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PATTERNS OF POVERTY, LEVELS OF LIVING AND INTENSITIES OF INEQUALITY IN INDIA: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KBK DISTRICTS OF ODISHA STATE



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ABSTRACT:

Several studies have been made in recent years on the patterns of poverty, disparity and level of living in Indian states during the 1990s. Some have highlighted the reduction in poverty while some others have verbalized torment over the rising economic inequality. In context of the developing disparity both between and within the states, disaggregated studies are necessary for precise identification of the critical areas calling for policy intervention. This paper explains a profile of patterns of poverty, levels of living and intensities of inequality for KBK region of Odisha state. An attempt has been made to map the destitution in KBK districts to look at their formal disparity within and across the districts.

KEY WORDS: Poverty, gender Inequality, KBK district, HDI, GDI, level of living.

1.INTRODUCTION:

Over the last six decades, India has made systematic efforts to alleviate poverty through increasing economic process, direct



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assails using land and tenancy reforms, targeted programs, participatory and empowerment-based approaches and therefore the provision of basic services. According to the National Sample Survey results, people living below poverty level have dramatically returned down through out the post economic reform era.

Various studies on poverty analysis exhibits that people living below poverty line (BPL) fell from 45.3% in 1993-94 to 37.2% in 2004-05 and again to 21.9% in 2011-12. The share of persons below the poverty level in 2011-12 has been calculated as 25.7% and 13.7% in rural areas and in urban areas respectively and 21.9% for the country as an intact (Planning Commission). The proportion of kids below three years of age who are underweight slashed from 43 percent in National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-2 to 40 percent in NFHS-3. Consistent with the National Sample Survey data of the 66th round (2009-10), Average dietary energy intake per person was 2147 Kcal per day for rural India and for urban India is 2123



Kcal. The proportion of households with calorie intake below average Kcal per individual unit per day was 42.5% for rural and 45% for urban households. India had 270 million persons below the Tendulkar Poverty level in 2011-12 against 407 million in 2004-05, a remarkable diminution of 137 million persons during seven years period.

World Bank report (2013) on poverty indicates that India accounts for one-third of the world poor who are living on less than USD 1.25 (about Rs75) per day. One half of India's poor is located the three states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. West Bengal, Odisha and Maharashtra account for 22.5% of impoverishment. Concerning about two-third of India's population live in rural areas and virtually 170 million of them are poor (NSSO). Though several rural people are migrating to cities, 3 out of 4 of India's poor people live in the huge rural parts of the country (NSSO). On the atlas of poverty, the poorest areas lie in rural parts of Bihar, Odisha Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. The latest NSSO survey reports views that over 80 million poor people living in the urban areas of India. The Slum population is also escalating and nearly 61.80 million people were living in slum areas. An estimated 260.3 million are below the poverty level of which 67.1 million are in urban areas and 193.2 million are in the rural areas (NSSO).

How life can be happy is a debatable issue and could have only a subjective answer. Food, clothing, shelter, education and a good health are considered basic requirements for living. However, other elements such social well- being, self respect, social inclusion, mental peace etc are also important ones for living. Deprivation from these elements stakes a condition of vulnerability and the manifestations of poverty.

KBK districts of Odisha is endowed with rich natural resources in the form of vast mineral reserves, fertile land, forests, plentiful surfaces and ground water, picturesque tourist potential, long coastline and many others. Beside all these convincing pictures, they rank very low among the Indian states in terms of poor level of living, per capita income and are therefore regarded as one of the backward states.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Millions of people live in extreme poverty, perpetually facing with the threat of uncertainty and inadequate food provision. The government of India is ceaselessly implementing variety of food security measures by its successive planning. The programme of food for work, targeted public distribution system and a dozen of related initiatives have been taken to nosh millions of ravenous stomach living in the country who even sleep without two square meals daily (Sarangi, 2004).

Over the years, Odisha has witnessed a trend decline within the incidence of poverty. Years of development have not altered its condition satisfactorily. An earlier study by Mahendra Dev (1992) reveals that 65 percent of rural population in Odisha was living below poverty line rather than the quoted figure of 48.3 percent as calculated by the Planning Commission in between 1961-62 to 1986-87. The official statistics of the rate of poverty was estimated to be 47.2 percent (Sarangi, 2005).

The Panchayati Raj Department indicates that the districts like Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur and Boudh have more than 80 percent of BPL families. Undivided Koraput district has the highest percentage of BPL families where as Jharsuguda district alone has less than 50 percent. This depicts that there is big gap in the poverty ratio among districts. A comparison between 1992 and 1999 shows except three districts – Rayagada, Sonepur and Deogarh - all the districts have improved their position.

