

Socio-Economic Dimensions of Human development in District Anantag of Jammu and Kashmir State

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Abstract

Human well being is a multi-dimensional concept. It comprises of the issue pertaining to socio-economic dimensions of human development with a broad focus on economic well-being, education and longevity of life. Livelihood opportunity of the people comprises an important part of human welfare. Livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. The aim of development is to improve the quality of life and to enhance the choices of people. It is a well-established fact that secured livelihood positively affects the quality of life. Education is one of the most important elements of human development. Education is vital not only in itself, but also because of the numerous positive externalities created by the spread of education, like human capacity building, human empowerment, and spread of awareness in all fronts. Good health is the key to a happy and productive life and an important indicator of human development. Each and every step of life is recurrently exposed to state of helplessness if human being is prone to commonplace ailments. Long healthy life is the basic aspiration of human development. From the standpoint of both personal and social level a healthy person is an asset. Existence or the availability of conditions required for 'health for all' in a society ensures economic progress. This paper identifies the unique features of the district from the perspective of socio-economic development and paves the way for the conceptualization of the human development issues.

Key Words: Human development, Education, Health, Socio-Economic, Income, Assets, HDI, Poverty, Unemployment, Sex ratio

Introduction

The concept 'human development' is a paradigm shift in development thinking, which gained much popularity after the publication of first Human Development Report in 1990. The basic objective of the human development approach is to put people at the centre of development with their active participation in the development process. Human Development approach broadly advocates for widening up of people's choice and the attainment of a decent standard of living. Three essential choices of life are: to lead a long and healthy life, to acquire knowledge and to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living. Other choices highly valued by many people, range from political, economic and social freedom to opportunities for being creative and productive and enjoying self-respect and guaranteed human rights (HDR, 1990). Human development index as an indicator of prosperity is measured, how the planned efforts have succeeded in providing better opportunities for people specially the deprived and those who are living below the poverty line to enjoy a productive and socially meaningful life.

To combat with the socio-economic deprivation of the people, Eleventh Five Year Plan document of the Government of India focuses on a new development challenge, known as inclusive development, based on the understanding of the two concepts: inclusion and development. Inclusion is a process that aims at bringing about all the people in the developmental network, while Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) provide the basic framework of developmental needs of the people. The key ingredients of inclusive development paradigm are: poverty alleviation, establishment of human rights and the participation of civil society in the developmental process. The concept human development which focuses on the socio-economic conditions of the people also propagates for inclusive development paradigm. In fact, the central to human development is the participation of the vulnerable sections of the society in the development process.

Human well being is a multi-dimensional concept. It comprises of the issue pertaining to socio-economic dimensions of development with a broad focus on economic well-being, capacity building and longevity of life. Exploring the historical records and current status of development, this chapter identifies the unique features of the district from the perspective of socio-economic development and paves the way for analysing the human development process of district Anantnag.

District Anantnag: An Overview

The word Anantnag is a combination of two words *Anant* and *Nag*; '*Anant*' means, 'Un-ending' and '*Nag*' means 'spring'. Anantnag is a place of 'abode of springs'. Anantnag District lies in southern part of Jhelum Valley floor. Owing to proximity of Peer Panchal Range, which stretches in its South and South-East, the district has a more temperate climate in summer and relatively lowest in winter than other districts of the Valley. The rainfall is generally excessive in spring, moderate in summer, deficient in autumn and again moderate in winter resulting in snowfall due to low temperature. It is because of its rejuvenating climate, the inspiring majesty, its lofty mountains, the melodious flow of sweet waters of its springs and streams, fertile soil, fragrant flowers and delicious fruits that the district has come to be synonymous with greatness.

The district is bestowed with large number of health resorts of the State which includes Pahalgam, Kokernag, Verinag, Achabal and Daksum are worth-mentioning. These health resorts attract a large number of national and international tourists. Besides, the district is also famous for Amarnath Cave situated at high altitude in Pahalgam tehsil which attracts lakhs of pilgrims every year from all over the country.

Anantnag is one of the ten districts of the Kashmir Valley situated in its South and South western direction at a distance of 52 Kms from Srinagar. Geographically the district lies between 33°-20' to 34°-15' North latitude and 74°-30' to 75°-35' East longitude. The entire Southern sector of the district, which is contiguous with tehsils of Reasi, Banihal and Kishtwar of Jammu province, and Eastern sector which is contiguous with tehsil Kargil of Ladakh division comprises of thick forests and mountains. The Northern and Western sides of this district are bounded by Pulwama district while Kulgam district falls in its west. Of all the districts of the State, Anantnag claims the largest number of streams (Nallas) like Sandran, Brengi, Arpath and Lidder. The most important among these is Lidder with origin at Sheshnag Lake and irrigates maximum area of the district.

