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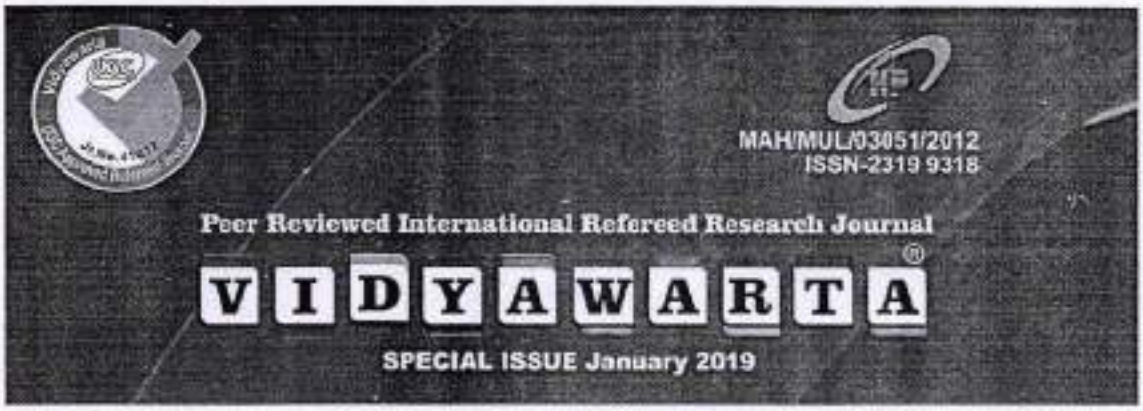

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"TOWARDS BLOCK DEVELOPMENT"

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Introduction:

The fourteenth Finance Commission has recommended assured transfers to the local bodies at rural and urban level for planning and delivery of basic services smoothly and effectively within the functions assigned to them under relevant legislations.[1]

The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments empowered local self-governments like Grampanchayats and PanchayatSamiti/Corporations. Naturally encouragement and competence building of the Panchayati Raj system for effective planning and implementation becomes obligatory. Planning process demands relevant information. The main objective of the economic policy since the beginning of the planning era has been self-sustained growth with equality. The Government reiterated in its various plan documents the need for balanced regional development. But Regional disparities have increased over time in terms of economic and social development. Thus there is a greater need for public action to address this problem. The Planning process in this regard supported the importance of balanced regional development and adopted many policies for the reduction of regional disparities.

To recognize or rectify this gap it needed comprehensive Index.Preparing development indices and mapping have become important analytical tools in development planning to identify the problem areas and sections/communities.The development indices, being a synthesis of several indicators, reflect real-world conditions more accurately and comprehensively than any single indicator such as per capita income, per capita consumption expenditure, literacy rate, etc. The indices are also useful in assessing holistic development. For example, the human development index (HDI) is considered a move towards human-centric development from economic/physical development.

Over the years, the Government of India (GoI) has prepared and used different kinds of development indices for various purposes through a number of expert committees. Among all those committees and indices, the *Report of the 'Committee for Evolving a Composite Development Index of States'* of the Ministry of Finance, GoI, is one of the recent reports and most comprehensive index. The Committee, chaired by the Dr.RaghuramRajan, used 13 indicators which were categorised into ten sub-components (sets of indicators) in preparing the states' development/backward index. The committee also used the indices to assess the performance of the states.There are very few indices prepared at district and sub-district level.

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The economic and social development of a district can be achieved by collective efforts of the Administration, people's representatives and local self-government with good participation with good participation of the people

In this regards attempt is made to prepare a comprehensive Block development indices in Nashik District. The methodology for selecting Development Indicator in the preparation of these indices had been developed by Bhaskar Rao G (Social Development Expert, UNICEF–CGG Support Team, Planning Department, and Government of Telangana). The major objective of the Indices is to understand the development levels of Nashik districts and its Blocks in the state with respect to different dimensions of the development and to provide insights to the District development plan formulations and policy making.The present research paper which is prepared on the basis of various government Report and Survey of Nashik district can serve as a sound base for deciding interventions and allocating resources for Talukas.Development does not only mean creation of essential physical and social infrastructure but also improving all the indicators of social and human development of the people of the district.

Objectives:

1) To find out issues related to Block Level development in Nashik Disctrict.
2) To identify the gaps and the areas of interventions atthe Block level of Nashik district
3) To finalise the parameters for Block Level Development Index.
4) To provide a realistic base for financial allocation among the Block.