Persistent rural poverty is one of the major challenges in India. India has coped within the millennium. Although India achieved great success in bringing down rural poverty, measured in terms

of the headcount ratio, from 56.44 percent in 1973-74 to 37.27 percent in 1993-94, yet in absolute numbers there are 244 million rural poor in the country whose presence have to be unwanted by the policy makers in the years to come (Mishra, 2000). It is seen that 28.6 percent of the population of India fell below the national poverty line on the basis of monthly per capita expenditure. It is also found that approximately half of all children and one fifth of the total population were either moderately or severely malnourished in 2000.

Iswar Natarajan, the chief economist, the National Council Applied Economic Research observed economic growth alone will be enough significantly reduce the number of the poor. It does bring down the poverty considerably. Prof. Kamal Mitra Chenoy, JNU, condemned the report's idea of wealth trickling downwards as offering false hope to the poor. Once he said that I think if this kind of trickling- down does, it would be quite magical, because the record of these kinds of structural adjustment reforms throughout the so-called Third world – this has never happened. And in fact there is evidence that India between 1991- 1994, when the last phase of reform started, the percentage of rural poor has actually increased.

However, the term poverty or vulnerability has been discussed and conceptualized by different persons differently. Robert Chamber has identified some elements that constitute the cluster of disadvantages which contribute to poverty – what he terms - the deprivation trap. These clusters include poor household, physically weak household, isolated household, vulnerable household, and powerless household. He thinks all these disadvantages are interlinked cannot be isolated but rather constitute deprivation or the poverty trap with an interlocking series of factors like vulnerability isolation and powerless, poverty itself, physical weakness (Chambers,1987). Poverty became a subject for research inquiry at the beginning of the last century. Rowntree conceptualized the poverty issue from a biological perspective. He distinguished poverty as primary and secondary poverty, which could be compensated by enlarging income. Primary poverty is an income level below which households fail to buy essentials of food, clothing, shelter, warmth etc while the secondary poverty is a household's failure to purchase minimum subsistence needs because of inappropriate, inefficient use of income otherwise adequate to meet the needs.

Indeed, poverty in developing countries is a far more comprehensive state of being which encompasses not just material want but also powerlessness and marginalization (Sen, 2000). Therefore, estimates based on income poverty alone tend to underestimate not only the lower quality of life of the really poor, but also the versatile nature of effective poverty among groups of people who may be living above the poverty line.

Recently, it is wide accepted that poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, which is at best only partially captured in data based on estimates of income or consumption expenditure. The foremost common definition used in developing countries refers to material consumption and grounds the definition of a poverty line in terms of expenditure necessary for the fulfillment of a nutritional requirement of a certain minimum calorific intake. While this definition primarily takes minimum food consumption expenditure as a proxy for income, there are clearly factors other than lack of income and productive assets associated with poverty. Thus, besides hunger and malnutrition, the component (non income factor) of physically quality of life index (PQLI) such as greater morbidity and higher mortality rates, minimal health services or poor access to basic sanitation, inadequate housing or homelessness, harmful environment, social and political exclusion and lack of education are important to assess a particular nation's performance in providing the basic needs of the people.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The basic objective of the present paper is to:

- To analyze the general socio-economic condition of KBK districts where world's poorest tribal reside;
- To analyze the quantum of poverty in KBK districts based on pattern of consumption and level of living;
- To examine the gender-wise disparities on health, literacy and income among KBK districts in general;
- To review existing policies and to recommend necessary policy changes and policy ways for further study.

4. METHODOLOGY

The study is essentially based on secondary information. Information has been collected from various sources like journals, books, manuals annual reviews and reports of the state concerned for literature part. Data have been interpreted with the help of statistical tools. The study is designed in focusing on growth of KBK districts of Odisha.

5. TREND AND PATTERN OF POVERTY IN ODISHA

The long-term trends in the incidence of poverty in Odisha focus that there has been a steadily decline in the poverty ratio in Odisha between 1977-78 and 1993-94. The Headcount Ratio in rural areas of Odisha has come down from 72.38% in 1983-84, 67.53% in 1983-84, 57.64% in 1987-88, and 49.72% in 1993-94 (Expert Committee report). In the post half of the 1990s, poverty ratio has remain approximately motionless. It is perhaps due to the poor agricultural growth performance of Odisha. However, there is an immediate and straightforward explanation for the stagnation of rural poverty ratio during the second half of the 1990s. The rate of decline in the poverty ratio of Odisha has been the second lowest even when the absolute poverty ratio was a high of 67.28 per cent in 1973-74 to 1999-2000. During the reform period, it is the most noteworthy feature is that the decline in the incidence of poverty has been insignificant both in rural and urban sector. In the period 1993-94 to 2004-05, it has reduced only marginally from 49.72% to 46.80% % in rural sector, while it is marginally increased 41.64% to 44.30% in urban sector.

