

STATUS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR – AN OVERVIEW

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Abstract: -

The concept of human development is very rich and vast. UNDP which popularized this new development paradigm has been at the forefront to further add to the enrichment and vastness of the subject. There is hardly any aspect in economic, social, political and cultural life of human beings which is not included in the overall pervasive subject of human development. There are only few indices available to measure the concept of human development. These include human development index, gender development index and human poverty index. The most important index which has captured the attention of intellectuals and policy planners throughout the world is human development index. The first human development report brought out by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1990 started with a simple, but far reaching statement, “People are the real wealth of nation”. The basic objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives, to be educated and to have an access to resources needed for a decent standard of living. In principle these choices can be infinite and change over time.

The state of Jammu and Kashmir is the 19th populous state with 12,541,302, persons and constitutes approximately 1% of the country’s population. With 67.16 percent literacy rate but contrarily, it is the 6th educationally backward state of the country. Sex ratio places the state at 27th rank having 889 females per thousand males (census 2011). The present study would try to examine the key components of human development status of J&K on certain indicators viz. health, education and the issues related to poverty and income.

Key words: - Human development, Human Development Index, health status, education, well being, deprivation, welfare, poverty and income.

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Introduction

The genesis of the term human development as defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) can be traced to the writings of the Amartya Sen whose capability perspective of the quality of life gave a new dimension to the term development in order to remove disadvantages and create opportunities to lead meaningful lives defined it as the process of ‘enlarging the range of people’s choices’ (UNDP, 1990). It identified three essential choices as acquisition of knowledge, the need to lead a long and healthy life and the need to have access to resources required for a decent standard of living. If these essential choices are not available, many other opportunities remain inaccessible¹.

The concept as envisaged by the UNDP goes beyond these three essential choices. Additional choices valued by people range from political, economic and social freedom to opportunities for being creative and productive, and enjoying personal self-respect and guaranteed human rights. Human development thus implies the formation of human capabilities such as improved health, knowledge and skills, and the use people make of their acquired capabilities for leisure, productive purposes and being active in cultural, social and political affairs. ‘Development must, therefore, be more than just the expansion of income and wealth. Its focus must be people’. (UNDP, 1990).

The first human development report brought out by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1990 started with a simple, but far reaching statement, “People are the real wealth of nation”. The basic objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives, to be educated and to have an access to resources needed for a decent standard of living. In principle these choices can be infinite and change over time. Since then, UNDP is bringing out a human development reports (HDRs) every year by adding additional criteria for the measurement of human progress and well-being of the people of various nations².

The concept of human development is very rich and very vast. UNDP which popularized

¹ Kamdar, Sangita. *Economic Growth and Human Development: A Study of Maharashtra*.

² Haq, Mahboob-ul. *Reflections on Human Development*.

this new development paradigm has been at the forefront to further add to the enrichment and vastness of the subject. Brief overview of the human development reports is an ample proof in this regard. There is hardly any aspect in economic, social, political and cultural life of human beings which is not included in the all pervasive subject of human development. Unfortunately, at the measurement level the concept is still very poor, not rich. There are only few indices available to measure the concept of human development.

These include human development index, gender development index and human poverty index. The most important index which has captured the attention of intellectuals and policy planners throughout the world is human development index³.

The human Development Index (HDI) developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is an attempt to quantify the quality of life. Human development has been defined as the process of increasing people's choices and the formation of human capabilities through investing in people (UNDP, 1990) and has been measured using the HDI. This measure differs from the PQLI in that it includes income as an indicator of purchasing power along with attainment in education and health.

Methodology

The study is largely based on secondary sources of data. The secondary data pertaining to human development status of J & K was compiled from various issues of human development reports published both at national and international level. Besides, this various papers and articles were used to interpret the human development issues in J & K. The HDI has been used which is a composite index of three basic components of development: Longevity, Knowledge and Income. Longevity is represented by life expectancy at birth, which indicates capability of leading a long and healthy life. Educational attainment is weighted average of two variables: adult literacy and gross enrolment ratio at primary, middle and high/ higher secondary levels with two-third weight age given to the former and one-third weight age to the later. The educational attainment refers to the capability of acquiring knowledge for communication and

³ UNDP. 1995. *Human Development Report*.

participating in community life. Income is a proxy variable for measuring decent standard of living. An index is created for each dimensions of development. To calculate dimension Indices for Life expectancy, Education and Gross Domestic Product, minimum and maximum values (goal posts) are chosen for each underlying indicator. The performance in each dimension is expressed as a value between 0 and 1 by applying the following formula.

$$\text{Dimension Index} = \frac{(\text{Actual value} - \text{minimum value})}{(\text{Maximum value} - \text{minimum value})}$$

The Human Development Index is then calculated as a simple average of the dimension indices. However, while calculating HDI, all the improvements in health and education are counted to the extent of 100%. In case of income, benefits are counted partially because income is subject to discounting. Logarithmic transformation is applied to allow for diminishing marginal utility of additional income. The philosophy behind this principal is that high income increases human development but it does not increase proportionally.