Importance:

The developmental model based on economic growth emphasizes that the growth in per capita income will lead to development of that region. The infrastructure and physical facilities required for economic growth become crucial in the paradigm. The humandevelopment paradigm goes beyond the economic growth or increase in per capita income. It underlines the importance of development in education, health and standard of living of people. The human development paradigm is people centric and defines development as enlarging people's choices. The social infrastructure such as schools, health care institutions, training and capacity building institutes as well as freedom and peace of the people become imperative in the paradigm of human development.The present research paper reflects upon similar developmental themes of education, health, agriculture, irrigation employment, infrastructure and income as that in HDRs. However it adopts micro level approach. A Block Development Index is conceptualized to provide status of Block. Thus the report provides specific suggestions and areas of interventions for lock in Nashik district rather than broad macro level suggestions.

Methodology:

Directorate of Economics & Statistics is a Principal Statistical Organisation of State Government and is declared as "Nodal Agency" for all statistical activities in the State. Every year DES publish Economic Survey of State as well as District Level. In

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this District level survey, details of all household in the District has collected on various parameters. After reviewing data, 18 development indicators related to seven dimensions of development were selected for the Indices in this study. The dimensions are (1) Demographic Development (2) Agricultural Development, (3) Non-Agricultural Development, (4)Gender Development, (4), (5) Education Development,(6) Household Amenities(7) Connectivity Development. Availability of the data is the major limiting factor in the selection of indices and dimensions.

After selecting the indicators, which are expressed in different units, they have to be converted into individual indices also known as normalisation in the range between 0 and 1. As we have used the goalposts in the preparation of indices of individual indicators, the formula would be:

Index of indicator Xi = (Actual value of Xi – Minimum Value of X) / (Maximum Value of X –Minimum Value of X)

Where 'X' denotes a particular indicator and 'i' denotes a particular Block.

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Selection of Indicator:

A) Demographic Development

i) **Population Density**: Population density, i.e., the number of people per one square km. There is correlation between population density and economic development. As the population usually moves from areas with low work and earning opportunities to areas with higher remunerative work and earning opportunities, high population density is considered as a development indicator.

ii) **Sex Ratio:** It is another general feature of demography. As in the Census, it is defined as number of women per 1000 men.Non SC-ST Population: As the Blobk with higher of SC and ST population are considered vulnerable or in need of special attention, the indicator would associate inversely with the development index. Hence, the indicator defined in the inverse form ,i.e., percentage of non-SC&ST population in the Block,

iii) **Female Literacy Rate**: This Indicator reflects Female Literacy Rate as well as General Literacy Rate.

iv) **Non Agricultural Worker**: The work participation in Maharashtra, especially in the agricultural sectors, includes distress employment and disguised employment. Hence,non-agricultural work, which reflects the quality of the employment in a Block, was included.

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B) Agricultural Development:

i) **Chemical Fertilizer Consumption**: Higher Consumption of Chemical Fertilizer reflects higher Productivity. And Higher Agricultural Productivity reflects higher Agricultural Development.

ii) **An Area under Forest Tree**: There is widespread recognition of the importance of ensuring that forests are sustainably managed to provide a range of products and environmental and social services in perpetuity. The

need to reconcile the productive functions with the protective, environmental and social roles of forests was forcefully stressed by UNCED in 1992 in Chapter 11 ('Combating Deforestation') of Agenda 21, and in the 'Forest Principles'[ii].

iii) **Area Under Irrigation:** Water in essential for Agricultural Production. Higher Percentages of Area under Irrigation reflects higher Productivity and higher Agricultural Development.

C) Non-Agricultural Development:

i) **Consumption of Commercial Electricity:** Industrialisation and Commercialisation is the key of Overall Development. So researcher took percentages of total electricity consumption to Commercial Electricity consumption.

ii) **Urban Population:** Urbanisation provides a number of employment and income opportunities to the people and provides an interactive space with outside/ world and markets.

iii) **Loan Distribution forNon-Agricultural Use:** Finance is the blood of Economy. Higher Loan Distribution reflect higher development.

D) Gender Development:

i) **Sex Ratio of Primary School:** Equal Sex ratio implies Gender Equality.

ii) **Sex Ratio of Junior College Student:** Equal Sex ratio implies Gender Equality.