Poverty estimates for rural Odisha by social classes as per the Tendulkar Committee methodology are presented in Table -1 for 2004-05, 2009-10 and 2011-12. It may be observed from Table -1 that Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities are poorer than other social classes followed by Scheduled Caste (SC) communities. It is heartening to note that in recent years, poverty among ST and SC communities has been reducing at a faster rate, i.e., 20.88 and 26.51 percentage points respectively from 2004-05 to 2011-12.

Year	Head Count Ratio (%) by Social Classes				
	ST	SC	OBC	Others	Total
2004-05	84.4	67.9	52.7	37.1	60.8
2009-10	66	47.1	25.6	24.5	39.2
2011-12	63.52	41.39	24.16	14.2	35.69

Source: Odisha Economy Survey-2014-15

Poverty estimates for rural Odisha by NSS regions (i.e., southern, northern and coastal) as per the Tendulkar Committee methodology are presented in Table -2 for 2004-05, 2009-10 and 2011-12. It may be observed that the southern region which includes the KBK region (i.e., Kalahandi, Bolangir and

Koraput districts), has the highest incidence of poverty followed by the northern region. From 2004-05 to 2011-12, all these regions have witnessed substantial reduction of poverty as may be observed from Table -2. Among the regions, the northern region has registered the highest reduction of poverty with 30.53 percentage points, followed by the southern region with 25.40 percentage points and the coastal region with 19.95 percentage points.

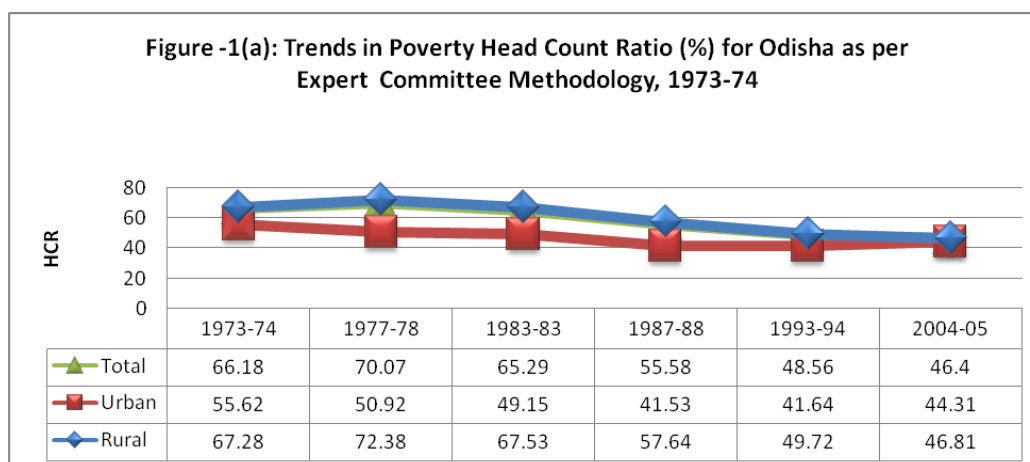
Table-2 : Head Count Ratio (Percent) by NSS Regions, Rural Odisha, 2004-2012

Year	Head Count Ratio (%) by NSS Regions			
	Southern*	Northern	Coastal	Total
2004-05	73.4	70.5	41.6	60.8
2009-10	52.4	41.7	25.3	39.2
2011-12	48	39.97	21.65	35.69

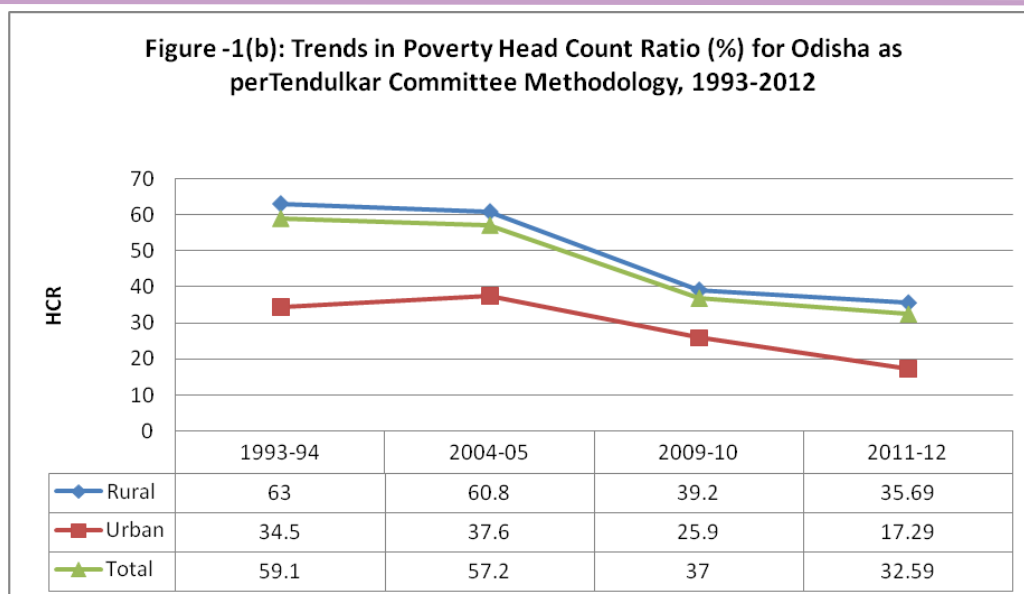
* KBK districts comes under Southern Region