Human Development in Jammu and Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir is the north western state of India. The State occupies a strategic place on the country's map with the border touching Pakistan, Tibet and China. The State has three distinct regions comprising Kashmir valley, Jammu division and Ladakh. Each region has a specific resource base. Except for Jammu and Kathua Districts, the entire State is a mountainous region. The plateau Ladakh, flanking the state on the east with lower population density is separated from the rest of the state by high mountain ranges, offers very peculiar problems of development and communication. The land of the state is highly fertile and water resources are abundant⁵.

The Jammu and Kashmir is situated between 32° 15' and 37° 05' north latitude and 72° 38' and 83° 20' east longitude. The State is richly endowed with natural resources and competitive advantages with geographical area of 222236 sq. Kms including an area of

⁴ Jhingam, M.L: *Economic development and planning*

⁵ Socio-economic indicators of Jammu and Kashmir

120849 sq.kms under unlawful occupation of China and Pakistan, leaving thereby an area of 1,01387 sq.km on this side of control line. With this area (101387 sq. kms) the state is the 10th largest state of the country accounting for 3.20% of total area of the country and 19th populous state with 12,541,302 population as per 2011 census in India and constitute approximately 1% of the country's population. With 67.16 percent literacy rate as revealed by the latest census the state occupies 32nd number among the states/UTs of the country.⁶ Contrarily it is the 6th educationally backward state of the country. Among the thinly dense states of the country, the Jammu and Kashmir has got the sixth rank while as the state enjoys the 32nd rank in overall population density of 56 persons i.e the number of people per sq. km of area. Sex ratio places the state at 27th rank having 889 females per thousand males (census 2011). The state holds first position in the country in the production of Saffron and also has the image to be a front line state in producing temperate fruit in the country. The state has an area of 22230 sq. kms under forests accounting for 19.95 percent of its geographical area. The state has a cultivable area of 825 thousand hectares which accounts for only 8 percent of its geographical area. The State consists of 22 districts of which Jammu division has ten districts, Kashmir division has ten districts and Ladakh division has two districts. Among the districts Jammu stands at number one in terms of population and Leh is the least populous district. District Leh stands at top with an area of 45100 sq. kms while as Shopian is the smallest district having an area of 307 sq. kms⁷.

As per the national Human Development report, 2001, among the 32 states in India (data on the three newly created states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Utrkhand were not available). Jammu and Kashmir ranks poorly in level of human development and ranked at 21st in HDI in 1991 (Table 1.2). Its position has deteriorated from a rank of 19th in 1981 (table 1.1) to 21st in 1991. The HDI value of 0.402 is higher than the all India average of 0.381. This is the case when we take the combined HDI of rural and urban

⁶ Economic Performance in Jammu and Kashmir.

⁷ Ibid.

sectors. It reflects the situation in the rural areas due to the population weight age of the rural sector.

The picture in the urban sector however is different. The HDI has improved from a value of 0.468 in 1981 to 0.575 in 1991, which is higher than the all India average of 0.511. The rank of urban Jammu and Kashmir in HDI over the same period improved from 20th to 14th. Obviously this is a big leap forward.

Among the North-Eastern states, all the states showed better performance in HDI as compared to the Jammu and Kashmir state.

The situation has further deteriorated in 2005. Although the HDI values are not directly comparable with these of the NHDR, 2001; the ranking of the states may be compared. Out of the 35 states and union territories, Jammu and Kashmir ranks 24th in human development (Table 1.1) slipping three places down the ranking of 21st in 1991. The HDI rank for the rural areas of the state in 2005 was 20th, better than as in 1991, where it was 22nd; and for the urban areas; it was 28th in 2005 down from a rank of 14th in 1991.

