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*Full Length Research Paper*

# Role of socio-economic factors on imbalanced regional development in West Bengal, India

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**Regional imbalances caused by several factors due to misallocation and misutilazation of resources (Baskin, 1966). Imbalances may be defined as the disparities and uneven distribution of different socio-economic indicators within a particular geographical region. Uneven distribution may be natural as well as man made. Different government policies are responsible for irregular distribution of socio-cultural components. Disparities are considered within a region considering one unit as ultimate level of development and comparing with that unit deprivation level is measured for the other units. So, regional disparities are basically intra-regional (Ray, 2001). Infrastructural facilities are like transport network, degree of urbanization, industry, medical facilities are very irregularly distributed in different districts of West Bengal. To find out the socio-economic disparities in West Bengal for all 18 districts except Kolkata, levels of distribution of 30 small indicators are calculated. Attempts have been made in this paper to show regional disparities and how such disparities can be removed is tried to explain.**

**Key words:** Regional disparities, infrastructural facilities, intra-regional, indicators.

## INTRODUCTION

Planned and proper development can improve overall improvement of citizen. But in reality such developments are very much irregular and partial either man made or natural. Different planning processes are adopted to develop any area but results are always not positive.

Different parameters are become barrier in case of overall development. Owing to physical and socio-cultural diversities and even political reason uncontrolled and unchecked development occurred which leads to disparities.

The regional disparity in India is now serious matter for the Government. These disparities lead to different movements in different parts of the country. Our country is now standing in front of fire as some regions are very backward. Terrorists choose these areas as their shelter with the help of some local habitats.

### Study area

The state of West Bengal is chosen to show disparities. The state is lying between 21°, 25', 24'' and 27, °13', 15'' north latitudes and 85, °48', 20''and 89,°53', 04''east longitudes.

The State shares its borders with three different nations in the East by Bangladesh, North by Bhutan and North West by Nepal with four other Indian States viz Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Assam and Sikkim in the South west, West and North respectively. There are 19 districts. The Kolkata district, capital of the state is excluded from such studies as it is not comparable with other districts for its ultimate facilities.

### Objectives

The study has some specific objectives:

1. To investigate the imbalances in the context of development in the study area.
2. To find out the causes and emergence of imbalances in the region of study.
3. To find out the socio-economic backward areas in the light of development so that planers and decision makers

can take measures to resolve the problems.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Development and deprivation are just two opposites sides. To analyze level of disparities statistical information are collected (Sarkar and Basu Roy, 2011). The entire information and data are taken mainly from two secondary sources- Statistical handbook and district census handbook. 30 indicators have been selected to show the regional disparities marked as X1, X2, X3, and X4 to X30.

These are grouped in six categories under different heads: health, education, economy, agriculture, rural infrastructure and transport- communication. These indicators are representatives values in different socio economic fields from which inter district disparities can be assumed. Not all indicators can be accompanied in the studies as these are not available. However data is computed in three methods namely:

### Deprivation index

Following deprivation method, with the selected variables, levels of deprivations are identified in each districts mathematically as:

$Iij = Maxi – Xij /Maxi – Mini$.

Where, *Iij* indicates deprivation index of the *ith* variable at jth unit of study. Maxi and Mini denotes maximum and minimum values of ith variable in the series respectively. Xij denotes original value of ith variable at jth unit of study. The value ranges from 0 (absence of deprivation) to 1(Highest deprived).

### Average deprivation index

Average deprivation index is calculated by taking simple averages of all indicators in a group of study. The equation is:

$Ij = \Sigma Iij / n$.

Where, Ij is Average Deprivation Index of jth unit of study, n is the no. of indicators under consideration in a particular group.

Developmental index

Finally development index (D. I) is made as the absence of deprivation with mutual relation among the districts. Mathematically it is expressed as:

$DI = (1- \Sigma Iij / n)$

DI is actually development in jth unit of study. 1 is absolute developed condition and deviation from that is developmental index.

### *Ranking*

Ranking is done on the basis of development index. It is calculated on the basis of each groups averaging. Mathematically it is expressed as:

*Range = (Highest value- Lowest value) / N*

N is the no. of ranking groups. If it is 3 then simple way is grouped in high, moderate and low dividing 3 equal zones.
The indices which are tabulated and stated in methodology cause disparities in the districts (Statistical Handbook, 2008). The main indices are health, education, economy, recreation, agriculture and Transport- communication. These are described below. In each case three groups are marked as high, moderate and low.