Source: Odisha Economy Survey-2014 -15

It is seen that in current years poverty has reduced at faster rates. Tendulkar Committee methodology signifies that poverty in Odisha declined by 24.6 percentage points from 57.2 percent in 2004-05 to 32.6 percent in 2011-12. There is significant poverty reduction among ST and SC communities in northern and southern regions whereas the incidence of poverty in southern and northern regions as well as among ST and SC communities still continues to be high and remains as a matter of concern.



The trend and incidence of poverty in Odisha from 1973-74 to 1993-94 have been made by the Expert Committee methodology, while the estimates of poverty reduction from 2004-05 to 2011-12 are based on the Tendulkar Committee methodology. Poverty estimates for 2011-12 have been obtained by using the data from 68th NSS round and on the basis of poverty lines of Rs.695 and Rs.861 as monthly per capita consumer expenditure for rural and urban Odisha respectively.



It may be observed from Figure-1(a) and (b) that poverty has declined by 24.61 percentage points from 57.20 percent in 2004-05 (61st NSS round) to 32.59 percent in 2011-12 (68th NSS round). The reduction of poverty by 25.11 percentage points was higher in rural Odisha than that of 20.31 percentage points in urban Odisha. The State recorded the highest reduction in poverty among all major states between 2004-05 and 2011-12 which is an impressive achievement.

6. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF KBK DISTRICTS

The undivided districts of KBK region have been divided into eight districts since 1992-93: Koraput, Nawrangpur, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Bolangir, Kalahandi Sonapur, and Nuapada. The physiographic of KBK districts gives a perfect platform for the tribals in sustaining their ethno-cultural identity. It has been the homeland of various tribal communities with their sub-tribes. Tribal communities dominate this region. As per 2001 Census, about 38.41% people of these districts belong to the Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities including four primitive tribal groups (PTG), i.e., Bondas, Dadai, Langia, Sauras and Dangaria Kandhas. These eight districts comprise of 12,293 villages, 1,437 Gram Panchayats, 80 CD Blocks, 37 Tehsils and 14 Subdivisions. The KBK districts account for 30.59 per cent geographical area and 19.79 per cent population of the state. Ninety per cent population of this region still lives in villages. This region is one of the poorest regions in the country. As per 1999-2000 NSS data estimation, 87.14 percent people in this region are Below Poverty Line (BPL). Lower population density (153 persons / sq.km) in comparison to 236 for Odisha indicates difficult living conditions and an underdeveloped economy. Literacy rates are also far below the State as well as National averages.

The districts quite from a long time were recognized as most vulnerable districts of Odisha experiencing multifaceted backwardness. Starting from poor health, swelling distress and dwindling economy, people of the region led a very miserable and painful life. The human resource development was almost in a dire state with indebtedness, illiteracy and ignorance. Other socio-economic indicators including population density and composition, net area irrigation and connectivity of villages to growth centers and service centers are also far from satisfactory. Some socio – economic indicators are summarized in Table-3.