Table 1.1: Human Development Index of States in India-1981

States/UTs	Human Development Index					
	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
Andhra Pradesh	0.262	25	0.425	23	0.298	23
Arunachal Pradesh	0.228	28	0.419	24	0.242	31
Assam	0.261	26	0.380	28	0.272	26
Bihar	0.220	30	0.378	29	0.237	32
Goa	0.422	5	0.517	10	0.445	5
Gujarat	0.315	14	0.458	18	0.360	14
Haryana	0.332	13	0.465	17	0.360	15
Himachal Pradesh	0.374	10	0.600	1	0.398	10
Jammu & Kashmir	0.301	17	0.468	16	0.337	19
Karnataka	0.295	18	0.489	14	0.346	16
Kerala	0.491	1	0.544	6	0.500	2
Madhya Pradesh	0.209	32	0.395	26	0.242	30
Maharashtra	0.306	15	0.489	15	0.363	13
Manipur	0.440	2	0.553	5	0.461	4
Meghalaya	0.293	20	0.442	21	0.317	21

Mizoram	0.381	9	0.558	4	0.411	8
Nagaland	0.295	19	0.519	8	0.328	20
Orissa	0.252	27	0.368	31	0.267	27
Punjab	0.386	8	0.494	13	0.411	9
Rajasthan	0.216	31	0.386	27	0.256	28
Skim	0.302	16	0.515	11	0.342	18
Tamil Nadu	0.289	21	0.445	19	0.343	17
Tripura	0.264	23	0.498	12	0.287	24
Uttar Pradesh	0.227	29	0.398	25	0.255	29
West Bengal	0.264	24	0.427	22	0.305	22
Andaman & Nicobar	0.335	12	0.575	2	0.394	11
Chandigarh	0.437	4	0.565	3	0.550	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.269	22	0.268	32	0.276	25
Daman & Diu	0.409	6	0.518	9	0.438	6
Delhi	0.439	3	0.531	7	0.495	3
Lakshadweep	0.395	7	0.370	30	0.434	7
Pondicherry	0.338	11	0.433	20	0.386	12
All India	0.263		0.442		0.302	

Source: National Human Development Report, 2001

Table 1.2: Human Development Index of States in India-1991

States/UTs	Human Development Index					
	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
Andhra Pradesh	0.344	23	0.473	29	0.377	23
Arunachal Pradesh	0.300	28	0.572	15	0.328	29
Assam	0.326	26	0.555	19	0.348	26
Bihar	0.386	30	0.460	31	0.308	32
Goa	0.534	3	0.658	3	0.575	4
Gujarat	0.380	18	0.532	23	0.431	17
Haryana	0.409	15	0.562	17	0.443	16
Himachal Pradesh	0.442	12	0.700	1	0.469	13
Jammu & Kashmir	0.364	22	0.575	14	0.402	21
Karnataka	0.367	21	0.523	24	0.412	19
Kerala	0.576	1	0.628	9	0.591	3
Madhya Pradesh	0.282	32	0.491	28	0.328	30
Maharashtra	0.403	16	0.548	21	0.452	15
Manipur	0.503	7	0.618	12	0.536	9
Meghalaya	0.332	24	0.624	10	0.365	24

Mizoram	0.464	10	0.648	5	0.548	7
Nagaland	0.442	13	0.633	7	0.486	11
Orissa	0.328	25	0.699	30	0.345	28
Punjab	0.447	11	0.566	16	0.475	12
Rajasthan	0.298	29	0.492	27	0.347	27
Skim	0.398	17	0.618	11	0.425	18
Tamil Nadu	0.421	14	0.560	18	0.446	14
Tripura	0.368	20	0.551	20	0.389	22
Uttar Pradesh	0.284	31	0.444	32	0.314	31
West Bengal	0.370	19	0.511	26	0.404	20
Andaman & Nicobar	0.528	5	0.653	4	0.574	5
Chandigarh	0.501	8	0.694	2	0.674	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.310	27	0.519	25	0.361	25
Daman & Diu	0.492	9	0.629	8	0.544	8
Delhi	0.530	4	0.635	6	0.624	2
Lakshadweep	0.520	6	0.545	22	0.532	10
Pondicherry	0.556	2	0.591	13	0.571	6
All India	0.340		0.511		0.381	