## RESULTS

### Health

It is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (WHO). It is an important indicator for development.

Health indicators can be used to define public health problems at a particular point of time to indicate change over time in the level of the health of a population or individual, to define differences in the health of populations and to assess the extent to which the objectives of a program are being reached. Health facilities are vital now days. Without proper facilities of health and medical facilities modern society cannot be able to progress. Here 5 indicators (X1 to X5) are taken in health indices are number of health centers, public health centers, public health sub centers, doctors and hospital beds in each districts per 10,000 populations (Provisional Population Totals, 2001).

The district wise distribution of composite score indicated that highest development is caused in Darjeeling (0.79) followed by Purulia (0.62) while least developed districts are North 24 Parganas (0.23), Uttar Dinajpur ( 0.24) and Malda (0.29).

Number of health centers per 10000 populations (X1) is highest in Jalpaiguri District and deprived districts are Malda Birbhum and Dakshin Dinajpur. Public Health center (X2) is maximum in Purulia and minimum in North 24 Parganas. Public health sub center is highest in Dakshin Dinajpur and lowest is in Nadia. Number of doctors per 10,000 populations (X4) is highest in Darjeeling district followed by Burdwan and Howrah while lowest is in Malda followed by East Midnapore and Uttar Dinajpur. It is fact that the districts nearer to Kolkata enjoy more facilities from Kolkata. Numbers of hospital beds (X5) are highly uneven. Most deprived district is North 24 Parganas (1.00) followed by Uttar Dinajpur (table 1).

### Education

Education is a crucial social factor for the overall development of a society. It is the single dominating factor for progress of civilization, human creativity and culture is based upon this. In Jalpaiguri district literacy rate is below average than the state.

Here, 5 indicators (X6 to X10) are chosen for education indices are number of primary schools, secondary and senior secondary Schools, number of degree colleges, number of professional colleges per 10,000 population and percentage of female literates.

**Table 1.** Indicators of development.

| Indices | Symbol | Description |
|---|---|---|
| Health | X1 | Number of health centers per 10,000 population |
| | X2 | Number of public health centers per 10,000 population |
| | X3 | Number of public health sub centers per 10,000 population |
| | X4 | Number of doctors per 10,000 population |
| | X5 | Number of hospitals bed per 10,000 rural population |
| Education | X6 | Number of primary schools per 10,000 population |
| | X7 | Number of secondary and senior secondary Schools per 10,000 population |
| | X8 | Number of degree colleges per 10,000 population |
| | X9 | Number of professional colleges per 10,000 population |
| | X10 | Percentage of female literacy. |
| Economy | X11 | Percentage of workers to total population. |
| | X12 | Number of commercial banks per 10,000 population |
| | X13 | Per capita domestic product to total population. |
| | X14 | Number of industrial projects implemented per 10,000 population |
| | X15 | Credit deployment ratio |
| | X16 | Percentage of financial outlay by RKVY |
| Agriculture | X17 | Area of cultivable land per 10,000 population |
| | X18 | Percentage of irrigated land to total cultivated land. |
| | X19 | Number of warehouse per 10,000 population |
| | X20 | Amount of fertilizer consumed (tone) per hectare cultivable land |
| Rural infrastructure | X21 | Percentage of rural habitation under safe drinking water. |
| | X22 | Number of small and cottage industrial units per 10,000 population |
| | X23 | Number of regulated markets per 10,000 population. |
| | X24 | Number of ration shops per 10,000 population. |
| | X25 | Percentage of villages electrified to total villages. |
| | X26 | Length of roads maintained by PWD per 10,000 population |
| Transport communication | X27 | Number of post office per 10,000 population |
| | X28 | Number of newspapers published per 10,000 population. |
| | X29 | Number of public library per 10,000 population. |
| | X30 | Number of cinema house per 10,000 population |

Highest average development is found in Darjeeling district (0.77) followed by East Midnapore and Birbhum while lowest development is found in Uttar Dinajpur (0.12) followed by Murshidabad and Jalpaiguri. Regarding distribution of Primary (X6) and secondary schools (X7) most deprived district is North 24 Parganas (1.00).