During the year 2007-08, the district has undergone notable jurisdictional changes. The area of the district, which has shrunk from 5382 square kms to 3984 square kms in 1971, owing to bifurcation of the district into two districts namely- Anantnag and Pulwama. The area of the district has once again got reduced to 2917 square kms, because of carving out of new district namely Kulgam in 2007-08. As of now district Anantnag constitutes about 1.31 percent of the total area of Jammu and Kashmir State.

As per the report of revenue authorities, the district consists of 394 villages having 01 Municipal Council and 10 Municipal Committees. There are six tehsils Viz. Anantnag, Bijbehara, Dooru, Shangus, Kokernag and Pahalgam which have further been sub-divided into 16 Nayabats (Land Revenue Circles) and 96 Patwar halqas. These villages have also been divided into 07 Community Development (CD) Blocks viz. Achabal, Breng, Dachnipora, Khoveripora, Qazigund, Shahabad and Shangus. For Law and Order purposes there are 09 Police Stations and 06 Police Posts in the district.

The brief socio-economic indicators of the district and their relative changes over the last decade are shown in Table No. 1.

Table No.1: Socio-Economic Indicators of District Anantnag (2001-2011)

Indicators	2001	2011
Actual Population	778,408	1078692
Male	407,429	559767
Female	370,979	518925
Population Growth Rate	32.77	38.58
Area Sq. Km	3,984	2917
Density/km ²	294	375
Proportion to State Population (%age)	7.67	8.53
Sex Ratio (Females Per 1000 Males)	911	937
Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Age)	977	841
Average Literacy Rate	47.59	64.32
Male Literacy Rate	58.71	74.14
Female Literacy Rate	35.24	54.15

Source: Census of India

As per the Census of India 2011, the population of the district is 10.78 lakh with 5.59 lakh males and 5.18 lakh females as compared to 7.78 lakh population in 2001 with 4.07 lakh males and 3.70 lakh females. The sex ratio is 937 females per 1000 males as compared to 911 females in 2001. The population density of the district increased to 375 as against 294 in 2001. The literacy rate of the district is 64.32 percent as compared to 47.59 percent during the same period. The male literacy rate is 74.12 percent and for females, it is 54.15 percent respectively.

The Demographic Profile

Demography has an immense importance in the economy of the country. It helps us to know how the growth rate of economy is keeping pace with the growth rate of population. Rapid population growth reduces the per capita income, decreases standard of living, pushes the economy into mass unemployment, poverty, environmental damage, and puts additional burden on social infrastructure.

The demographic features of district Anantnag v/s the State of Jammu and Kashmir is presented in Table No. 2.

Table No. 2: Demographic Features- District Anantnag v/s J&K State (2011)

Features	Anantnag	Jammu and Kashmir
Population (in Persons)		
Total	1078692	12548926
Male	559767	6665561
Female	518925	5883365
Sex Ratio	937	883
Density of Population	375	124
Decadal Growth of Population	38.58	23.64
Rural Population	791305	9134820
Urban Population	278839	341406
ST Population	116006	1493299
SC Population	1826	924991
Literacy (%)		
Total	64.32	67.16
Male	74.13	78.26
Female	54.15	58.01
Work Participation Rate (%)		
Person	36.1	34.5
Male	43.6	48.1
Female	28.1	19.1

Source: Census of India, 2011

Anantnag is one of the major districts in Jammu and Kashmir and ranks 3rd in terms of population. The total population of the district stood at 10.78 lakh persons, out of which 5.59 lakh were males and 5.18 lakh were females. Between 2001 and 2011 the population registered a decadal growth rate of 38.58 percent which was more than the State decadal growth rate of 23.64 percent. The density per square kilometre registered an increase from 294 to 375 between 2001 and 2011. However, the density of population was more than the State level density of 124 persons per sq. km. A very high proportion of the total population (73.78 percent) resides in rural areas which means that around 26.22 percent of population is urban in nature. This figure is almost similar to the State as a whole, where rural and urban population constitutes 72.79 percent and 27.21 percent. In terms of the sex ratio, the district with the sex ratio of 937 is above the State average of 883. However, the district lacks behind the State in literacy level. Total literacy level is 64.32 percent as compared to 67.16 percent in State as a whole. Similarly male and female literacy rates were found to be 74.13 and 54.15 percent respectively as compared to the corresponding figures of 78.26 and 58.01 percent in the State. Despite the fact that the overall work participation rate in the district (36.1 percent) is higher than the State average (34.5 percent). However, the work participation rate among females in the district (28.1 percent) is higher than the State average of 19.1 percent, while that of males (43.6 percent) is lower than the State average of 48.1 percent.

The percentage share of schedule tribe (ST) population to total population of the district was 10.8 percent in 2011 which is below than the State level of 11.9 percent. The proportion of schedule caste (SC) population

(0.2 percent) is far below the State average of 7.4 percent. It is to be noted that ST and SC population together constitute 11 percent of total population.