Source: National Human Development Report, 2001

Table 1.3: Human Development Index of States in India-2005

States/UTs	Human Development Index					
	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
Andhra Pradesh	0.513	27	0.714	29	0.572	27
Arunachal Pradesh	0.557	23	0.877	1	0.617	22
Assam	0.505	28	0.740	25	0.534	29
Chhattisgarh	0.470	33	0.625	34	0.449	35
Bihar	0.427	30	0.690	31	0.516	30
Goa	0.753	3	0.818	9	0.779	6
Gujarat	0.534	25	0.758	21	0.621	20
Haryana	0.607	15	0.725	26	0.644	17
Himachal Pradesh	0.658	12	0.855	6	0.681	14
Jammu & Kashmir	0.569	20	0.716	28	0.601	24
Jharkhand	0.458	31	0.716	27	0.513	31
Karnataka	0.517	26	0.745	24	0.6020	25
Kerala	0.799	1	0.856	5	0.814	2
Madhya Pradesh	0.427	34	0.663	32	0.488	33
Maharashtra	0.593	17	0.798	12	0.689	12

Manipur	0.693	10	0.761	17	0.707	11
Meghalaya	0.547	24	0.757	22	0.585	26
Mizoram	0.724	6	0.872	2	0.790	4
Nagaland	0.750	4	0.823	8	0.770	7
Orissa	0.417	35	0.639	33	0.452	34
Punjab	0.635	14	0.761	19	0.679	15
Rajasthan	0.485	29	0.691	30	0.537	28
Skim	0.661	11	0.816	10	0.684	13
Tamil Nadu	0.598	16	0.766	16	0.675	16
Tripura	0.575	19	0.760	20	0.608	23
Uttar Pradesh	0.454	32	0.618	35	0.490	32
Uttarakhand	0.585	18	0.761	18	0.628	18
West Bengal	0.567	21	0.757	23	0.625	19
Andaman Nicobar	0.707	9	0.864	4	0.766	8
Chandigarh	0.717	7	0.872	3	0.860	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.563	22	0.833	7	0.618	21
Daman & Diu	0.729	5	0.783	15	0.754	9
Delhi	0.712	8	0.796	13	0.789	5
Lakshadweep	0.783	2	0.805	11	0.796	3
Pondicherry	0.654	13	0.791	14	0.748	10
All India	0.509		0.730		0.575	

HDI has increased by 21 per cent between 1999-2000 and 2007-8 from 0.387 to 0.467. The HDI is a composite index, consisting of three indicators – consumption expenditure (as a proxy for income), education and health. India Human Development Report 2011: Towards Social Inclusion (HDR 2011) estimates the HDI for the beginning of the decade, and for the latest year for which data permits. The top five ranks in both years go to the states of Kerala, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Goa and Punjab. States that perform better on health and education outcomes are also the states with higher HDI and thus higher per capita income.

At the other end of the spectrum are mostly the northern and eastern states – Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Assam – that have an HDI below the national average.

The seven north eastern states (excluding Assam)¹ have done remarkably well in human development outcomes to climb up three rungs from 1999-2000 and 2007-8. HDI ranges from 0.79 in Kerala to 0.36 in Chhattisgarh.

Table 1.4: Human Development Index of States in India-2005

State	HDI 1999-2000	HDI 2007-8	Rank 1999-2000	Rank 2007-8
Kerala	0.677	0.790	2	1
Delhi	0.783	0.750	1	2
Himachal Pradesh	0.581	0.652	4	3
Goa	0.595	0.617	3	4
Punjab	0.543	0.605	5	5
NE (excluding Assam)	0.473	0.573	9	6
Maharashtra	0.501	0.572	6	7
Tamil Nadu	0.480	0.570	8	8
Haryana	0.501	0.552	7	9
Jammu and Kashmir	0.465	0.529	11	10
Gujarat	0.466	0.527	10	11
Karnataka	0.432	0.519	12	12
West Bengal	0.422	0.492	13	13
Uttaranchal	0.339	0.490	16	14
Andhra Pradesh	0.368	0.473	15	15
Assam	0.336	0.444	17	16
Rajasthan	0.387	0.434	14	17
Uttar Pradesh	0.316	0.380	18	18
Jharkhand	0.268	0.376	23	19
Madhya Pradesh	0.285	0.375	20	20
Bihar	0.292	0.367	19	21
Orissa	0.275	0.362	22	22
Chhattisgarh	0.278	0.358	21	23

Over the eight year period, HDI has risen by 21 per cent compared to a rise of 18 per cent in India's HDI over 2000-2010 as reported by the global HDR 2010. China's increase in HDI respectively has been 17 per cent.²

For six of the low HDI states – Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Assam – the improvement in HDI is considerably above the national average. Despite low absolute levels of HDI in these states, HDI is converging across states.

