

# Disparities in Different Regions Becoming an Issue for the People of India

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## ABSTRACT

Disparity in regional economic growth is a crucial topic of discussion, and analysis the related data across both on global levels and across the different states of the country. In India, the planners are making continuous efforts to make sure that the economy of the country faces a balanced growth. The present study entitled, 'Regional Disparities: A Challenge for India' has been undertaken on the data of new series. The present paper is the modest attempt to study the regional disparity across selected 15 states and their ranks in 'Human Development Index' for the period between 1980-81 to 2005-06 based on constant prices with base year as 1993-94 and from 2005-13 with base year as 2004-05. The aim of the present study is to analyze the inter-regional divergence between 15 selected states and to suggest necessary policy measures for reducing the disparities between the different regions based on the findings of this study. The study was centered around the secondary data published on various issues of GOI, Economic Survey, CSO, journals and books. The various data collected from secondary sources have been compiled, tabulated and analyzed by using simple statistical tools for getting desired results. No definite path of growth has been noticed since the last 27 years of planning in India. Social and economic growth pattern in India is full of discrepancies. This is because there are numerous links missing that is making this pattern of growth more and more scattered. Such variations in the performance growth in different states in both time periods, stating that some states are showing higher growth in comparison to others, however the dispersion rate of growth is also increasing significantly since the 1990s. For reducing the disparities among different states, some strategies must be followed by the government on both the state and at the center level. Unless economic policies are channeled into specific direction with exclusive focus on those areas which have remained neglected and lagging behind their rich industrially advanced states in terms of infrastructure and other capabilities to face the global market inter regional disparities cannot be reduced.

## INTRODUCTION

Regional disparities in growth and human development pose a serious challenge for the implementation of various economic programs. Disparity in the economic growth in different regions has been an important issue of discussion in India. Since inception of planning in 1950, the professionals are making many efforts to make sure the Indian economy must always have a balanced growth, resulting in every household of the country getting the benefits of a better economy. But unfortunately, present trend of development of economy in the country has not only resulted in an increase in the disparity level at inter-state level but also at intra-state and intra-district level. In spite of India being the 2<sup>nd</sup> fast economic growth in the world after China, thousands of the citizen still struggle with ill-health, poverty, as well as illiteracy due to uneven economic growth which results in huge disparities in the living standards of different types of people across the states. Regional disparities have increased due to faulty political, planning, structure as well as the social traditions.

The backward regions of the country are characterized by low economic and social developments of the people, slow growth rates of GSDP, low incomes per capita, more and rising poverty, lower or no receipts of revenues, less expenditure of government, resource flows with low per capita, underdeveloped infrastructural facilities, and no private investment. In the other hand, the developing states are distinguished by greater economic and social growth, higher per capita income and more developed economic infrastructure, lower level of violence, higher level of tax receipts and state government projected spending, higher per capita resource flows, better infrastructural facilities and higher level of private investment.

In order to understand how the interregional inequalities in levels of social and economic growth have shifted in India, the output of 15 major India countries with respect to the GSDP was studied by drawing a comparative picture of the data. The GSDP represents the state's economic prosperity and its derivative, where Per capita income is an acceptable indicator of the people's well-being. This entire period is divided into three sub periods namely 1980-81 to 1990-91: The pre-reform period, 1991-92 to 2004-05: The reform period and 2004-05 onwards the second-generation reform period. The SDP estimates have been prepared with respect to base year which has been changed. from time to time, the economic improvements taking place were estimated to provide a real view of the economy. For 1980-91 through 2005-06 the forecasts for base year 1993-94 have been collected. (Table no.1). For the present series from 2005-06 to 2012-13 the base year was revised to 2004-05 (Table no. 3). New series of estimates of GSDP in the periods of 2004-04 to 2009-10 as well as the estimates

provided for 2010-11, quick estimation from 2011-12 and Advance estimation of 2012-13 on a constant price with 2004-05 as the base year were taken.