West Midnapore is least deprived in number of primary schools (0.00) within the state followed by Purulia District. Birbhum district (0.00) is least deprived in number of high schools followed by Bankura. In the indicators of number of colleges per 10,000 populations (X8) the most deprived district is Uttar Dinajpur followed by Bardwan, privileged district is Darjeeling. Professional College per 10,000 populations (X9) is maximum in Darjeeling followed by Burdwan. Female literacy (X10) is maximum in East Midnapore and minimum female literacy is in Uttar Dinajpur and Purulia (table 2 and 3).

## Economy

Development is directly co-related with economy. To show disparities in economy, 5 indicators (X11 to X15) (table 4) are selected based on availability of data, percentage of workers to total population, number of commercial banks per 10,000 population, per capita domestic product to total population and number of

**Table 2.** Deprivation index for health indicator in West Bengal 2008-2009.

| District | Health | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | X1 | X2 | X3 | X4 | X5 |
| Burdwan | 0.41 | 0.45 | 0.51 | 0.3 | 0.5 |
| Birbhum | 0.86 | 0.22 | 0.68 | 0.73 | 0.54 |
| Bankura | 0.54 | 0.59 | 0.61 | 0.61 | 0 |
| Midnapore East | 0.67 | 0.17 | 0.04 | 0.96 | 0.64 |
| Midnapore West | 0.78 | 0.48 | 0.27 | 0.62 | 0.31 |
| Howrah | 0.6 | 0.55 | 0.71 | 0.36 | 0.48 |
| Hooghly | 0.63 | 0.53 | 0.36 | 0.75 | 0.62 |
| Purulia | 0.41 | 0 | 0.61 | 0.67 | 0.2 |
| North 24 Parganas | 0.51 | 1 | 0.71 | 0.64 | 1 |
| South 24 Parganas | 0.54 | 0.63 | 0.37 | 0.81 | 0.54 |
| Nadia | 0.55 | 0.65 | 1 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Murshidabad | 0.7 | 0.72 | 0.51 | 0.87 | 0.62 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 0.78 | 0.67 | 0.53 | 0.94 | 0.9 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 0.84 | 0.44 | 0 | 0.91 | 0.34 |
| Malda | 1 | 0.62 | 0.47 | 1 | 0.44 |
| Jalpaiguri | 0 | 0.61 | 0.59 | 0.58 | 0.65 |
| Darjeeling | 0.25 | 0.42 | 0.14 | 0 | 0.23 |
| Coochbehar | 0.39 | 0.27 | 0.35 | 0.82 | 0.65 |

Source: Data is computed by the author

**Table 3.** Deprivation index for education indicator in West Bengal 2008 to 2009.

| Districts | Education | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | X6 | X7 | X8 | X9 | X10 |
| Burdwan | 0.69 | 0.51 | 0.91 | 0.10 | 0.29 |
| Birbhum | 0.42 | 0.00 | 0.68 | 0.27 | 0.65 |
| Bankura | 0.34 | 0.22 | 0.65 | 0.55 | 0.67 |
| Midnapore East | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.84 | 0.35 | 0.00 |
| Midnapore West | 0.00 | 0.39 | 0.79 | 0.76 | 0.39 |
| Howrah | 0.75 | 0.64 | 0.63 | 0.40 | 0.08 |
| Hooghly | 0.78 | 0.54 | 0.67 | 0.56 | 0.17 |
| Purulia | 0.08 | 0.19 | 0.62 | 0.86 | 0.97 |
| North 24 Parganas | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.57 | 0.44 | 0.03 |
| South 24 Parganas | 0.67 | 0.45 | 0.65 | 0.51 | 0.34 |
| Nadia | 0.77 | 0.62 | 0.75 | 0.41 | 0.35 |
| Murshidabad | 0.86 | 0.64 | 0.86 | 0.61 | 0.69 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 0.63 | 0.75 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 0.61 | 0.63 | 0.89 | 0.66 | 0.73 |
| Malda | 0.74 | 0.4 | 0.52 | 0.81 | 0.89 |
| Jalpaiguri | 0.93 | 0.8 | 0.84 | 0.77 | 0.58 |
| Darjeeling | 0.81 | 0.32 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.28 |
| Coochbehar | 0.71 | 0.55 | 0.76 | 0.93 | 0.54 |

Source: Data is computed by the author.

industrial projects implemented per 10,000 population and credit deployment ratio. There are many more indicators for regional disparities which cannot be incorporated.