Table-3: District-wise Values of the Socio-Economic Indicators of KBK Districts

Districts	% of Rural Families Living above the Poverty Line (As per 1992 Survey)	Total Literacy Rate(2001 Census)	Per Capita Food grain Production (1998- 99) in kg.	Yield rate of Rice (1998- 99) (q/haectare)	Percent age of Villages Electrified as on 31 st March, 1999	Work Participation Rate (1991 Census)	% of Urban Population to Total Population (1991 Census)	Bank Branches s per Lakh of Population n (1999- 00)	Medical Institutions per Lakh Population n t(1999- 00)	Total Road Length per 100 sq. km of Area	Per Capita Net Value Added by Manufacture, (in Rs) 1997-98
Rayagada	18.44	35.61	192.97	16.99	38.20	48.89	12.51	5.71	6.08	95.76	1027.03
Koraput	13.41	36.20	236.45	15.31	52.01	49.90	16.67	5.10	5.60	98.56	-3212.53
Malkanagiri	8.14	31.26	284.45	14.33	40.45	46.86	8.16	3.96	8.12	83.99	4.75
Nawrangpur	9.44	34.26	259.01	13.56	74.49	49.00	4.97	2.85	4.81	149.08	-15.62
Sonepur	32.56	64.07	298.99	13.98	77.23	44.06	7.30	5.19	4.81	178.86	-2.14
Balangir	8.10	54.93	152.50	7.80	84.89	40.74	10.51	5.47	4.49	142.05	97.51
Nuapada	13.68	42.29	220.27	8.53	67.65	45.65	5.49	5.28	4.34	147.30	-18.44
Kalahandi	13.23	46.20	157.41	7.11	56.96	45.07	6.91	5.85	4.65	162.80	-7.73
Odisha	21.30	63.61	173.76	12.12	73.03	37.53	13.38	6.05	4.64	145.53	591.46

Source: Compiled by author from different Websites

7. HEIGHTS OF LEVEL OF LIVING OF KBK DISTRICTS

In order to get a good understanding the level of living prevailing in the districts, we need to study the estimates like Monthly Per capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE), HCR and Lorenz Ratio for both Rural and Urban Sector. In rural Odisha at the district level, there has been an indication of a trade-off between prosperity and inequality with rich districts having high level of inequality as against a low Lorenz ratio in the poor districts.

In urban KBK, the MPCE of the best is Sonepur (Rs350/) and worst is Nawrangpur (Rs 255/-).All the KBK districts fall below state level average (Rs399). Poverty indices of KBK districts are compiled in Table-4. It is clear that urban areas have more inequalities than rural areas as corroborate earlier results done by researchers from time to time. HCR severity is found in all the districts of KBK districts both in urban and rural areas (Table - 4). Though Odisha has the highest urban poverty (45%) in India, yet it is much below than state level in Rayagada district (21.8%).

Table-4: MPCE, HCR and Lorenz Ratio for Rural and Urban Sector of KBK Districts						
Districts	RURAL			URBAN		
	MPCE(Rs)	% of Poor (HCR)	Lorenz Ratio	MPCE (Rs)	%of Poor (HCR)	Lorenz Ratio
Rayagada	307	73.0	0.315	918	21.8	0.280
Koraput	277	74.2	0.268	971	61.0	0.528
Malkanagiri	307	70.0	0.310	593	71.0	0.355
Nawrangpur	255	80.6	0.232	563	87.7	0.429
Sonepur	350	51.3	0.233	529	63.8	0.288
Balangir	341	66.3	0.248	704	48.3	0.320
Nuapada	315	70.1	0.230	527	62.3	0.253
Kalahandi	304	70.5	0.250	741	60.3	0.536
Odisha	399	47.0	0.282	575	44.7	0.349

Source: Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XLIV NO. 9, February 28, 2009.

Poverty should not only be taken in terms of the size of income but also it should also consider illiteracy, bad health, social mal-practices, and also other forms of vulnerabilities which all make living uncomfortable and difficulties. In this regard, the pattern and extent of inter-district variations in respect of some important measurable indicators of human development can be analysed such as Human Development Index (HDI), Gender Development Index (GDI), Reproductive Health Index (RHI), Physically Quality of Life Index (PQLI) and Infrastructure Index (IDI) and also to examine the degree of correspondence between different indices or that between an overall index and a particular component of that index at the district level.

While HDI is based on three dimensions of human development that are considered to be fundamental, namely longevity, knowledge and a measure of necessary income, GDI brings in an additional dimension, namely gender, which is of fundamental significance in the concept of human development. The RHI focuses on an essential condition of the reproductive health dimension.

The value of HDI for the state as a whole turns out to be 0.579 (Table -5). From Table-5, it is found that HDI of Kalahandi district (0.606) is much higher than state level (0.579). HDI of all districts of KBK region are much below the state level except Kalahandi and Nuapada districts. It is lowest in Malkanagiri (0.370) which ranks 30 th position in the state.

Table-5.: HDI, GDI, RHI, PLI and IDI of KBK Districts

Districts	HDI	HDI rank	GDI	GDI rank	RHI	RHI rank	PQLI	PQLI rank	IDI	IDI rank
Rayagada	0.443	25	0.428	24	0.585	8	0.8505	17	84.37	23
Koraput	0.431	27	0.415	26	0.509	22	0.8896	22	95.93	17
Malkangiri	0.370	30	0.362	30	0.502	23	0.9219	27	75.65	27
Nawrangpur	0.436	26	0.422	25	0.485	27	0.9770	30	66.06	30
Sonepur	0.566	16	0.543	11	0.592	07	0.7633	09	115.82	9
Balangir	0.546	21	0.518	16	0.479	28	0.8628	19	100.24	15
Nuapada	0.581	14	0.561	09	0.495	26	0.9175	25	75.39	28
Kalahandi	0.606	11	0.579	08	0.526	21	0.9199	26	79.75	25
Odisha	0.579		0.546		0.549		0.8224		100	

Note: HDI = Human Development Index, GDI = Gender Development Index, RHI = Reproductive Health Index, PQLI = Physically Quality of Life Index and IDI=Infrastructure Index

Source: (i) Odisha Human Development Report-2004.pp194-203.