**SOURCE OF DATA**

Economic growth occurring in the Post-reform period starting from the year 1991, in comparison to the pre-reform time before 1990 has facilitated the process of convergence and has drawn poorer states closer to richer states with improving their ranks on the state domestic products. This study was based on secondary data which has been treated and modified to suit the study.

**Growth Rate Inequalities in GSDP**

Table 1 shows the Annual GSDP growth rate in percentage in 15 states in 1980-81 to 1990-91 pre-reform period and 1991- 92 to 2005-06 post-reform period (at 1993-94 prices) and Table 4 represents Annual Growth Rate of GSDP (in %) for period 2005-09 and 2009-12 (at constant prices 2004-05), calculated from Table 2 and Table 3.

The following conclusions were drawn:

**Table 1:** Annual Compound Growth Rate of GSDP(%)

		<i>pre reform period</i>	<i>post reform period</i>		
	State	1980-81 to 1990-91	1990-91 to 2000-01	2001-02 to 2005-06	1980-81 to 2005-06
1	Bihar	4.66	3.45	1.91	3.45
2	Rajasthan	6.6	6.92	6.71	6.5
3	U.P.	4.95	3.97	4.7	4.28
4	Orissa	4.29	4.18	7.35	3.87
5	M.P.	4.49	5.23	4.91	4.81
6	A.P.	5.65	5.54	6.28	5.86
7	Tamil Nadu	5.30	6.71	3.04	5.86
8	Kerala	3.66	5.75	7.89	5.33
9	Karnataka	5.33	7.25	5.23	6.28
10	W.B.	4.70	6.82	7.25	5.97
11	Gujarat	5.02	7.57	9.3	6.28
12	Haryana	6.39	5.23	6.71	5.75
13	Maharashtra	5.97	6.5	7.68	6.5
14	Punjab	5.23	4.7	4.18	4.7
15	J & K	2.94	4.91	5.23	4.28
	All India	5.28	6.01	6.87	5.66

*Source: EPW Research Foundation*

An overall performance of states in GSDP has improved. The GSDP has increased in all the states of India in the pre- and post-reform periods. The quicker growth reported in national accounts is presumably the result of the revision of the 1993-94 GDP sequence of national accounts. However, the rate of increase has been changing during these three periods. The rate of rise in the GSDP is more in the post-reform period, in comparison with the pre-reform one in every state other than the three states viz. Bihar, U.P. and Rajasthan. The growth output between states is variable for both ages, with certain states increasing more quickly, but the degree to which growth rates spread in the 1990s increased considerably. Bihar, J&K, M.P., Orissa, West Bengal and U.P. are the poorer states because the GSDP has not increased significantly in the pre-reform period. J&K was the poorest state followed by Kerala in pre-reform period whereas, A.P., Karnataka, Rajasthan and

West Bengal are moderate states while Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab and T.N. are the richer states where the GSDP has been risen significantly in the reform period.

It was noted that SDP growth rate is (i) low in J&K (2.94%) and high in Rajasthan (6.6%) during 1980/81-1990/91; (ii) Low in Bihar (3.45%) and high in Gujarat (7.57%) during 1990/91-2000/01; (iii) low in Bihar (1.19%) and high in Kerala (7.89%) and Maharashtra (7.68%) during 2000-01-2005-06 ;(iv) low in Bihar (3.45%) and high in both Maharashtra (6.5%) and Karnataka (6.28%) during the overall period 1980-81 to 2005-06 and (v) low in W.B (6.9%) and high in Orissa (10.54%), Bihar (10.56%) and Karnataka (10.14%) during 2005-09. The rapid development of Orissa relative to the preliminary reform era was another highlight of the post-reform period. Orissa was an innovator of structural changes in the power sector in particular and established solid industrial policies. This has also launched new initiatives on agriculture and tourism. Orissa is sixth in foreign investment in the post-reform era. The buyers, both internationally and domestically, have been drawn to Orissa due to its abundance of natural resources. However, Orissa, considering its abundance of resources, remains mainly an agrarian state and hence the low output of the primary sector has to be addressed for its potential growth in income.