From the development index it is found that maximum average level of development is occurred in Howrah

**Table 4.** Deprivation index for economic indicator in West Bengal 2008 to 2009.

| Districts | Economy | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | X11 | X12 | X13 | X14 | X15 |
| Burdwan | 0.70 | 0.47 | 0.04 | 0.18 | 0.39 |
| Birbhum | 0.60 | 0.19 | 0.73 | 0.88 | 0.71 |
| Bankura | 0.00 | 0.25 | 0.49 | 0.52 | 0.80 |
| Midnapore East | 0.39 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 0.84 | 0.44 |
| Midnapore West | 0.55 | 0.28 | 0.57 | 0.94 | 0.51 |
| Howrah | 0.60 | 0.41 | 0.12 | 0.00 | 0.31 |
| Hooghly | 0.64 | 0.55 | 0.16 | 0.13 | 0.88 |
| Purulia | 0.21 | 0.36 | 0.74 | 0.76 | 0.93 |
| North 24 Parganas | 0.71 | 1.00 | 0.60 | 0.34 | 1.00 |
| South 24 Parganas | 1.00 | 0.61 | 0.56 | 0.25 | 0.62 |
| Nadia | 0.55 | 0.56 | 0.43 | 0.61 | 0.51 |
| Murshidabad | 0.86 | 0.73 | 0.64 | 1.00 | 0.54 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 0.52 | 0.77 | 1.00 | 0.90 | 0.39 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 0.52 | 0.59 | 0.75 | 0.95 | 0.52 |
| Malda | 0.33 | 0.34 | 0.50 | 0.94 | 0.44 |
| Jalpaiguri | 0.52 | 0.75 | 0.37 | 0.39 | 0.39 |
| Darjeeling | 0.76 | 0.68 | 0.00 | 0.19 | 0.17 |
| Coochbehar | 0.51 | 0.54 | 0.71 | 0.93 | 0.00 |

Source: Data is computed by the author.

followed by Burdwan and Darjeeling while least development is occurred in Murshidabad district (table 3). Percentages of workers (X11) are maximum in Bankura (44.7%), Purulia (44.5%), Dakshin Dinajpur and Coochbehar while least is in South Parganas (32.5%). Commercial banks per 10,000 populations (X12) is maximum in East Midnapore followed by Bankura and Birbhum districts. Most deprived district is North 24 Parganas. Per capita domestic product (X13) is maximum in Darjeeling and deprived districts are Uttar Dinajpur, Purulia, Birbhum and Murshidabad.

Government of West Bengal has taken some industrial projects in the state. There are also disparities noticed in this regard. No. of industrial projects implemented per 10,000 population (X14) is highest in Howrah followed by Hooghly, Burdwan and Darjeeling and deprived districts are Murshidabad, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur. Credit deployment ratio (X15) is highest in Coochbehar and lowest in North 24 Parganas. On an average highest economic growth is observed in the districts of Darjeeling followed by Bankura, Burdwan and East Midnapore districts. While least economic developed districts are North 24 Parganas, Murshidabad and Nadia.

## Agriculture

Agriculture is the backbone of the state's economy (Hussain, 1996). Increasing population squeezes the land; as a result landless agricultural laborers have been increased. After independence, influx of refugees from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and excessive population pressure on land have changed the cultural landscape and agriculture. 5 indicators (X16 to X20): Percentage of financial outlay by RKVY, cultivable land, irrigated land, number of warehouses and fertilizer consumed per 10,000 population are considered for agricultural indices. Financial outlay through RKVY (X16) is maximum in Nadia followed by Birbhum and South 24 Parganas, while most deprived district is Darjeeling (table 5).

In case of cultivable land per 10,000 populations (X17) most deprived district is Howrah. Availability of agricultural land is maximums in Purulia followed by Irrigation benefit (X18) is highly deprived in Darjeeling (1.00), Purulia, Jalpaiguri and Howrah district. Warehouses facilities (X19) are very important for agricultural stocks in post harvesting period.

