studies regarding evaluation of status of development at district level have so far been completed for the states of Orissa (Narain *et al.* 1992, 1993, 2005), Andhra Pradesh (Narain *et al.* 1994), Kerala (Narain *et al.* 1994, 2005), Uttar Pradesh (Narain *et al.* 1995, 2001), Maharashtra (Narain *et al.* 1996), Karnataka (Narain *et al.* 1997, 2003), Tamil Nadu, (Narain *et al.* 2000), States of Southern Region (Narain

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