A noteworthy characteristic of the results in the 1990s is that as a uniform category of bad performers the BIMARU States: “Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and U.P.” do not succeed economically throughout the time following the reforms. Bihar and U.P were quite weak, rising much slower than their average, but Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh did very good. Rajasthan has seen a deceleration of GSDP growth compared with the 1980s, but has remained a successful producer for all states in the 1990s. In the nineties, on the other side, Madhya Pradesh had risen lesser than the total values of 1980s on average. Thus, the rate of growth of SDP has varied in Indian states before and after the reform period. Overall performance of states in GSDP has improved for the all-India level in this period of study

**Table 2:**GSDP of States at Constant Prices, 2004- 05

	States	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
1	Bihar	77781	77912	90135	95287	106877	114458	127381	144278	157957
2	Rajasthan	127746	136285	152189	160017	174556	186245	214698	227824	NA
3	U.P	260841	277818	300225	322214	344726	367417	396101	423261	445976
4	Odisha	77729	82145	92701	102846	110812	115851	124537	130669	142607
5	M.P	112927	118919	129896	135986	152946	168058	180034	201290	221463
6	A.P	224713	246210	273730	306645	327731	342571	375664	405046	NA
7	Tamil Nadu	219003	249567	287530	305157	320085	353237	387973	416549	435734
8	Kerala	119264	131294	141667	154093	162659	177571	191867	210107	NA
9	Karnataka	166747	184277	202660	228202	244421	247562	271485	286410	303444
10	West Bengal	208656	221789	239077	257632	270248	291955	318871	339844	365920
11	Gujarat	203373	233776	253393	281273	300341	334127	367540	398884	NA
12	Haryana	95795	104608	116344	126171	136478	152474	165960	179097	191821
13	Maharashtra	415480	470929	534654	594832	610191	666944	735212	787426	843565
14	Punjab	96839	102556	112997	123223	130431	138636	147683	156454	164575
15	J&K	27305	28883	30602	32561	34664	36227	38385	40771	43628
	All India	2971464	3253073	3564364	3896636	4158676	4516071	4937006	5243582	5503476

*Source: for Sl. No. 1-15- Directorate of Economics and Statistics of respective State Govt., and for All India - Central Statistics Office*

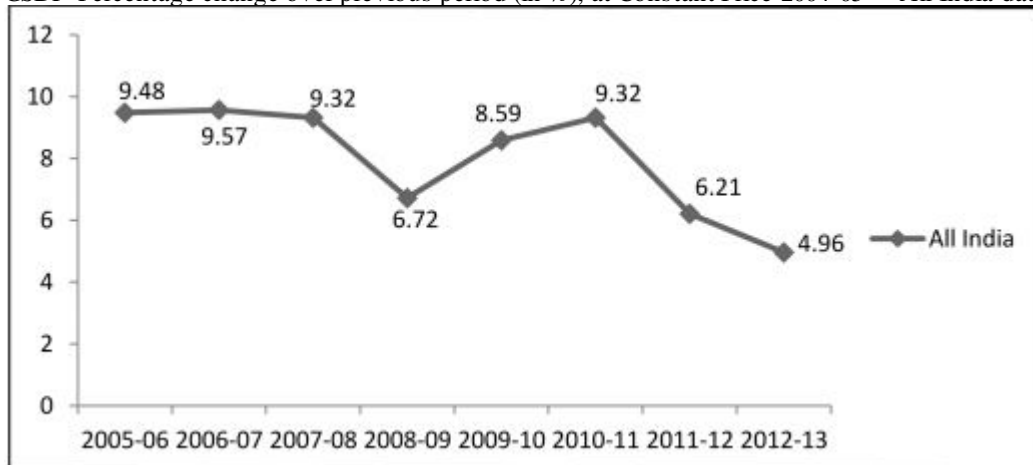
**Table 3:** GSDP Percentage change over previous period (in %),at Constant Price 2004-05