Population Distribution

The demographic features of the population change along with the level of economic development. Urbanization is one such a factor which is directly associated with the level of economic development. Over the years the district has been increasingly moving from a highly rural society towards an urbanized modern society.

Table No. 3 presents gender-wise rural-urban population distribution of district Anantnag during the past five decades. It shows that female population is marginally lower than the male population of the district. However, percentage of female population has shown increasing trend over the period of time. Female population accounts 48.10 percent of the total population of the district up from 46.43 percent during 1961.

Table No. 3: Gender-wise Rural/Urban Population of District Anantnag (1961-2011)

Census Estimates	Rural			Urban			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1961	53.63	46.37	91.57	55.20	44.80	8.43	53.57	46.43	100
1971	54.18	45.82	90.08	53.95	46.05	9.92	54.15	45.85	100
1981	57.0	43.0	89.30	52.84	47.16	10.70	52.97	47.03	100
1991	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	52.74	47.24	100
2001	51.65	48.35	85.64	54.27	45.73	14.36	52.0	48.0	100
2011	51.64	48.36	73.78	52.59	47.41	26.22	51.90	48.10	100

Source: Census of India

Structural shift of population from rural areas to urban areas was witnessed during 1961 to 2011. In 1961, 91.57 percent of the district population lived in rural areas, which declined to 73.78 percent in 2011, with an exponential decline of around 17 points in the last three decades. While on the other hand, there was 8.43 percent of urban population in 1961 which increased to 26.22 percent in 2011. The last two decades have shown a rapid increase in urban population of the district. On an average, the proportion of females in both rural and urban areas has increased, while as the proportion of males in both rural and urban areas decreased over the period of time. The same is being reflected by the total population of district classification on the basis of gender. It is attributed to the increase in the sex ratio of the district over the period of time.

Sex Ratio

Sex ratio, defined as the number of females per 1000 males in the population, is an important social indicator to measure the extent of prevailing equity between males and females in a society at a given point of time. A change in sex composition largely reflects the underlying socio-economic and cultural patterns of a society in different ways. In fact, adverse sex ratio is a reflection of gender bias, female infanticide; sex determination tests and selective female foeticide. The rural, urban and total sex ratio in Anantnag district is shown in Table No. 4.

Table No. 4: Decennial Sex Ratio trend of District Anantnag (1901-2011)

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1901	880	880	880
1911	867	868	868
1921	847	848	847
1931	848	850	848
1941	837	838	837
1951	853	855	853
1961	866	869	842
1971	846	845	847
1981	887	887	888
1991	NA	NA	900
2001	922	936	911
2011	927	936	937

Source: Various issues of Census of India

During 1901 to 1941, there was continuous decrease in the sex ratio in Anantnag from 880 to 837 females per 1000 of males, but in the following decades there was gradual increase in the sex ratio. In 2011, the sex ratio of the district improved to a significant extent and reached to the level of 937 females per thousand males exceeding the state average of 883. This may be attributed to the increase in literacy level which has positive impact on social attitudes. Besides, ban on sex selective abortions may have improved the sex ratio in the district.

Economic Indicators

In the current era of grass-root level planning, Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) estimates or District income broadly brings to light the inter-district variations which in turn help the planners to formulate programmes to reduce these inequalities and disparities. Estimates of domestic product at district level are compiled by the 'Income originating approach', the method used for calculating the State Domestic Product. Therefore, District Domestic Product estimates have all the inherent limitations of the State Domestic Product estimates. Though, the accrued income is a better method to work out these estimates, however, it cannot be adopted because economic activities at the district level are more open ended and inter-district flows cannot be captured fully.

Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP)

The Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) at current and constant (1993-94) prices is shown in the Table No. 5.

Table No. 5: Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) of District Anantnag (Rs.)

Year	Current price	Constant price at (1993-94)	Growth rate at current prices
2002-03	19192	10326	--
2003-04	20777	10889	8.26
2004-05	22613	11491	8.83

2005-06	N.A	N.A	N.A
2006-07	36427	29155	N.A
2008-09	38447	32155	5.54

Source: District Statistical Hand Book, 2008-09

Gross District Domestic product is defined as the total production which is produced domestically within the boundaries of the district. The above table shows that in 2002-03 GDDP was Rs. 19192, which increased to Rs. 38447 in year 2008-09. At current prices in 2003-04 the district economy grew at the rate of 8.26 percent which declined to 5.54 percent in 2008-09. The Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) estimates for the year 2009-10 at constant and current prices are Rs. 32155 and Rs. 38447 which is lower than the State level of Rs. 362268 and Rs. 48384 respectively.