This is maximum in Dakshin Dinajpur, Nadia districts and very poor condition prevails in North and South Parganas. Consumption of fertilizers is now a day's very crucial factor for modern agriculture in any region.

In per hectare consumption (X20), it is maximum in Howrah followed by Hooghly and East Midnapore and lowest in Purulia. The district wise distribution of composite score indicated that highest development in Agriculture is caused in Birbhum district; subsequent districts are Dakshin Dinajpur, Nadia and Hooghly districts. The deprived districts are Darjeeling, South 24 Parganas, Howrah and Jalpaiguri.

**Table 5.** Deprivation index for agriculture indicator in West Bengal 2008 to 2009.

| | Agriculture | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **District** | **X16** | **X17** | **X18** | **X19** | **X20** |
| Burdwan | 0.24 | 0.61 | 0.24 | 0.60 | 0.68 |
| Birbhum | 0.10 | 0.44 | 0.00 | 0.21 | 0.84 |
| Bankura | 0.66 | 0.55 | 0.45 | 0.79 | 0.95 |
| Midnapore East | 0.31 | 0.70 | 0.38 | 0.75 | 0.72 |
| Midnapore West | 0.39 | 0.40 | 0.45 | 0.60 | 0.93 |
| Howrah | 0.66 | 1.00 | 0.76 | 0.64 | 0.00 |
| Hooghly | 0.27 | 0.85 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.38 |
| Purulia | 0.26 | 0.00 | 0.90 | 0.85 | 1.00 |
| North 24 Parganas | 0.32 | 0.89 | 0.42 | 0.82 | 0.63 |
| South 24 Parganas | 0.21 | 0.67 | 0.79 | 1.00 | 0.80 |
| Nadia | 0.00 | 0.71 | 0.30 | 0.15 | 0.65 |
| Murshidabad | 0.33 | 0.69 | 0.48 | 0.86 | 0.93 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 0.62 | 0.39 | 0.65 | 0.23 | 0.94 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.82 | 0.00 | 0.93 |
| Malda | 0.54 | 0.58 | 0.58 | 0.54 | 0.88 |
| Jalpaiguri | 0.55 | 0.45 | 0.77 | 0.87 | 0.89 |
| Darjeeling | 1.00 | 0.47 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 0.82 |
| Coochbehar | 0.48 | 0.54 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.77 |

Source: Data is computed by the author.

**Table 6.** Deprivation index for rural infrastructure indicator in West Bengal 2008-2009.

| | Rural infrastructure | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **District** | **X21** | **X22** | **X23** | **X24** | **X25** |
| Burdwan | 0.09 | 0.71 | 0.81 | 0.42 | 0.03 |
| Birbhum | 0.51 | 0.85 | 0.81 | 0.49 | 0.18 |
| Bankura | 0.44 | 0.79 | 0.88 | 0.33 | 0.49 |
| Midnapore East | 0.31 | 0.79 | 0.91 | 0.82 | 0.69 |
| Midnapore West | 0.06 | 0.83 | 0.89 | 0.53 | 1.00 |
| Howrah | 0.38 | 0.45 | 1.00 | 0.75 | 0.00 |
| Hooghly | 0.13 | 0.82 | 0.63 | 0.80 | 0.00 |
| Purulia | 0.46 | 0.81 | 0.94 | 0.04 | 0.48 |
| North 24 Parganas | 0.44 | 0.61 | 0.78 | 1.00 | 0.03 |
| South 24 Parganas | 0.27 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.68 | 0.14 |
| Nadia | 1.00 | 0.00 | 0.52 | 0.41 | 0.00 |
| Murshidabad | 0.76 | 0.83 | 0.92 | 0.67 | 0.10 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 0.00 | 0.87 | 0.84 | 0.72 | 0.07 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 0.24 | 1.00 | 0.78 | 0.77 | 0.44 |
| Malda | 0.59 | 0.89 | 0.91 | 0.68 | 0.07 |
| Jalpaiguri | 0.39 | 0.77 | 0.64 | 0.66 | 0.07 |
| Darjeeling | 0.33 | 0.71 | 0.49 | 0.00 | 0.45 |
| Coochbehar | 0.72 | 0.92 | 0.00 | 0.71 | 0.27 |

Source: Data is computed by the author.