	States	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1	Bihar	0.17	15.69	5.72	12.16	7.09	11.29	13.26
2	Rajasthan	6.68	11.67	5.14	9.09	6.7	15.28	6.11
3	U.P	16.51	8.07	7.32	6.99	6.58	7.81	6.86
4	Odisha	5.68	12.85	10.94	7.75	4.55	7.5	4.92
5	M.P	5.31	9.23	4.69	12.47	9.88	7.13	11.81
6	A.P	9.57	11.18	12.02	6.88	4.53	9.66	7.82
7	Tamil Nadu	13.96	15.21	6.13	4.89	10.36	9.83	7.37
8	Kerala	10.09	7.9	8.77	5.56	9.17	8.05	9.51
9	Karnataka	10.51	9.98	12.6	7.11	1.29	9.66	5.5
10	West Bengal	6.29	7.79	7.76	4.9	8.03	9.22	6.58
11	Gujarat	14.95	8.39	11	6.78	11.25	10	8.53
12	Haryana	9.2	11.22	8.45	8.17	11.72	8.84	7.92
13	Maharashtra	13.35	13.53	11.26	2.58	9.3	10.24	7.1
14	Punjab	5.9	10.18	9.05	5.85	6.29	6.53	5.94
15	J&K	5.78	5.95	6.4	6.46	4.51	5.96	6.22
	All India	9.48	9.57	9.32	6.72	8.59	9.32	6.21

Source: Estimated from table 2 using formula (present value - base value)/ base value \* 100

In Table 3 the GSDP percent change over previous period has been calculated using data of Table 2 and applying the formula:

GSDP Percentage change over previous period (in %), at Constant Price 2004-05 – All India data



The trend line shows a declining trend in the GSDP Percentage change over previous period (in %), at Constant Price Price 2004-05 of all India level.

**GSDP of present period - GSDP of previous period \* 100 / GSDP of previous period**

Table 3 & 4 shows:

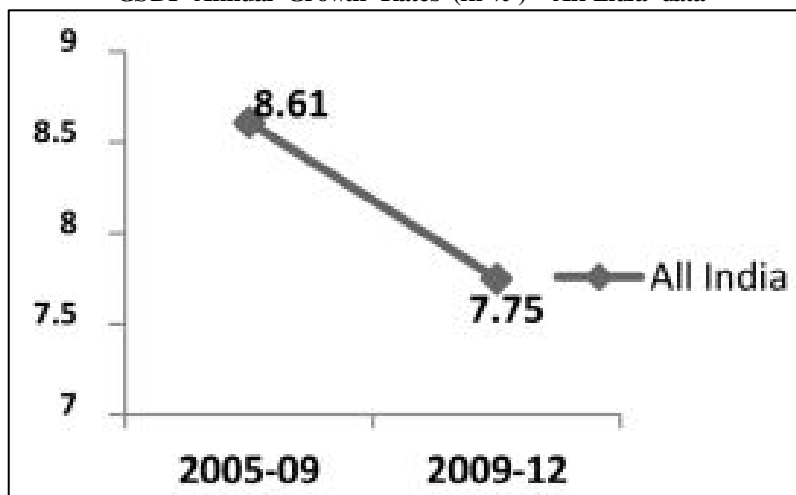
1. The growth rate of all India GDP compared to previous period decreased from 9.48% in 2005-06 to 6.21% in 2011 - 2011-12 and further to 4.96% in 2012-13.
2. However average annual growth rate of all India GDP was higher 8.61% during 2005-09 with a slight to decrease of 7.75% during 2009-12 ( Table 4 ).
3. Four states achieved very high growth rate of above 10% ( higher than all India GDP growth rate ) during this period. These states are Bihar( 10.56%), Orissa (10.54%), Karnataka (10.14%) and Andhra Pradesh (10.2%)

4. The BIMARU states except Bihar performed poorly as compared to richer states. Bihar achieved the highest average growth rate of 10.56% during 2005- 09 with lowest average growth rate of West Bengal of 6.9% during this period.