Per capita income has gained considerable significance in the performance of the State and district economy. A rise or decline in per capita income signals direction of the growth in the economy. The per capita income of district Anantnag at current and constant prices was worked out at Rs. 23794 and Rs. 20378 in 2008-09 as compared to Rs. 30212 and Rs. 25641 at the State level (Economic Survey, 2013-14 J&K State)

Poverty in District Anantnag

Mere growth of economy cannot bring social justice and balanced development unless it is coupled with poverty alleviation and employment generating opportunities for deprived and unprivileged sections of the society. The menace of backwardness, unemployment and poverty is interwoven and constitutes a vicious circle.

Poverty is a complex socio-economic state and is regarded both a condition of economic inefficiency and social and political exclusion. It is a barrier between entitlements, access to income, employment and basic necessities of life. Besides, the poor and weaker sections of the society are vulnerable to exploitation of various kinds including social discrimination. It is, one of the serious problems of the present generations.

In India poverty has been defined as that situation in which an individual fails to earn income sufficient for meeting their basic needs. To quantify the extent of poverty and measure the number of poor in the country, professional economists have made use of the concept of the poverty line.

The Planning Commission accepted the concept of poverty line in 1979 which is based on minimum needs and effective consumption demands. According to the Planning Commission, definition of poverty is based on nutritional norm of 2400 calorie and 2100 calorie per capita per day in rural and urban areas respectively along with a minimum of non-food expenditure. Thus, people living in rural and urban areas who can afford to consume an average of at least 2400 and 2100 calories of food per day respectively are said to be above the poverty line.

The State government made an attempt to determine poverty line in terms of annual family income in 2008, special survey was conducted by Directorate of Economics and Statistic, Government of Jammu and

Kashmir. A threshold limit of an expendable sum of Rs. 600 per capita per month for urban areas (Rs. 36,000 per annum for family of five members) and Rs. 500 per capita per month for rural areas, (Rs. 30,000 per annum for family of five members) has been fixed as the Poverty cut off point in order to measure the incidence of poverty in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Besides, qualitative parameters like household occupation, housing condition, and asset position (land operated/owned, consumer durables owned etc.) were also given due weightage. A sample of 387 villages and 90 wards were selected in Jammu and Kashmir for the purpose and 30 villages and 10 wards were selected in district Anantnag. The sampling techniques of this study were based on the stratified random sampling.

The percentage of BPL population in district Anantnag with various parameters is shown in Table No. 6.

Table No. 6: Percentage of BPL Population in District Anantnag with various parameters

Parameter	Rural	Urban	Total
Percentage of poor population	15.94	8.87	14.46
Percentage of poor households	18.54	10.72	16.94
Average size of family size	5.92	5.80	5.91
Sex ratio of BPL families	939	970	942
Literacy rate of BPL population	42.43	51.96	43.32

Source: BPL Survey of Jammu and Kashmir 2008, DES-J&K State

The poverty rate in district Anantnag was 14.46 percent with a dispersion of 15.94 percent in rural areas and 8.87 percent in urban areas. The poverty rate of district is lower than State level which is 21.63 percent. It has been also seen from the analysis that 16.94 percent of households of Anantnag fall below poverty line with a distribution of 18.54 percent in rural areas and 10.72 percent in urban areas. These results show that percentage of poor population is lower than percentage of poor households. Besides, it reveals that incidence of poverty is high among the rural population as compared to the urban population.

The percentage of BPL population was lower (15.96 percent) in the district as compared to the State (21.63 percent). It implies that the economic status of people living in the district is comparably better than the people of Jammu and Kashmir State as a whole.

Occupational Distribution

Occupational distribution provides an index of participation of the working population in the economic activities, which has an impact on overall human development. The occupational distribution in the district is shown in Table No. 7.

Table No. 7: Occupational Distribution in the District v/s State (2011)

Category of workers	Anantnag	J&K
Total Workers	36.12	43.22
Main Workers	45.4	61.17
Marginal Workers	54.6	38.83

Source: Statistical Handbook, 2013 District Anantnag

The data reveals that in 2011, out of the total population in the district nearly 36.12 percent constitutes the total workers which are less than State average of 43.22 percent. The proportion of main workers in the total working population works out to be 45.4 percent in the district which is lower than the State average of 61.17 percent. The marginal workers are around 54.6 per cent in the total working force which is higher than State average of 38.83 percent.

To have an appraisal of capability and functioning aspects of employment, it is necessary to consider the occupational structure of working population in the district. As the economy has been shifting away from agriculture and a major process of structural change is going on, the question of security in terms of livelihood becomes imperative. Agriculture is still the pre-dominant economic activity and the main source of livelihood to the rural people of the district. Agriculture contributes a significant proportion of district as well as State income, even though its share is declining in the sectoral composition of GSDP.

Population census in India provides a very elaborate sectoral distribution of the workforce, which is broadly classified into four categories comprising of cultivators, agricultural labourers, household industry and other workers. The distribution of the workforce is shown in Table No. 8.