E) Education Development :

i) **Teacher-Student Ratio of Primary School:** An adequate number of teachers in every school is considered as one of the quality indicators. Lower Ratio reflect the indicator would associate inversely with the development index. Hence, the indicator defined in the inverse form

ii) **School Dropout Ratio:** drop-out is someone who has left school or college before they have finished their studies. .Lower Drop-out rate reflects Educational Development. , the indicator would associate inversely with the development index. Hence, the indicator defined in the inverse form.

F) Social Development:

i) **Land Ownership by Women:** Security and ownership of land is critical to social and economic empowerment.

G) House hold amenity:

i) **House hold with Individual Latrine:** The use of latrines was a major advance in sanitation over more basic practices such as open defecation, and helped control the spread of many waterborne diseases.

ii) **Water Supply Availability in Premises:** The benefits of having a continuous, piped supply of safe drinking water delivered to household premises are widely recognised. Piped supplies on premises not only reduce the time and effort required to collect water, and thereby increase the amount of water available for personal and domestic needs but also are

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more likely to provide water that meets required standards for drinking water quality.

H) Connectivity Index:

i) **Village Connected with all-weather Road:** Roads are providing better access to services, ease of transportation and freedom of movement to people.

ii) **Bus Connectivity:** *Public* transportation modes like *buses* plays an important role in our real life. Designing a good *bus* system can bring advantages to both passengers and the society. One of key design criteria is the *connectivity*.

The District overall development index value, which can be considered as the average of Blockdevelopment indices and also the average of Block development index, is 0.4482.

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Table 1: Overall and dimensional development indices values at the Block level

Sr.No	Block	Demographic Development Index	Agricultural Development Index	Non Agri. Development Index	Gender Development Index	Educational Development Index	Household Amenities Index	Connectivity Development Index	Overall Block Development Index	Rank
1	Nashik	0.74833	0.51808	0.72652	0.29687	0.51655	0.85909	0.81033	0.63939	1
2	Niphad	0.32283	0.48310	0.09413	0.38712	0.73068	0.82314	0.92123	0.53746	2
3	Kalwan	0.17324	0.20294	0.00777	0.71047	0.92285	0.87385	0.79167	0.52611	3
4	Igatpuri	0.31159	0.47824	0.13665	0.39116	0.93164	0.66003	0.64169	0.50728	4
5	Dindori	0.24907	0.19430	0.03729	0.46230	0.76498	0.78328	0.73706	0.46118	5
6	Malegoan	0.36294	0.07594	0.23581	0.65585	0.44746	0.44030	0.93186	0.45002	6
7	Trambak	0.20468	0.00000	0.05814	0.49569	0.88227	0.68100	0.78530	0.44387	7
8	Yeola	0.25489	0.22536	0.08517	0.25457	0.88403	0.27726	1.00000	0.42590	8
9	Chandwad	0.23024	0.13335	0.04962	0.45898	0.86560	0.49500	0.74744	0.42575	9
10	Sinnar	0.22876	0.10885	0.15595	0.33826	0.71772	0.43060	1.00000	0.42574	10
11	Peinth	0.26394	0.03180	0.00452	0.49717	0.90254	0.63483	0.64486	0.42567	11
12	Nandgaon	0.23278	0.59854	0.13750	0.24725	0.68190	0.03657	0.87009	0.40066	12
13	Baglan	0.19940	0.14846	0.05051	0.38615	0.79088	0.44392	0.60401	0.37505	13
14	Surgana	0.26108	0.01442	0.01462	0.58765	0.92058	0.56398	0.10527	0.35251	14
15	Deola	0.19567	0.08513	0.00169	0.38933	0.94420	0.43010	0.24018	0.32661	15
	Overall	**0.28263**	**0.21990**	**0.11973**	**0.43726**	**0.69793**	**0.56891**	**0.72207**	**0.44821**	-

Table No. 2 Block maximum and minimum values of Block development and dimensional indices and coefficient of variance

Variable	Demographic Development Index	Agricultural Development Index	Non Agri. Development Index	Gender Development Index	Educational Development Index	Household Amenities Index	Connectivity Development Index	Overall Block Development Index
Max	0.74833	0.59854	0.72652	0.71047	0.94420	0.87385	1.00000	0.63939
Min	0.17324	0.00000	0.00169	0.24725	0.44746	0.03657	0.10527	0.32661
STD	0.13866	0.19983	0.18[illegible]	0.13672	0.15289	0.23243	0.25587	0.07921
CV	001794	0.03727	0.03[illegible]	0.01745	0.02182	0.05042	0.06111	0.00586