**Table 4: GSDP Annual Growth Rates (in %)**

	States	2005-09	2009-12
1	Bihar	10.56	12.27
2	Rajasthan*	8.25	10.6
3	U.P	7.44	7.33
4	Odisha	10.54	6.2
5	M.P	8.34	9.44
6	A.P	10.2	8.74
7	Tamil Nadu	8.39	8.59
8	Kerala*	7.54	8.78
9	Karnataka	10.14	7.56
10	West Bengal	6.9	7.89
11	Gujarat*	8.94	9.26
12	Haryana	9.19	8.38
13	Maharashtra	9.24	8.66
14	Punjab	8.41	6.23
15	J&K	6.28	6.09
	All India	8.61	7.75
Calculated by the author from table no 2 & 3			
CAGR- Compound Annual Growth Rate			
GSDP- Gross State Domestic Product			
* represent annual growth of available data			

**GSDP Annual Growth Rates (in %) – All India data**



Not only the percentage change in GSDP over previous period has shown a decrease in the current year but also the annual growth rate in GSDP has decreased from 8.61% to 7.75%.

Table 1 & 4 shows:

Table 1 & 4 shows: The annual compound growth rate of GSDP in India is 5.66 percent during 1980/81-2005/06 (Table no. 1) which increased to 8.14 percent during 2005-13. During the pre-reform period (i.e., sub period 1 from 1980-81 to 1990-91), the Indian Economy has grown at the rate of 5.28 per cent. And thereafter there have been an accelerating growth in the reform periods: 6.01 per cent during 1990/91- 2000/01, 6.87 percent during 2000/01 – 2005/06, 8.61 percent during 2005-09 which decreased moderately to 7.75 percent between 2009-12. In the reform times, thus, the GSDP growth rate in India is higher compared with the pre-reform era.

Ranking Analysis: In order to examine the relative status (with respect to GSDP) of 15 selected states ranking analysis was carried out. Rank was calculated using Spearman’s Rank Correlation formula. Ranks were assigned based on GSDP’s growth rate at 4 periods (i) 1980-81 to 1990-91 (pre reform period); (ii) 1991-93 to 1996-97 (post reform period); (iii) 1997-98 to 2001-02 and (iv) 2001- 02 to 2006-07

**Table 5:** State Rankings in different periods on the basis of NSDP/GSDP growth rates

1980-81 to 1990-91		1991-93 to 1996-97		1997-98 to 2001-02		2001-02 to 2006-07	
1	Delhi	1.	Gujarat	1	Sikkim	1	Manipur
2	Haryana	3.	Maharashtra	3	Karnataka	3	Gujarat
3	Maharashtra	5	Rajasthan	4	West Bengal	5	Orissa
4	Rajasthan	6	Tamil Nadu	6	Tamil Nadu	9	Maharashtra
6	Punjab	8	Kerala	9	Kerala	10	Goa
7	Tamil Nadu	9	M.P.	11	J & K	11	Haryana
8	Karnataka	11	West Bengal	12	Orissa	14	Kerala
9	Gujarat	12	A.P.	13	Maharashtra	15	Karnataka
11	Orissa	14	Haryana	14	A.P.	16	A.P
12	Uttar Pradesh	16	J & K	15	Punjab	17	Tamil Nadu
13	W. Bengal	17	U.P	17	Haryana	18	West Bengal
14	Bihar	18	Punjab	18	Gujarat	23	J&K
16	Madhya P.	20	Bihar	19	Bihar	24	Rajasthan
18	Kerala	21	Orissa	20	M.P	25	Bihar
19	J & K			21	U.P	26	U.P
				22	Rajasthan	27	Punjab
						28	M.P

*Source: CSO and Economic Survey*

Table 5 shows:

1. During 1980-81 to 1990-91 highest rank based on the GSDP's growth rate was assigned to Delhi followed by Haryana and least by J & K.
2. During 1991-93 to 1996-97 situation was reversed with Gujarat at the top and Bihar at the bottom. Rank of J & K improved while that of Haryana deteriorated till 2001-02
3. In 2001-02 Haryana improved its rank while rank of J&K decreased.
4. Gujarat continued to maintain high rank except in 1997-98 to 2001-02. Similar is for Maharashtra which continued to maintain its rank (3rd) from 1980-81 till 1997 with slight decrease in later years

Table 6: Human Development Index for India – Combined

1981			1991			2001		
Rank	State	Value	Rank	State	Value	Rank	State	Value
1	Kerala	0.500	1	Kerala	0.591	1	Kerala	0.638
2	Punjab	0.411	2	Punjab	0.475	2	Punjab	0.537
3	Maharashtra	0.363	3	Tamil Nadu	0.466	3	Tamil Nadu	0.531
4	Gujarat	0.360	4	Maharashtra	0.452	4	Maharashtra	0.531
5	Haryana	0.360	5	Haryana	0.443	5	Haryana	0.523
6	Karnataka	0.346	6	Gujarat	0.431	6	Gujarat	0.479
7	Tamil Nadu	0.343	7	Karnataka	0.412	7	Karnataka	0.478
8	West Bengal	0.305	8	West Bengal	0.404	8	West Bengal	0.472
9	Andhra Pradesh	0.298	9	Andhra Pradesh	0.377	9	Rajasthan	0.424
10	Assam	0.272	10	Assam	0.3488	10	Andhra Pradesh	0.416
11	Orissa	0.267	11	Rajasthan	0.3477	11	Orissa	0.404
12	Rajasthan	0.256	12	Orissa	0.345	12	Madhya Pradesh	0.394
13	Uttar Pradesh	0.255	13	Madhya Pradesh	0.328	13	Uttar Pradesh	0.388
14	Madhya Pradesh	0.245	14	Uttar Pradesh	0.314	14	Assam	0.386
15	Bihar	0.237	15	Bihar	0.308	15	Bihar	0.367

Source: GOI (2004): National Human Development Report, p. 25

Table 6 shows:

- In 1992-2006 Punjab remained second in the Human Development Index, despite a low rate of economic growth.

- The growth rate in Kerala stayed under the national average except for the sixties and the Ninth Five Year Plan, but it remained at the top of the Human Development Index.

- The BIMARU states Because of a variety of reasons, it stayed at the lowest growth ladder rank. Firstly, all the countries with a decent agri-climate ability historically have been agricultural states (except the regions of western M.P.and western Rajasthan and southern U.P).BIMARU states have lower levels of GSDP rather than due to normal causes as a result of human failure. Their failure to attract private investment was another downside, particularly after the economic reforms. Since 1991, States that make up almost 50% of national population have earned lesser than 26% of all proposals of private investment. In particular since the change, the BIMARU countries have struggled to establish manufacturing plants in their regions, the production sector is an ongoing engine of development. In addition, BIMARU countries have lagged behind social indicators, infrastructure and good governance which are key to rapid development.BIMARU states have lower levels of GSDP rather than due to normal causes as a result of human failure. Their failure to attract private investment was another downside, particularly after the economic reforms. Since 1991, States that make up almost half of the national population have earned lesser than 26% of all private investment proposals. In particular since the change, the BIMARU countries have struggled to establish manufacturing plants in their regions, the production sector is an ongoing engine of development. In addition, BIMARU countries have lagged behind social indicators, infrastructure and good governance which are key to rapid development.

- Haryana and Punjab were the two regions most benefited by “The Green Revolution”, leading to development in these countries in the 1960s until the Green Revolution of the 1980s, but failing to sustain their rate of growth following the reforms due to inflation and subsequent degradation mainly in the agricultural productivity. But Punjab and Haryana's overall GSDP position continues to be solid, considering the fall in growth rates (Table 5).