Table No. 8: Workforce Participation Rate in the District v/s State (2011)

Category of Workers	Anantnag	J&K
	Percentage of total Working Force	Percentage of total Working Force
Cultivators	20.75	28.84
Agricultural Labours	11.12	12.67
Household Industry	3.02	3.97
Others	65.11	54.52
Total:	100.00	100.00

Source: Statistical Handbook, District Anantnag

The above table shows that 20.75 percent of the total workers were engaged as cultivators which are lower than the State average of 28.84 percent. The agricultural labours constitute 11.12 percent in the district which is also lower than the State average of 12.67 percent. Moreover, a small proportion of 3.02 percent of total workers are engaged in agro-based household industries which is also lower than the State level of 3.97 percent. What is remarkable is that the share of workforce in other workers is about 65.11 percent which is higher than the State average of 54.52 percent.

Agricultural Holdings

The size-distribution of agricultural holdings is shown in Table No.9.

Table No. 9: Land Holdings according to different Size of Class

Size Class	Land Holdings			
	Number	Percent	Area (Hectare)	Percent
Marginal	170859	93.40	62507	77.89
Small	10577	5.78	14066	17.52
Semi-medium	1484	0.81	3598	4.48
Medium	10	0.005	57	0.07

Large	01	0.0005	23	0.02
Total	182931	100	80251	100

Source: Agriculture Census, 2000-01

Marginal	=	Less than 1 Hectare
Small	=	More than 1 and less than 2 Hectares
Semi-Medium	=	More than 2 and less than 4 Hectares
Medium	=	More than 4 and less than 10 Hectares
Large	=	More than 10 hectares

We find that an overwhelming majority (93.40 percent) of the operational holdings are marginal covering, 77.89 percent of the total cultivated area of the district. If we consider, small and marginal holdings together, it constitutes 99.18 percent of the total number of holdings and 95.41 percent of the total cultivated area. The predominance of small and marginal holdings is not a typical feature of this district only, it is a general feature of the State also.

Livestock

Livestock and its rearing play a prophetic role in the economic development of the State and especially to those sections of the population who evolve from subsistence of agriculture to cash based economy. The integration of crops and livestock has always remained a way of life since the beginning of agriculture. It provides the major extra contribution to agriculture through manure, fuel and fertilizer. Apart from meat, milk etc. that grants a regular supplementary income and employment not only to producers in the rural areas, but also preponderating size of the population engaged in secondary and tertiary business related to livestock.

District Anantnag belongs to the livestock sub-region of the State dominated by cattle population. This is shown in Table No. 10.

Table No. 10: Livestock Population in District Anantnag (Lakh)

Type	2011-12	2012-13
Livestock Population	8.35	8.60
Cattle	2.07	2.11
Sheep	2.10	2.23
Goat	0.25	0.33
Buffalo	0.05	0.05

Source: District Sheep Husbandry Officer, 2013 Anantnag

Cattle are the predominant livestock in the district and accounts for 2.07 lakh in 2011-12 which increased to 2.11 lakh in 2012-13. Buffalo population accounted for 0.05 lakh of the total livestock population during the same period. Cows and buffalos are reared for mainly milk production purpose. The development of cattle and buffalo is mostly encouraged in the orchard areas of the district. Other livestock population in the district consists of sheep and goat. The sheep population increased from 2.10 lakh to 2.23 lakh, while as goat increased from 0.25 lakh to 0.33 lakh during the same period.

Assets

A set of selective assets can also determine the standard of living of a household. These assets include banking facility, availability of radio, T.V, Motor Cycle, car, mobile phone. These assets are also included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of UNDP. Distribution of assets in the district is shown in Table No. 11.

Table 11: Percentage of Households in District Anantnag having specified Assets

Assets	Rural	Urban	Total
Banking facility	57.90	79.58	42.29
Phone	61.30	72.71	63.97
Radio	57.90	66.86	57.11
Television	38.92	73.24	46.97
Scooter/Motorcycle /Car	3.09	6.41	3.87
No Assets	20.04	5.4	16.61

Source:
Census
of
India,
2011
table
that

The
reveals

only 42.29 percent of households of Anantnag have the access to banking facility with the distribution of 57.90 percent in rural areas and 79.58 percent in urban areas. The maximum households of Anantnag possess mobile phones (63.97 percent) followed by radio (57.11 percent) and T.V (46.97 percent). Only 3.87 percent of households have scooter/motorcycle/car. More urban households possess these assets as compared to the rural households.

Housing

The most important asset owned by a household is the dwelling unit in which it lives. Hence, the type of dwelling unit in which a household lives is an important indicator of its well-being. Housing is one of the basic needs of human life and directly affects work efficiency of household members. The type of residential accommodation possessed by the households is considered to be an indicator reflecting the general living standard of the households.