**Rural infrastructure**

There are 5 indicators (X21 to X25) described here (table 6). Percentage of rural habitation under safe drinking water (X22) is high in Uttar Dinajpur district followed by Dakshin Dinajpur and West Midnapore while it is lowest

**Table 7.** Deprivation index for transport -communication indicator in West Bengal 2008-2009.

| | Transport and Communication | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Districts** | **X26** | **X27** | **X28** | **X29** | **X30** |
| Burdwan | 0.33 | 0.61 | 0.34 | 0.78 | 0.41 |
| Birbhum | 0.00 | 0.21 | 0.82 | 0.64 | 0.71 |
| Bankura | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.44 | 0.66 | 0.33 |
| Midnapore East | 0.54 | 0.34 | 0.66 | 0.89 | 0.00 |
| Midnapore West | 1.00 | 0.25 | 0.74 | 0.84 | 0.60 |
| Howrah | 0.61 | 0.61 | 0.55 | 0.61 | 0.18 |
| Hooghly | 0.59 | 0.70 | 0.69 | 0.82 | 0.23 |
| Purulia | 0.21 | 0.00 | 0.79 | 0.50 | 1.00 |
| North 24 Parganas | 0.81 | 1.00 | 0.74 | 0.72 | 0.50 |
| South 24 Parganas | 0.71 | 0.65 | 0.81 | 1.00 | 0.81 |
| Nadia | 0.55 | 0.60 | 0.54 | 0.62 | 0.54 |
| Murshidabad | 0.69 | 0.73 | 0.83 | 0.94 | 0.79 |
| Uttar Dinajpur | 0.46 | 0.85 | 0.58 | 0.98 | 0.44 |
| Dakshin Dinajpur | 0.55 | 0.63 | 0.67 | 0.71 | 0.43 |
| Malda | 0.67 | 0.80 | 1.00 | 0.81 | 0.43 |
| Jalpaiguri | 0.08 | 0.70 | 0.95 | 0.80 | 0.76 |
| Darjeeling | 0.03 | 0.36 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.75 |
| Coochbehar | 0.45 | 0.59 | 0.81 | 0.66 | 0.91 |

Source: Data is computed by the author.

in Nadia. Number of small and cottage industrial units per 10,000 populations (X22) is maximum in Nadia and Howrah, and minimum in Dakshin Dinajpur.

Number of regulated markets per 10,000 population (X23) is highest in Coochbehar and lowest is in Howrah except the districts of North Bengal all other districts show same equivalent density of regulated markets.

Number of ration shops per 10,000 populations (X24) is highest in Darjeeling and minimum in North 24 Parganas. Percentage of villages electrified to total villages (X25) is highest in number in Hooghly followed by Burdwan and Birbhum while the deprived districts are Midnapore West and Midnapore East. Average composite development indicates that first ranking district is the Darjeeling followed by Burdwan, Birbhum and Bankura while most deprived ranking districts are Midnapore East, North 24 Parganas and Midnapore West.

### Transport and communication

The composite development of indicators of Transport and Communication (X26 to X30) shows that within the state deprivation is least in Darjeeling and maximum in Murshidabad. Length of roads maintained by PWD is highest in Birbhum and lowest in North 24 Parganas. Number of post offices per 10,000 populations (X27) is maximum in Purulia and minimum in North 24 Parganas.
News paper, periodicals are important communication skills now a days to form public opinion and awareness. Number of newspaper published from a district with proportion to population (X28) is highest in Darjeeling and lowest in Malda. Number of public libraries per 10,000 population (X29) is highest in Darjeeling deprived district is South 24 Parganas. Number of cinema houses per population (X29) is highest in East Midnapore and lowest in Purulia district (table 7).