(ii) Orissa Economic Survey, Planning and Coordination Department, 2011.

The disparities in GDI are very severe. It is seen that Malakanagiri is the worst district in GDI and HDI composition. Interestingly, it is found that PQLI in all districts except Sonepur is much above the state level (0.8224). RHI is highest in the district of Sonepur (0.592) and lowest in Balangir (0.479). So far concerns of IDI, all districts are compatible except Nawrangpur district.

Table-6: Some Human Development Indices of KBK Districts

Districts &	IMR	Health index	Education index	Income index	Overall Literacy index	Combined Gross Enrollment index	Equally Distributed Health index	Equally Distributed Education index	Equally Distributed income index
Rayagada	131	0.250	0.531	0.547	0.356	0.882	0.253	0.521	0.510
Koraput	136	0.218	0.535	0.539	0.362	0.881	0.221	0.525	0.498
Malkangiri	151	0.122	0.491	0.497	0.313	0.847	0.125	0.482	0.478
Nawrangpur	117	0.340	0.516	0.453	0.343	0.863	0.343	0.563	0.422
Sonepur	96	0.340	0.731	0.492	0.641	0.912	0.474	0.715	0.441
Balangir	97	0.468	0.666	0.504	0.549	0.898	0.468	0.650	0.436
Nuapada	62	0.692	0.582	0.470	0.423	0.901	0.691	0.691	0.428
Kalahandi	51	0.763	0.585	0.471	0.462	0.830	0.762	0.565	0.410
Odisha	97	0.468	0.723	0.545	0.636	0.896	0.471	0.713	0.455

Source: Odisha Human Development Report, 2004.

IMR(infant mortality rate) becomes a curse in KBK districts. High maternal mortality rate shows that women are in a disadvantageous condition when it comes to health benefits. The male infant mortality rate varies from the lowest of 54 (Kalahandi) to the highest of 151(Malakanagiri), where as female infant mortality rate varies from the lowest of 48 (Kalahandi) to the highest of 150(Malakanagiri). There is a huge variation in IMR. The variation is lowest of 51 (Kalahandi) to the highest of 151 (Malakanagiri) in general. Literacy is very critical. Health becomes hazardous. Health provision in Malakanagiri district is the worst in the state. Mixed result is found in income distribution, that is, some districts are much better and above the state level, while some are much below the state level. Table-6 shows some peculiar characteristics of the districts that some districts possess better health aids while few others enjoy better educational amenities. The peculiar characteristics of the districts show that Malkanagiri district is highest in IMR (151) which is the worst in all aspects, while Kalahandi district is better in health aspect and Sonapur district posses better education and enrollment.

8. STATE OF GENDER INEQUALITY AND INEQUALITY OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN KBK DISTRICTS

An analysis has been made to know the behavior of the institutions health, education and wealth and property distribution. This shows inequality. Poverty is a manifestation of inequalities. For a welfare state such distributional issues are important and they draw the attention of masses. An attempt is made to analysis the inequality of the districts. Mostly the people of the district are tribals and non-farmers. They only own labour entitlement.

8.1. State of Gender Inequality

Women in KBK region of Odisha face discrimination in all spheres. The 33% reservation for women in formal grass root politics (Panchayat) is still not effective as they are not able to exercise their power mainly because of the patriarchal nature of society. The female literacy in the KBK region is abysmal and is below 30% (OES, 2007-2008). In addition to, average wage rate for female workers is much lower than the male workers (Mallick and Meher, 2002). Gender-wise Disparities index on Health, Literacy and income of KBK Districts and Odisha are shown in Table-7.

