

Regional Disparity

**Prepared by
Sonika Sen
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
GDC Kishtwar**

Meaning of Disparity

- Disparity means inequality.
- Disparity or regional imbalance is the co-existence of relatively developed and economically depressed states and even regions within each state.
- When there is wide difference in per capita income, literacy rate, health and education facilities, industrialisation etc between different regions.

Types of Regional Disparity

Regional disparities may be

- Natural
- Man-made
- Inter-state (disparity between states)
- Intra-state (disparity within states)
- Rural-urban disparity
- Global disparity (disparity between nations)

Causes of regional disparity

1. Historical factor

- British government developed only those regions of the country which suited their trade activities e.g Bombay, Calcutta, Madras etc
- Absence of proper land reforms and industrial policy after independence.

2. Geographic factors

- Difficult terrain, flood prone areas, hilly terrain, dense forests.
- Inaccessibility in Himalayan states and north-east states

3. Location specific advantages

- Availability of irrigation, raw material, market, port facility for some regions.
- Early mover advantage
- New investments concentrate in areas having basic infrastructure and relatively more developed states.

4. Failure in planning mechanism

5. Restricted success of green revolution to punjab, Haryana and western U.P.

6. Financial problems

- Small and medium enterprises face financial access problems in rural areas .

Law and order problem obstructing flow of investment into backward regions.

- 7. Lack of political will and inefficient leadership**
- 8. Lack of motivation on part of backward states.**
- 9. Poor education system**
- 10. Issue of peace, security and stability**

Indicators of regional disparities in India

1. State per capita income

States like Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala have higher per capita income as compared to states like Orissa, Bihar, M.P., U.P , Rajasthan.

2. Inter-state disparities in Agriculture and industrial development

States like Punjab, Haryana, western U.P. record high agricultural productivity. States like Assam, Bihar, Orissa have lagged behind in industrialisation.

3. Intra-state imbalance

Most of the developed states concentrate their development activities towards more developed urban and metro cities of the state.

4. Spatial Distribution of Industries

States like Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala and Karnataka have reached considerable development in industrial sector as compared to West Bengal, J&K.

5. Population below poverty line

Lower farm income, lack of skills, under employment, unemployment lead to poverty.

M.P., Assam, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand , Chhattisgarh have more people under BPL.

6. Degree of urbanisation

Urban population share of India with respect to total population of country stands at 31.6 according to 2011 census.

Consequences of regional disparity

- Inter-state and intra-State agitation.
e.g. Telangana agitation, agitation in Vidhrabh (Maharashtra), Bodoland in Assam.
- Migration
- Social Unrest
- Pollution
- Housing and water problem in urban areas.

Suggestions/ Measures

- Identification of backward areas and allocation of funds.
- Need for investment in backward areas
- Political will and good governance
- **Make in India** is one such initiative to encourage industries to invest in different sectors in India.
- Incentives for investment in backward areas.

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Thank You