



## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MAHARASHTRA - A GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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### Abstract

*Quality of the people of any region reflects the level of social development. In Maharashtra, to examine the level of social development, 11 indicators have been selected, keeping in view the need of the people and the region i.e. Education, Health, Communication, Bank, Transport, law and order. In the present study, data of 2001 and 2011, pertaining to these indicators have been analysed to find out the comparative social development of the study region. Maharashtra, inspite of one of the most industrialized state of India, is lagging behind in social development. The study shows that educational development has decrease from 2001 to 2011, it is due to step motherly treatment towards education. However health facilities have been provided to most of the people but there is sign of progress in rural areas. Communication i.e. service of post offices have decreased from 2001 to 2011, it is due to invention of new techniques of science of development, i.e. mobile phones, sms, whatsapp, etc. Bank offices have made progress in the region due to development of commerce & trade. There is expansion of transport facilities i.e. roads have better position as compare to rail development due to landscape of the region.*



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### Introduction

Social development has been defined as a macro strategy of planned intervention to improve the capacity of existing social system to cope with the demand of change and growth. It is best reflected in the quality of life of its people. The quality of life is dependent, among other

things, on the infrastructural facilities i.e. educational institutions, health centers, transport and communication, banking services etc. It is not merely a component of development but also a factor of development. Maharashtra is one of the most industrialized with better infra structural facilities. In the present study, 11 indicators have been examined pertaining to education, health, communication and transport, banking, law and order to find out the levels of social development of Maharashtra i.e. Primary school per lakh population, number of family welfare centers per lakh population, number of primary health center per lakh population, number of post offices per lakh population, number of banks per lakh population, railway length in kilometers per 1000 sq.km. Area, surface road length in kilometers per 100 sq.km. Area, number of police personal per 1000 population and number of police station per lakh population. The study shows that most of the selected indicators have shown increasing trend in the social development, except primary health centers, post offices and law and order of the state.

### **Study Area**

Maharashtra is located on western and central part of India. It covers an area of about 307713sq.km, having 3<sup>rd</sup> rank in India. It is bordered by the Arabian Sea to the west, Gujarat to the North West, MP to the North, Chhattisgarh to the east, Telangana to the south east, Karnataka to the south and Goa to the south west. Its coast line is 530km long along the Arabian Sea, State has six division, 35 districts, 109 sub divisions and 357 talukas, It is second most populous state in India i.e. 112372333 population as per census 2011 (58243056 Males and 54131277 Females) which is about 9.28 % of total population of India.

### **Objective**

The main objective of the present study is to analyze the 11 indicators pertaining to social development to find out the level of social development in Maharashtra from 2001 to 2011.

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### **Database and Methodology**

The present work is completely based on secondary data which is obtained from Directorate of Economics and Statistic, Government of Maharashtra 2013, the data pertaining to social development have been analysed to find out level of social development since 2001 to 2011.

#### **1. Educational Institution**

Educational Institution deserves first priority among the all infrastructural facilities for social development. Primary school lies at the base of whole educational infrastructure. Their basic purpose is to provide literacy to all the eligible children. The levels of educational development

have been examined from two aspects i.e. Number of primary schools per lakh population and teacher and student ratio.

### **1.1 Number of Primary School Per lakh Population.**

There were 687 primary schools per lakh population in 2001 which has decreased to 675 primary school per lakh population in 2011 it shows that number of primary school have not increased as per rate of growth of population .

### **1.2 Teacher & Student Ratio.**

Ratio between teacher and student decides the quality of teaching. In Maharashtra there is wide gap between these two. In 2001 these ratio was 1:500 while in 2011 this was 1:600 which indicates that quality of basic education has decreased.

## **2. Health Centers**

The WHO defined Health as a State of physical, mental and social well being. In fact good health and good societies go together. In this process many have come to realize that the indicators of good health are also of a health development. Health is an important aspect of the social development in any area. Hence, a higher frequency of occurrence of medical institution is indicative of a higher level of development

### **2.1 Hospital per lakh Population**

In Maharashtra, the average density is one hospital per lakh population. There is indication of development because in 2001 only 0.93 hospitals was per lakh population which increased up to 1.02 hospital in 2011.