Position of Human Development Report in Jammu and Kashmir

One such initiative was taken by the government of Jammu and Kashmir to prepare the human development report in the state. But unfortunately this HDR is not published yet.

The executive summary of the unpublished Jammu and Kashmir Human Development Report shows that human development index in the State has progressively increased as its HDI value has increased from 0.263 in 1960-61 to 0.595 in 2005-06 as shown in table 1.4.

Table 1.4:-Human Development Index of J&K in Selected years (1960-61-2005-6)

Year	NSDP	PCI	ELB	GENR	AGE	GER	LIT	I-I	H-I	E-I	HDI
1960-61	3400	474	46.53	3.04	12.06	25.21	13.00	0.2597	0.3588	0.1707	0.263
1979-71	3805	649	56.10	4.80	15.81	30.36	18.60	0.3121	0.5183	0.2252	0.351
1980-81	5459	957	56.80	7.98	20.50	38.93	32.70	0.3770	0.5300	0.3478	0.418
1990-91	6563	961	61.20	12.50	26.72	46.78	43.60	0.3777	0.6933	0.4466	0.475
2000-01	7385	2035	64.10	19.30	33.41	57.77	54.50	0.5029	0.6517	0.5559	0.570
2005-06	7878	1923	64.10	27.42	35.91	76.68	57.77	0.4934	0.6517	0.6407	0.595

Source: HDR 2008, J&K State.

NSDP: Per capita NSDP of J&K at constant prices, 1993-04

PCI: Per capita real income of J&K in PPP\$

ELB: Life Expectancy at Birth

GENR: Gross Enrolment i-xii class

AGE: Proportion 5-17 age groups

GER: Gross Enrolment Ratio

LIT: Literacy Rate

I-1: Income Index

H-1: Health Index

E-1: - Education Index

HDI: Human Development Index

There are also huge inter-district variations in HDI values. District Jammu ranks at the

top with the HDI value of 0.6753. On the other hand district Kupwara is at the bottom with HDI value of 0.5098 as shown in table 1.5.

Table 1.5: District wise Human Development Indices, Jammu and Kashmir, 2006

S. No	District	Income Index	Health Index	Education Index	HDI
1	Anantnag	0.4743	0.625	0.5389	0.5461
2	Pulwama	0.5244	0.645	0.6104	0.5933
3	Srinagar	0.4917	0.702	0.6368	0.6102
4	Budgam	0.49	0.6542	0.4606	0.5349
5	Baramulla	0.4694	0.6343	0.5455	0.5497
6	Kupwara	0.4303	0.5972	0.5021	0.5098
7	Kargil	0.4849	0.5072	0.6417	0.5446
8	Leh	0.5002	0.6303	0.7686	0.633
9	Doda	0.4688	0.645	0.5411	0.5516
10	Udhampur	0.4965	0.6503	0.6425	0.5964
11	Kathua	0.5212	0.6595	0.7633	0.648
12	Jammu	0.4997	0.6795	0.8466	0.6753
13	Rajouri	0.498	0.649	0.6774	0.6081
14	Poonch	0.4954	0.6582	0.5818	0.5785
15	J&K	0.4887	0.6517	0.6314	0.5906

Source: - HDR, 2008 J&K State

Human development indices do not reflect a uniform level of development in the field of health, education and in terms of per capita income. Some districts are forward in the field of education, some in health and others in per capita income. For instance though Jammu district has 1st rank in terms of HDI, its rank is 4th in terms of income. Similarly, district Pulwama has first rank in income, 7th rank in education and an overall 7th rank in

Human Development Index⁸.

In terms of domestic product does not necessarily reflect the actual well being of the people. We observe in the table that the ranking of 14 districts by the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) does not have a one-to-one correspondence with the ranking by HDI. For example, Pulwama ranks No. 1st in terms of per capita GSDP but ranks No. 7th in terms of achievements in human development due to lower achievements in the spheres of health and education. The most backward district of the state as per the HDR is Kupwara. However, nine districts out of fourteen districts have HDI values that are lower than 0.60 and only five districts have the HDI value above 0.60.