Districts & Indices	Overall Literacy(2001)		Combined enrolment Ratio(6-14 years)		Health index		Education index		Income Index	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Rayagada	47.35	24.31	87.89	88.60	0.250	0.256	0.609	0.457	0.604	0.443
Koraput	47.58	24.81	87.66	88.68	0.218	0.224	0.609	0.461	0.599	0.426
Malkanagiri	41.21	21.02	84.62	84.85	0.122	0.128	0.557	0.425	0.571	0.410
Nawrangpur	47.36	21.28	85.83	86.91	0.340	0.346	0.602	0.430	0.518	0.355
Sonepur	80.30	47.28	91.18	91.22	0.468	0.308	0.839	0.619	0.575	0.355
Balangir	70.36	39.27	89.45	90.21	0.474	0.462	0.767	0.562	0.606	0.399
Nuapada	58.78	26.01	89.89	90.40	0.667	0.718	0.629	0.475	0.547	0.352
Kalahandi	62.88	29.56	82.35	83.84	0.744	0.782	0.694	0.477	0.541	0.330
Odisha	75.95	50.97	89.38	89.79	0.468	0.474	0.804	0.639	0.643	0.349

Source: Odisha Human development Report, 2004.pp-199

Table-7 depicts the gender disparities indices that in KBK districts the male overall literacy diverges from the lowest 41.21(Malakanagiri) to 80.30(Sonepur), Combined enrolment ratio varies from 84.62(Malakanagiri) to 91.89(Sonepur). Similarly, Health index fluctuates from 0.122(Malakanagiri) to 0.744 (Kalahandi), education index 0.557 (Malakanagiri) to 0.839 (Sonepur), income index 0.518(Nawrangpur) to 0.604 (Rayagada) where as female overall literacy varies from the lowest 21.02(Malakanagiri) to 47.28(Sonepur), Combined enrolment ratio varies from 84.85 (Malakanagiri) to 91.22(Sonepur), Health index 0.128(Malakanagiri) to 0.782(Kalahandi) and education index 0.425 (Malakanagiri) to 0.767(Sonepur) and income index 0.330 (Nawrangpur) to 0.443 (Rayagada). It is found that out of 8 districts, 5 districts (Rayagada, Koraput, Malkanagiri, Nawrangpur and Kalahandi) needs special attention and Malkanagiri district is the most affected district of KBK.

8.2. State of Inequality of living conditions

For many years inequality in income and wealth received little attention in public debate and was only a minority interest in the economic development. GDP per capita was widely considered to be a satisfactory indicator of economic development. Inequality has now become the focus of remarkably wide-ranging attention. Focusing entirely on income dispersion can blur differences in the evolution of living standards. It is an important step forward that inequality is increasingly recognized as a central concern not just from the point of view of fairness but as representing a real threat to economic performance and social cohesion. It is an important step forward that inequality is increasingly recognized as a central concern not just from the point of view of fairness but as representing a real threat to economic performance and social cohesion. Inequality of Living Conditions of KBK Districts of Odisha is shown in Table-8.

Districts	Index of living condition	Rank
Rayagada	0.8505	17
Koraput	0.8896	22
Malkanagiri	0.9219	27
Nawrangpur	0.9770	30
Sonepur	0.7633	9
Balangir	0.8628	19
Nuapada	0.9175	25
Kalahandi	0.9199	26
Odisha	0.8224	-----

Source: planningcommission.nic.in/plans/stateplan/sdr_orissa/sdr_orich8.pdf

Table -8 shows the wide variation of living conditions among KBK districts. Out of thirty districts of Orissa, Sonepur district ranks 9 th position while Nawrangpur stands at 30 th position. Malakanagiri, Kalahand, Nuapada, Koraput, Balangir, Rayagada at 27th, 26th, 25th, 22nd, 19th and 17th respectively.

9. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

This study is confined with the district framework of KBK districts of Odisha. Poverty is a manifestation of inequalities. Inequality is universal reality. For a welfare state such distributional issues are important and they draw the attention of masses. The distribution of happiness was

neglected. An attempt is made to analysis the poverty and inequality of the KBK districts. To identify the poor, the Planning Commission constituted a Task Force on Projections of the Minimum Needs and Effectual Consumption Demand in 1995. The Task Force defined the persons those whose per capita consumption expenditure class are having per capita daily calories in-take of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. Although government agencies, NGOs and private organizations are active in poverty alleviation activities, cross-flow of information among these agencies, duplication in programs, lack of co-ordination and lack of mutual co-operation and spatial imbalance in distribution of programs is evident. In totality, causes like failing to attain spectacular growth in GDP, not assimilating the poor in programs seeking growth in production, the poor not having easy access to opportunity and facility and a say in the decision making have stood as challenges.

Studies on poverty in India are many. KBK region is one of tribal based region f the world.The ownership pattern of the tribals is tested on the basis of trade, production of commodities, poor labour power and inheritance and transfer. Mostly the people of the districts are tribals and non-farmers. They only own labour entitlement. The fact that the extent and nature of disparities have become more pronounced or have not been reduced despite several government programmes. These disparities urgently need explanation, particularly in the context of India's democratic set-up. The disparities do not appear as the result of a lack of development or economic growth but rather a case of 'entitlement failure'. The inequalities described above are neither just, nor efficient rather they are they are cumulative. Social justice is a value concept and as such is as old as mankind. There was a time when inequality was justified and encouraged. With the birth and of democracy and socialism, however, there has been wide craze for equality. The distribution of happiness was neglected. John Rawls in his famous work prescribes that social and economic inequalities must be so arranged that they must be to the utmost advantage of the least advantaged group.

