

Socio-economic development of Uttar Pradesh: an empirical analysis

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Abstract

Background/Objectives: Since the concepts of social and economic development of a nation/region/state is crucial for the development of human resources, the objective of this paper is to examine the socio-economic development of Uttar Pradesh in the post-reform period.

Methods/Statistical analysis: The socio-economic profile of Uttar Pradesh has been examined by calculating decadal growth rates, compound annual growth rates, and by constructing appropriate time series plots. Specifically, the economic profile of the state has been presented with the help of real gross state domestic product at factor cost. And, the social aspect of development has been examined with the help of government expenditure on education and health as percentage of gross state domestic product.

Findings: The findings of the study reveal a low level of human development, and consequential low level of growth of the economy of Uttar Pradesh. It is uniquely observed that the average performance of all economic as well as social sectors in the state has declined during 2012 and 2015. This observation is sufficient to justify the persistency of unemployment, poverty and inequality in the state.

Improvements/Applications: Appropriate policy initiatives are warranted to address the problems of socio-economic backwardness of Uttar Pradesh. Specifically, it is essential to focus on the development of the masses at the bottom of the pyramid.

Keywords: Socio-economic development, population, health, education, Uttar Pradesh

1. Introduction

The concept of economic growth and development is significant in the context of expansion of national wealth and higher standards of living of people [1]. Thus, development efforts always target to enhance the well-being and quality of life of people by providing employment opportunities, increasing national income, and reducing inequality. In the words of Michael Todaro, "economic development is an increase in living standards, improvement in self-esteem needs and freedom from oppression as well as great choice"[2]. When we look at our motherland India, we see its income is increasing at a slower pace in comparison to upper income economies. Also, we see slow pace in socio-economic progress which is uneven across its States/regions. The significant measures of human well-being – life expectancy, infant mortality, and literacy rate – show variations across Indian States which is similar to the cases of international contrasts between low and high performing economies [3]. In this context, the case of Uttar Pradesh is noteworthy. Although Uttar Pradesh is third in terms of size of economy after Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, but it is not so developed, and is considered one of the poorest states of India. It is comparable with the 7th largest country in the world in terms of population [4]. In UP more than 160 millions of people reside in 1,12,00 villages and towns. The rich natural resources, productive agricultural base, diversified industrial potential, and existence of very large market in UP could be an engine of growth of its economy, and also has the potential to support other parts of the nation [5]. In 2010-11 the growth rate of GDP in UP was 8.08 percent. In spite of such growth achievements, the State is threatened by massive poverty, both in economic and non-economic dimensions. The state has also been facing challenges in providing social security and enhanced quality of life. The State not only poses a serious development challenge for India, but also for the global community because unless poverty is reduced substantially the fruits of economic potential cannot be eaten. In this context, this paper examines the social and economic development of UP