Census of India, 1991, uses terms like 'pucca' and 'kutchra' to describe the quality of housing. The Census, 2001 replaced these terms with 'permanent', 'semi-permanent' and 'temporary' to describe the quality of houses. Permanent houses are defined as the houses in which the walls and roof are made of permanent material, while as semi-permanent houses are houses in which either the walls or the roof is made of permanent material. Temporary houses are the houses in which both the walls and roof are made of materials that need to be replaced frequently. The housing characteristics of households of district are shown in Table No. 12.

Table No. 12: Percentage Distribution of Households by type of House in District Anantnag

Type of House	Rural	Urban	Total
Permanent	52.88	68.60	60.74
Semi-permanent	42.31	28.33	35.32
Temporary	4.81	3.07	3.94

Source: Census of India, 2011

The table above shows that 60.74 percent households live in permanent houses, while as 35.32 percent in semi-permanent houses and 3.94 percent in temporary houses. The relative position in the State was 51.80 percent, 30.04 percent and 18.16 percent respectively. In terms of housing quality, district is relatively at better position than the State.

The above table also reveals that the housing condition is poor in the rural areas, where only 52.58 percent of the households reside in permanent houses. However, in urban areas almost 68.60 percent of the households have permanent houses.

Social Indicators

In the last few decades, there has been a shift in development paradigm from economic growth approach to human development approach. The merit of the human development approach is that it focuses on the state of existence of people, the lives they lead. In this context, social sector has become a prime candidate for attention. The term “social sector” is a flexible one that refers to activities which contribute to human capital formation and human development. Some of the important constituents of social sector are education, health and medical care, housing, safe drinking water supply, sanitation, electricity etc.

Education

Education is one of the most important components of human development. Education is vital not only in itself, but also because of the numerous positive externalities created by the spread of education, like human capacity building, human empowerment, and spread of awareness in all fronts of life. Befittingly, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) adopted by the Government of India has advocated ‘Universalization of Elementary Education’ and ‘Promotion of Gender Equality in Education’ as two of their most important objectives. Therefore, it is essential to explore the various aspects of educational attainment in district Anantnag.

Literacy

There has been significant development of literacy in Jammu and Kashmir as a whole, from 55.22 percent in 2001 to 68.74 percent in 2011. The literacy in Anantnag district lags behind the State, it was 46.5 percent in 2001 and 64.32 percent in 2011 (Census of India 2011). Tehsil-wise literacy rate is highest in Anantnag (57.98 percent) followed by Bijbehara (51.54 percent), Dooru (49.91 percent) and Phalagam (41.26 percent). The literacy rate among females is lower than that of males. In tehsil Pahalgam only 31.47 percent of females are literate; while in Anantnag 50.39 percent of females are literate. The Tehsil wise literacy rate is shown in Table No. 13.

Table No. 13: Tehsil-wise Literacy Rates of District Anantnag

Tehsils	2001			2011		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Anantnag	50.0	60.8	48.1	57.98	65.18	50.39

Bijbehara	46.2	58.2	33.7	51.54	60.18	42.70
Dooru	49.0	60.0	36.9	49.91	56.11	42.29
Phalagam	36.3	47.8	23.5	41.26	50.34	31.47
Shangus	N.A	N.A	N.A	50.46	58.86	41.10
District	47.59	58.71	35.24	64.32	74.13	54.15
J&K	55.22	66.60	43.0	68.74	78.26	58.01

Source: Census of India, 2011

Literacy rate of women has always been identified as one of the most valuable economic as well as social indicator for any society and community. Female education is closely linked with the human development and it is a strong predictor of socioeconomic, demographic and health status of a region. Anantnag district has performed much better in terms of reducing gender gaps in literacy. The gap between the male-female literacy rates in Anantnag has narrowed down from 23.47 percentage point to 19.98 percentage points over the decade (2001-2011) a gain of little less than 3.49 percentage points. In Jammu and Kashmir, gender gap in literacy has narrowed down only by 3.35 percentage points, i.e., from 23.6 percent to 20.25 percent. Therefore, gender gap in the district is less than the State average. The increase in female literacy rate is more sharp in Anantnag. Between the two censuses, female literacy rate has increased by 18.91 percentage points, whereas male literacy has increased only by 15.42 percentage points. Higher increase in literacy rate among females is a positive indicator of development. Looking at different tehsils, we find that gender gap is least in Dooru (13.82 percentage points) and highest in Pahalgam (18.87 percentage points).

People's access to education depends crucially on the educational infrastructure within the vicinity. Anantnag has led the way in the State of Jammu and Kashmir in the matter of education. At present, the educational infrastructure in Anantnag comprises of Primary Schools, Middle Schools, High/Higher Secondary schools, General, Vocational and Professional Degree colleges, and a State University campus. In addition, the Sarva Shiksha Mission is much operational in the district. Apart from conventional teaching, there are several vocational training centres in the district including Polytechnics, Junior Training Schools, and Industrial Training Institutes.