### **2.2 Family welfare centre per lakh Population.**

These centers decide the welfare of the female and children so that the density of these centers play very important role in the social well being of the society. There is no significant development in this direction i.e. there were 23.3 family welfare centers per lakh population 2001 and increase only 23.7 in 2011.

### **2.3 Primary Health centers per lakh population.**

These centers provide the health services to the rural people who are deprived and poor. It is very shocking and surprising that state like Maharashtra has decreasing trend of the most important aspect of health services. i.e. in 2001, there were 18.4 primary health centers per lakh population while 2011 it was 16.2 per lakh population.

## **1. Communication**

Postal, telegraphic and telephone services are the basic means of communication. Postal services are the cheapest means of communication. In the present study, only postal services have been examined due to their importance for the rural people to measure the levels of social development of the Maharashtra.

### **3.1 Post offices per lakh of Population**

The density of no. of post offices has decreasing trend in Maharashtra. It was 133.2 Post offices Per lakh population in 2001 but reduced to 112.5 Post offices per lakh population in 2011 which shows that rural people are lagging behind with important aspects of social development because post office also function a sort of Bank for deposition of money by the rural people.

## **4. Bank Offices**

Services like banking are base for modern industry and commerce. They are meant to regulate the flow of money for the welfare of the people. Keeping in view the importance of banks, this indicator has been examined to measure the level of social development.

### **4.1 Bank Offices per Lakh of Population.**

In the study region bank offices show increasing trend i.e. 2001, there were 6.5 bank offices per lakh population while in 2011, this has reached to 7.5 bank offices per lakh population. It means that state is on the path of social development.

## **5. Transport**

Accessibility and mobility are involved in every aspect of developmental activity and efficient transport network is essential for an all round development of an area. In the present study two indicators pertaining to transport have been selected to analyze the social development of the region.

### **5.1 Length of Surface Road per 100 Sq.Km.**

Roads have been instrumented in breaking the isolation of rural areas and bringing them to close contact with urban places. This has brought the rural population in the main stream of the regions life. In the study area the length of the surface road was 58 km per 100Sq.Km. in 2001 while it has increased in 2011, and it was 72 km per 100 Sq.Km.

### **5.2 Length of railway Line per 100 Sq.Km.**

It is very less in the study region due to physical landscape. However, In 2001 it was 1.7 Km per 100 Sq.Km. but in 2011 it slightly increased to 1.9 Km per 100 Sq.Km.

*Social Development in Maharashtra*

Year	Primary Schools Per Lakh Population	Teachers & Students Ratio	Hospitals Per lakh Population	Family welfare centers per lakh Population	Primary Health centers per lakh Population	Post Office Per lakh Population	Banks per Lakh population	Railway length 1km per 100 Sq.Km. area	Surface road length in Km per 100 Sq.Km.	Police personal per 10,000 population	Police station per one lakh population
2001	687	500	0.93	23.3	18.4	133.2	6.5	1.7	58	0.8	0.9
2011	675	600	1.02	23.7	16.2	112.2	7.5	1.9	72	0.5	0.6

**6. Law & Order**

Development & growth are feasible only where there is peace and order in the civil life of a state and the presence of a strong police force is essential for enforcing the law of the land and combating crime. Keeping in mind two indicators pertaining to law and order have been examined to find out level of social development.

**6.1 Police Personal Per lakh population**

Though this is one of the most important of social development yet this ratio has decreasing trend in the study region. In 2001, there were eight police personal for 10,000 populations but in 2011, it has further come down to five police personal for per 10,000 population.

**6.2 Police Station per Lakh Population.**

Just like police personal, this indicator also has decreasing trend in Maharashtra i.e. In 2001, it was 0.9 police station for one lakh population, while in 2011, for one lakh population it was only 0.5 police station. It shows that security of life and property has been given less priority which may ultimately adversely affect the socio economic development of the region.

**Conclusion**

Maharashtra being one of the most industrialized and economically prosperous state of India have better infra structural facilities from beginning i.e. first railway start from Mumbai to Thane in India. It is observed from the study that it has not maintained its past story and social development. Study shows that progress for primary educational development, health services, communication, transport and law and order are not satisfactory and even in decreasing positions. So that it is need of the time to move ahead with proper planning for over all social

development of the people of the region. There must be people participation in the development process. Efforts are to be made to reduce the regional disparities in the level of social development.

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