In terms of human growth, Kerala ranks very high. The per capita GSDP classification is nevertheless not that strong except in the 9<sup>th</sup> program. Three key reasons lead to weak economic results (Sachs, Bajpai and Ananthi 2000). Firstly, the production base of Kerala has historically been very poor. Secondly, the private investment in Kerala is extremely poor as a GSDP percentage. Investment in private ventures in Kerala made it

a weakest state in this respect, just 1.77%. Third, very small FDI is being received in Kerala. It is however one of Kerala's largest recipients of payments abroad (mainly in the Gulf countries). Kerala may be less affluent than its GSDP estimates because remittance revenue is considered part of the income of the state, not its GSDP.

#### Strategies for Reducing Disparities

A certain policy needs to be developed by the government at central and state levels to reduce the current inter-state inequalities. Each State and each State area has its own social, cultural, geographical, historical, backgrounds that influence its socio-economic output. In order to minimize the inequalities between countries, different steps should be taken to get backward countries into line with developed nations. The following are:

1. Allocate more participation in central financial affairs by the transition formulae used in the planning and financial commissions.

2. More states were created by other backward states: previous experience suggests that if two or three states were created from the existing states, newly created states grow quicker as compared to the previously created states.

3. Increase funding for economic and social infrastructure by increased social and infrastructure spending. Encouraging FDI migration in reverse regions is yet another step that will allow these countries to grow quickly. In his budget speech of 2005/2006, the 'Bharat Nirman' declared by the Minister of Finance takes this forward and covers six areas: irrigation, highways, water, infrastructure, rural electrification and telecom connections (rural).

4. Previous plans have effectively regulated capital movements— if public or private. However, in the post-reform period capital flows are becoming more market oriented. In the backward states, therefore, appropriate market conditions are required to steer capital flows to them.

5. Reducing poverty and empowerment of women is an effective way of reducing ethnic disparities. Poverty does not only include wage shortages: it requires poverty, impotence and social isolation. Backward countries are seen with a high proportion of poverty, which makes it critical that they follow policies which break the vicious cycle of poverty. Empowering women needs to increase the literacy, open the doors to new jobs, enhance health services for mothers and children and a fairer and more inclusive community.

6. The most effective approach for reducing ethnic inequalities is good governance by and large. Good governance at the level of the state in particular includes (a) the transfer of national and local obligations and services and increasing responsibility at the central level of economic policy. (b) creating an ecosystem facilitating transparency, innovation and involvement of the private sector in infrastructure sectors. (c) establishment of a predictable financial sector and capital market strategy, legal and regulatory structure.

#### Conclusion

The process of economic development involves not only uplift the economic well-being but also at balance regional development of the country. To eliminate regional disparities accelerated development of backward regions is required. Despite efforts made by the planners no substantial impact is felt on regional disparities. However the divergence of GSDP has decreased during the reform period and in recent years as compared to the pre reform period. The key cause for the disagreement is the fact that during the transition era the primary sector was more divergent from the secondary and tertiary sectors. There was less divergence in the third market. Infacts have shown that the service sector is the new drivers of growth in many countries, especially in terms of banking and insurance and infrastructure. In backward regions, priority should be given to these sectors. Developmental economists view that consolidation of social sector is essential for increasing the economic development. It will not only help to remove barrier to economic development but also better use of resources. This requires investment in Human Resource Development which can be achieved by increase in expenditure by the government on education, health care, nutrition etc...

Unless economic policies are channeled into specific direction with exclusive focus on those areas which have remained neglected and lagging behind their rich industrially advanced states in terms of infrastructure and other capabilities to face the global market inter regional disparities cannot be reduced. The backward and forward linkage of agriculture of poor reasons should be emphasized. Concerted actions would be needed from the States and the Center involved. The political will of state representatives is of primary importance and the people's resolve as a whole. The decentralization, with effective oversight, of decision-making and financial forces at all levels would also promote the rapid socio-economic growth of backward areas, where people are keen to shoulder substantial development responsibilities.

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