The district is quite developed in terms of availability of educational institutions. There were 777 primary schools, 254 middle schools, 94 high/higher secondary Schools in 2000-01 which increased to 881 primary schools, 837 middle schools, and 252 high/higher secondary schools in 2012-13 run by the Government. In addition, private bodies run 350 primary schools, 69 Junior high schools, and 51 high schools.

Sarva Shiksha Mission (SSM) was started in Anantnag district with the objective of achieving enrolment and retention of all children of age group (6-14 years) in primary and upper primary schools, impart quality learning, and universalizing of elementary education by 2010. The SSM programme is also an attempt to provide the opportunity for improving human capabilities for all children, through provision of community owned quality education in a mission mode. Under this scheme 528 new primary school and 108 middle School buildings have been built, 394 additional class rooms have been provided in primary and upper

primary schools up to 2010. Drinking water facilities have been additionally provided in 194 schools, and separate toilet for girls have been constructed in 748 schools. About 275,000 children have been provided with free text books. These efforts have been instrumental in bringing down dropout rates to some extent at primary level.

The Jammu and Kashmir state has bagged the unenviable distinction of having one of the high dropout rates in secondary education as compared to other states and union territories. According to the official data presented at the 40th Project Approval Board (PAB) of the RMSA (Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan), government has painted a gloomy picture of secondary education in the state. The data reveals that the dropout rate at State level in Jammu and Kashmir from class 10th to 12th is 25.33 percent, which is very high. Out of 22 districts in State, the dropout rate in 12 districts is higher than the state level dropout rate. In comparison to Jammu region, districts in Kashmir are having higher dropout rates in secondary educational institutions.

The data by the Unified District Information System of Education (U-DISE) suggests that south Kashmir's Anantnag district has the highest rate of dropouts with 46.61 percent, while as district Srinagar has the lowest dropout rate of 10.16 percent.

The failure of State government to revamp the traditional educational module at secondary and higher education level is the root cause of higher number of dropouts in secondary education. The other reason is that the failure of authorities to update academic curriculum viz-a-viz introduction of employable courses has resulted in higher dropout rates in secondary education in the State. The lack of awareness of the parents to admit their girls in the institutions where co-education is being imparted is one of the major reasons for higher dropout rates in Kashmir valley as compared to Jammu region. Besides, economic backwardness is also one of the basic reasons.

Health Status

Good health is the key to happy and productive life and an important indicator of human development. Each and every step of life is recurrently exposed to state of helplessness if human being is prone to commonplace ailments. Long healthy life is the basic aspiration of human development. From the standpoint of both personal and social level, a healthy person is an asset. Existence or the availability of conditions required for 'health for all' in a society ensures economic progress. It attaches a meaningful connotation to life. Good health promotes efficiency in workforce, enhances their skill and aptitude and is absolutely necessary for high life expectancy. On the other hand, poor health is capable of pushing the society under the vicious circle of incapacities all around. But, health is not just the absence of disease. It represents both physical and mental capability to enjoy a long and healthy life. Health care is a social determinant as it is influenced by social policies. Health has remained one of the priority sectors throughout the planning period. One of the objectives of the 11th five year Plan was to achieve good health for people, especially the poor and the underprivileged. In view of this, the Department of Health and Family Welfare (HFW) has focused its attention on improving the primary health services by channelizing adequate

financial and manpower resources for making the health services more accessible and affordable to the poor people.

Health Care Services

Health care services are important not only for human resource development, but also for restoring the faith of people in the institutions of governance. The indicators of health dimensions of human development are difficult to disaggregate among relatively small groups or regions. For instance, reliable regional or district level data on life expectancy, a widely used indicator of human development are not readily available and are difficult to estimate. Although data on indicators like number of doctors per lakh population, beds available per lakh of population and population covered per hospital are available, but they cannot be considered as meaningful indicators of health because they represent only the health infrastructure and their mere existence was not guaranteed improvement in health achievement of the people. Due to lack of data on life expectancy, infant mortality rate, child mortality rate at district level, we select the indicators for which data are readily available. The Table No. 14 indicates the number of medical institutions, total bed strength and total medical staff available to these medical institutions in district Anantnag.

Table No. 14: Health Care Infrastructure in District Anantnag (2012-13)

Health Care Infrastructure	Numbers
District Hospital	01
Sub- District Hospitals	05
Primary Health Centres	26
Allopathic Dispensaries	14
Ayurvedic/Unani Dispensaries	28
Family Welfare Centres/Sub-centres	114
Medical Aid/T.B/Mobile Units	09
Others	12

Source: Chief Medical Officer, Anantnag

The health infrastructure of Anantnag district consists of 1 district and 05 sub-district hospitals, 26 primary health centres, 14 Allopathic dispensaries, 28 Ayurvedic/Unani dispensaries, 114 family planning centres/sub-centres, 09 medical aid/T.B/mobile units, and 12 other institutions in 2012-13. According to District Level Household and Facility Survey of 2007-08 (DLHS-3), out of 129 sub-centres (SCs) in Anantnag district, 93 percent sub-centres (SCs) and 49 percent Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are run in rented buildings. So far as the sub-centre buildings are concerned, 86 percent are in poor condition. Out of the total Sub Centres and PHCs, only 6 percent sub-centres and 47 percent PHCs are getting water supply through tap, bore well, hand pump, tube well and well. National Rural Health Mission's (NRHM) goal of maximum institutional delivery is an important requirement for Sub Centres and PHCs. Unfortunately, most of the Sub Centres are without this facility and only 21 percent PHCs have this critical facility.