## MAJOR FINDINGS

Development is uneven and irregular for different indices (table 8). Darjeeling ranked 1$^{st}$ while Murshidabad ranked 18$^{th}$ out of 18 districts. After summarization of all indices selected for the study the level of development is grouped in three categories as:

1. High development districts
The development index above 0.50 is indicated as high development districts, namely, Darjeeling, Burdwan, Howrah, East Midnapore, Birbhum, and Bankura

2. Moderate development districts
The Development index between 0.40 to 0.49 is recognized as modern development districts namely Hooghly, Nadia, Coochbehar, Purulia, Jalpaiguri, Dakshin Dinajpur, West Midnapore and Malda.

3. Low development districts
Four districts namely South 24 Parganas, North 24

**Table 8.** Sector wise development index (DI) of West Bengal (2008 to 2009).

| S/N | District | Health | Education | Economy | Agriculture | Rural infrastructure | Transport and communication | Overall development | Rank within the state | Development Type |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Burdwan | 0.57 | 0.50 | 0.64 | 0.53 | 0.59 | 0.51 | 0.56 | 2 | High |
| 2 | Birbhum | 0.39 | 0.60 | 0.38 | 0.68 | 0.43 | 0.52 | 0.50 | 5 | High |
| 3 | Bankura | 0.53 | 0.51 | 0.59 | 0.32 | 0.41 | 0.60 | 0.50 | 6 | High |
| 4 | East Midnapore | 0.50 | 0.67 | 0.61 | 0.43 | 0.3 | 0.51 | 0.50 | 4 | High |
| 5 | West Midnapore | 0.51 | 0.53 | 0.43 | 0.45 | 0.34 | 0.31 | 0.43 | 13 | Moderate |
| 6 | Howrah | 0.46 | 0.50 | 0.71 | 0.39 | 0.48 | 0.49 | 0.51 | 3 | High |
| 7 | Hooghly | 0.42 | 0.46 | 0.53 | 0.57 | 0.52 | 0.39 | 0.48 | 7 | Moderate |
| 8 | Purulia | 0.62 | 0.46 | 0.4 | 0.40 | 0.45 | 0.50 | 0.47 | 10 | Moderate |
| 9 | North 24 Parganas | 0.23 | 0.39 | 0.27 | 0.38 | 0.43 | 0.25 | 0.32 | 16 | Low |
| 10 | South 24 Parganas | 0.42 | 0.48 | 0.39 | 0.31 | 0.47 | 0.20 | 0.38 | 15 | Low |
| 11 | Nadia | 0.30 | 0.42 | 0.47 | 0.64 | 0.61 | 0.43 | 0.48 | 8 | Moderate |
| 12 | Murshidabad | 0.32 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.20 | 0.29 | 18 | Low |
| 13 | Uttar Dinajpur | 0.24 | 0.12 | 0.28 | 0.43 | 0.5 | 0.34 | 0.32 | 17 | Low |
| 14 | Dakshin Dinajpur | 0.49 | 0.44 | 0.33 | 0.66 | 0.35 | 0.49 | 0.46 | 12 | Moderate |
| 15 | Malda | 0.29 | 0.51 | 0.49 | 0.55 | 0.37 | 0.34 | 0.43 | 14 | Moderate |
| 16 | Jalpaiguri | 0.514 | 0.33 | 0.52 | 0.47 | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.47 | 11 | Moderate |
| 17 | Darjeeling | 0.79 | 0.77 | 0.64 | 0.31 | 0.6 | 0.92 | 0.67 | 1 | High |
| 18 | Coochbehar | 0.50 | 0.41 | 0.46 | 0.51 | 0.48 | 0.50 | 0.48 | 9 | Moderate |

Source: Data is computed by the author.

Parganas, Uttar Dinajpur and Murshidabad.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Imbalances are causes due to improper distribution of different infrastructural facilities for the common people. So, different Plan programmes should be taken as per population densities in any area not seeing the area as large or small.
2. Planners and decision makers should be aware about the nature of population in any area. Backward class people are always habitable with their traditional livelihood techniques. Proper modern training facilities can upgrade their traditional practices.
3. Decentralized distribution of infrastructural investment can remove regional imbalances. Public facilities are mostly required for rural areas e.g. health and education. But these are located mainly in town areas. Only changing concept can do that.

## Conclusion

From the imbalances and deprivation, movements are organized in northern and western parts of the state. In different districts the deprivation and improper distribution causes malnutrition, hunger, lack of awareness etc. which are burning problems. These imbalances should be eradicated.

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