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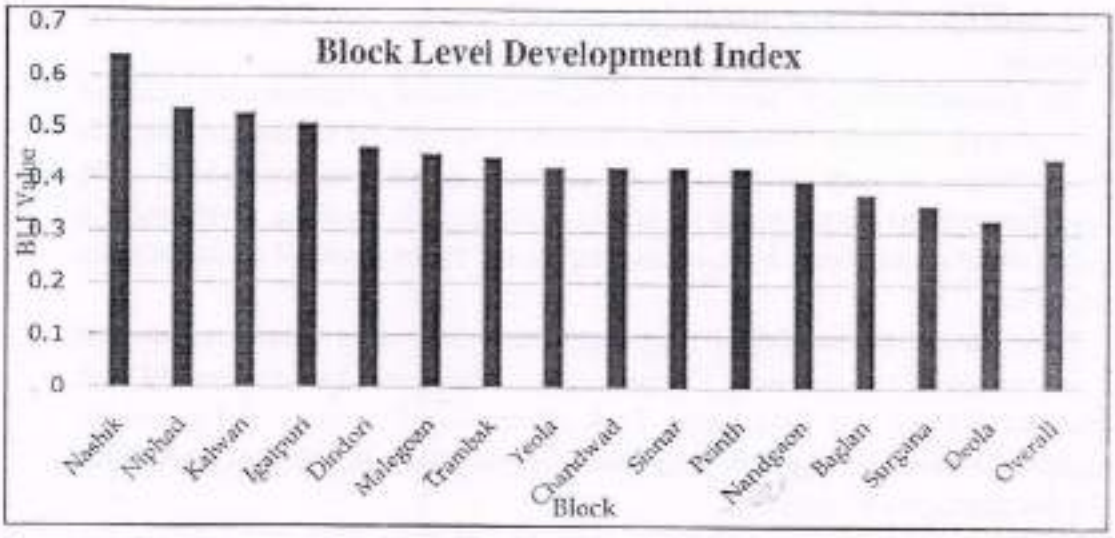

Results:

Based on the indices' values, the Blocks were divided into three categories, viz. 'needs attention', 'needs improvement' and 'needs consolidation'. The which obtained less than 0.4 index value are grouped under 'needs attention' category, Tasils with 0.4–0.5 index values are grouped under 'needs improvement' category and Block with index value of more than 0.5 are aggregated under 'needs consolidation' category. The results are summarised in Table 3.

Table No.3 Classification of Block based of Index Value of Block

Category	Index Value	Block
'needs attention'	<0.4	Surgana, Deola, Baglan
'needs improvement'	0.4 to 0.5	Dindori, Malegoan, Trambak, Yeola, Chandwad, Sinnar, Peth, Nandgaon
'needs consolidation'	>0.5	Nashik, Niphad, Kalwan, Igatpuri

Critical Block are those where urgent interventions are required. They are decided on the basis of Block Development index. For deciding critical areas, the critical value of the Index was decided as 0.4.

Limitation:

The two major sources of data used in the preparation of the Block Development Index are the Census and the District Handbooks prepared and published by the District Chief Planning Officer, Nashik. While the Census data was available for 2011, other data i.e. Industrial Labour, Land Uses, HH having Latrine was also collected for the year 2011 from the Nashik District Handbooks and used.

One of the challenges of this index, in fact, any indexing study, is that an index, by definition, reveals the quantitative aspect. To overcome this challenge researcher have included a greater number of indicators in the indices, which would reflect the quality

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aspects and outcomes, etc. One another challenges of this index is Data reliability. Selection of index may be biased or selected parameter is not giving actual reflection

To avoid complications Researcher did not use any weights in the preparation of the BDI indices from individual indices.

Way forward

The approach has to go beyond just implementation of government schemes and achievement of physical and financial targets thereof but to achieve the desired outcomes of those policies. To map the impact and outcome, accurate matrix needed to be developed for constant measurement of indices. This requires evidence based research and studies which could clearly bring out the impact and effectiveness of current policies and programme.

These indices are helpful in pin pointing the challenging Tahsil/ regions and block/ dimensions of development. Comprehensive indices could be constructed with available data at Tahsil and district level. Such indices would be very useful to monitor the progress of various development programme. Similar study may be possible with the help of more development indicator.

References:

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