Tribals suffer from the cumulation of disadvantages related to location and social group and they face the kinds of discrimination that has been well-documented for other parts of India. Gender disparities equally are significant, with education gaps not being reduced, and women continuing to suffer from specific health disadvantages. The history of displacement and lack of adequate resettlement and rehabilitation illustrates that deprivation has been the result of exploitative social and economic processes. Lack of command over food – caused by unequal access to land, credit and productive assets – has been responsible for deprivation. The continuing disparities appear as the result of social practices of discrimination, structural impediments and problems build on social order which is reinforced by culture and tradition, so that, a culture-led development is essential in the districts.

The study is highly indicative. This work examines social indicators, economic indicators and conventionally run rural economy in details. After studying all the indicators, this speaks of two things: (i) Institutional failure to link mass with the growth pole and (ii) Entitlement failure because of skewed property distribution and leptokurtic work opportunities. Therefore, the problems like unemployment, landless, poverty, disparity which is mostly due to underdevelopment. They are remotely connected with formal institutions, governance and voluntary organizations. Blatant state sponsored activities are half-way done and voluntary missionary's zeals are lost somewhere. Therefore, good results are lost in totality in KBK districts.

Examining the nature of living and mindset of primitive tribals and aboriginals, it is concluded that there is a correlation between agricultural performance and rural poverty in major districts. Therefore, utilizing the sole entitlement, that is, labour force of the district agriculture must be given due. Emphasis on agriculture must be given and the relation of production to be set first by state rules

and regulations and few other technical measures for improving agricultural productivity must find a flow in the district.

Many research papers till date raise important question about linkages between economic growth, income and wealth distribution and poverty alleviation. In all most all papers, the safest conclusion is that high economic growth is no guarantee of lower levels of poverty. Therefore, it is worthwhile to understand the economic characteristics of poor groups.

However, it could not be desirable to wait for economic growth to trickle-down truth of people of such districts. Therefore, trickle-down approach for such districts needs to be replaced by employment generating role. So institutional governance must vibrate enough and go for making investments in the Social sector.

The economy of KBK districts are depressing and high poverty lingers on. Economic development in an aggregate as well as in disaggregated levels, therefore, calls for the importance of institutions. It is found that the diversity in economic growth even within districts is persisting extremely. So intra-district growth models and regular evaluation are worthwhile. All these depend on the qualities of institutions as well as government.

The institutions must be thorough about historical knowledge base on the communities living in KBK districts which leads several stages for a successful transformation of an economy. It is a fact that good institutions are necessary condition for high growth. State and non-state agencies work cases are there where state failure is marked. The institutional approach for poverty alleviation considers public-private-partnership (PPP) as essential and as a substitute for inefficient governments in delivering services to the poor. Therefore, public- private-partnership (PPP) with vision is an option.

Critics argue that it enables the state to renege on its responsibilities and is a distraction to underlying causes of deprivation (Economic and Political Weekly, April 2008.Pp-81). Three things are visible for the under development of the KBK districts in general such as.(i) low quality institutions, institutional failures and frailties demonstrate individual benefits through pursuing selfish goals. The quality of formal institutions is doubtful and dubious; (2) evidence from property rights shows a critical picture (i.e land captured by aborigines); (3) there is an entitlement failure.

However, state weaponry along with non-state agencies will prepare kit-bag that will contribute a great deal towards realization of rural development and poverty alleviation. All such institutions are bulwark. The long run implications of pitch are more important for both economic development and social justice. At present, the aggregate picture of the district is unfavourable for the natives and favourable to few non-co traders who are not the natives. So the work suggests employment generation role model in the context of entitlement failure of the masse who only owes own labour entitlement.

10. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is clear that the intensity of poverty and inequality is very severe in the district. Despite of implementation of various anti-poverty schemes and programmes, state machineries failed to achieve the target in poverty alleviation in KBK districts. The dissatisfaction and criticism of public sector performance for the state development, i.e reaching the grassroots more directly and efficiently a new institutional mechanism both for resource transfer and grassroots actors has been realized. However, state weaponry along with non-state agencies (PPP mode) will prepare kit-bag that will contribute a great deal towards realization of rural development and poverty alleviation. All such institutions are bulwark. The long run implications of pitch are more important for both economic development and social justice. Development of people is not just growth or any growth for that

matter, but something which requires deliberate intervention. Proper designing, planning and implementation of strategic management may be the answer to accelerate India's pace of growth

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