The number of health professionals available in these medical institutions consists of 154 doctors, 22 Vaid/Hakims and 67 nurses/sisters. The Compounders and Dawasaz are 166 and 38 respectively. There are 03 sanitary inspectors, 10 health inspectors, 19 basic health workers and 14 lady health workers. The

number of auxiliary dais/midwives is 88 in 2012-13 (Statistical Handbook of district Anantnag, 2013).

The vital statistics of Anantnag district shows that birth rate is 31.60, while as death rate is 6.1 and infant mortality rate is 48 per thousand. It is quite unfavourable when compared with State figures of crude birth rate (18.9), crude death rate (5.5) and infant mortality rate (IMR) (45/1000) respectively. The infant mortality rate of Anantnag district is 48 per thousand; this is more than the infant mortality rate of district Srinagar (45/1000) and that of the State (45/1000). The crude birth rate of Anantnag district is highest (31.60) as compared to Srinagar (27.00) and the State (18.9). Besides this, maternal deaths (9) in district Anantnag are comparatively double than the Srinagar district (4). This shows the inequalities in the distribution of healthcare services and infrastructure between the districts within the Kashmir region (Economic Survey, 2013-14 J&K State).

Sources of Drinking Water

Among the basic indicators that affect the human development is access to safe drinking water. Access to safe drinking water has implications not only for health status and human development parameters, but also for foregone opportunities depending upon the opportunity cost of time. There are adverse implications mostly on women and children who fetch the water from long distances. Because the responsibility of fetching water for household are generally assigned to women or girls, who drop out of school to fulfil these household chores. Hence, the availability of safe drinking water lays the foundation for improvement in literacy and health indicators in communities. The main source of drinking water among households in the district is shown in Table No. 15.

Table No. 15: Percentage of Households by Main Sources of Drinking Water in District Anantnag

Sources of water	Rural	Urban	Total
Tap	67.11	79.14	72.12
Well	7.9	4.9	1.50
Hand pump/Tube Well	1.89	4.93	7.2
River/Canal	16.30	3.5	163.22
Spring	2.14	1.18	1.77
Tank pond	1.065	3.5	0.84
Any other	3.69	0.18	3.22

Source: Census of India, 2011

The above table reveals that only 72.12 percent of households of Anantnag have water facility from tap source with 67.11 percent in rural areas and 79.14 percent in urban areas. The next important source is river/canal water. This facility is enjoyed by merely 3.5 percent urban households, while among their rural counterparts this percentage is around 16.30 percent. This means that rural population of Anantnag district has not good facility of potable water, even though Anantnag is called the Home of Springs and Streams.

Sanitation

It is common among the policy makers that poor sanitation cannot be detached from poverty, because it has the adverse impact on health and increases the prevalence of diseases and environmental degradation. The figures of Table No. 20 describes, that there were only 29.42 percent of households with availability of flush

latrine facility with rural-urban break up of 18.88 percent and 44.92 percent respectively. In district Anantnag maximum percentage of households has no option but to depend on open latrine (43.40 percent) with 37.66 percent in rural and 5.74 percent in urban areas.

Table No. 16: Percentage of Households by availability of Latrine Facility in District Anantnag

Type of Latrine	Rural	Urban	Total
Flush latrine	18.88	44.92	29.42
Pit latrine	11.56	25.45	14.82
Open latrine	37.66	5.74	43.40
Others	31.11	23.89	13.36

Source: Census of India, 2011

Conclusion

Geographically, Anantnag district accounts about 1.31 percent of the total geographical area of the state and is predominantly rural. The development of the rural areas is important for the development of the district. There are 6 tehsils in the district and out of a total of 394 villages, 381 villages are inhabited. Of the 8 Community Development Blocks, Anantnag is the largest and Shangus the smallest block. The foregoing analysis reveals that the district lags behind the State in terms of most of the demographic, social and economic indicators. Density of population is higher than that at the State level. District domestic product and its growth rate lag behind the State. Literacy level is also lower than that of the State. In terms of vital statistics like crude birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate, the performance of the district also is below the State average. However, in terms of poverty alleviation and male participation rate, the performance of the district is better than that of the State.

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