Human Development among Social Groups

Looking into the performance of indicators related to human development, J&K has the lowest incidence of poverty compared to all other states in the country. The same holds true for all the social groups including SCs and STs. There is a shortage of major health infrastructure in the state. While there is more than the required number of health centres and sub-centres, there is a shortage of health workers, doctors, technicians, and nurses (RHS Bulletin 2008). Despite this, the health indicators for the state are better than the all India averages—women with BMI <18.5 (Figure 3), U5MR, and underweight children. While the health indicators for SCs and STs are no better than their neighbours from other communities within the state, they are still better than the national averages of their respective communities. Education has been affected due to political and social disturbances. The literacy rate of Jammu and Kashmir is only 68.7 per cent, against the national literacy rate of 74 per cent in 2011 (Census 2011). Except for the SCs, Other social and religious groups in Jammu & Kashmir lag behind the national average literacy rate (NSS 2007–8). The dropout rate is very high. In order to reduce the dropout ratio among women and to empower them, the state government launched the ‘*Beti Anmol*’ Scheme. An amount of Rs 5,000 was placed in fixed deposit for girl students belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in all 97 educationally backward blocks.

⁸ Human Development Report 2006, *Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir*

The data for access to an improved source of drinking water are not satisfactory. The STs were the worst off as compared to all other social/religious groups. However, in the case of toilet/sanitation facilities, the percentage of households with toilet facilities is greater than the corresponding national average. Across the social groups, SCs are far below the state average and also national averages, while the access of STs to toilet facilities is higher than the state average and also the all India average for STs.

Human Development among Religious Communities

In terms of health indicators, Muslims are comparatively better off than Hindus. For instance, the percentage of women with BMI<18.5 for Muslims is only 21 per cent as compared to 32 per cent for Hindus. A similar gap has been observed for underweight children. Muslims are closer to the state's averages and fare better than the all India average for Muslims for all health indicators, while Hindus are below the state averages. However, Muslims lag behind both the state and Hindus on average for education indicators, that is, the literacy rate. Compared to a literacy rate of 78 per cent for Hindus and the state's overall literacy rate of 68 per cent, only 60 per cent of Muslims are literate, which is lower than the all India literacy rate (68 per cent) for Muslims (2007–8). For basic amenities like access to safe water and toilet facilities, Muslims are close to the state and national average, but slightly lower than the all India average for Muslims accessing improved sources of drinking water. In the case of toilet/sanitation facilities, Muslims are far better than the state's average and also their respective national averages. Overall, Muslims have better health and access to sanitation facilities, but lag behind in education and access to improved sources of drinking water.

Conclusions

The basic objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives, to be educated and to have an access to resources needed for a decent standard of living. In principle these choices can be infinite and change over time. The first human development report brought out by United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) in 1990 started with a simple, but far reaching statement, “People are the real wealth of nation” The concept of human development which was popularized by UNDP added a new paradigm in development indicators and has been at the forefront to further add to the enrichment and vastness of the subject of human development. There is hardly any aspect in economic, social, political and cultural life of human beings which is not included in the overall pervasive subject of human development. As per the national Human Development report, 2001, among the 32 states in India, Jammu and Kashmir ranks poorly in level of human development and ranked at 21st in HDI in 1991. Its position has deteriorated from a rank of 19th in 1981 to 21st in 1991. The situation has further deteriorated in 2005. Out of the 35 states and union territories, Jammu and Kashmir ranks 24th in human development slipping three places down the ranking of 21st in 1991. However, so far as Districts of Jammu and Kashmir are concerned, human development indices do not reflect a uniform level of development in the field of health, education and in terms of per capita income. Some districts are forward in the field of education, some in health and others in per capita income. For instance Jammu district has 1st rank in terms of HDI; its rank is 4th in terms of income. Similarly, district Pulwama has first rank in income, 7th rank in education and an overall 7th rank in Human Development Index. Similarly, domestic product does not necessarily reflect the actual well being of the people as ranking of 14 districts by the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) does not have a one-to-one correspondence with the ranking by HDI. One achieves number1 ranks in terms of per capita GSDP but ranks No. 7th in terms of achievements in human development due to lower achievements in the spheres of health and education. The most backward district of the state as per the HDR is Kupwara. However, nine districts out of fourteen districts have HDI values that are lower than 0.60 and only five districts have the HDI value above 0.60. Therefore, state government should take positive steps to come up with a broad human development report which will capture all the determinants of human development particularly social, political, and economical and all the factors that provide the sound basis for preparing human development of whole J& K State. However, one such initiative was taken prior

by the government of Jammu and Kashmir for preparing the human development report in the state. But unfortunately the HDR does not get published yet. Thus, unless the efforts of state government HDR for J&K is not possible.

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