

Highlights of Maharashtra HDR (2002)

Achievements

- Per capita State Domestic Product (Rs. 20,644) was 40 per cent higher than the all India average (Rs. 14,712) in 1998-99.
- The non-agricultural sectors play a major role, neutralizing the adverse implications of the poor performance of the primary sector.
- Incidence of rural poverty in the State, which was always above the national average, fell below it in 1999-2000. The incidence of poverty (rural urban combined) in Maharashtra was also lower than that for the nation, despite the fact that incidence in urban poverty was higher than that of the nation in 1999-2000,
- Literacy rate more than doubled between 1961-2001 (moving from 35.08 in 1961 to 77.27 in 2001), with female literacy reaching the all time high of 68 per cent in 2001. Inter-regional disparities in literacy rates seems to be declining (the coefficient of variation moved from 32.61 in 1961 to 9.21 in 2001).
- Except in Gadchiroli district, there is no village in the State having a population of 200 without a primary school within a radius of 1.5 km.
- The ratio of teachers to students has remained stable.
- In the case of secondary schools, the increase in schools was well over 100 per cent during the years 1980-1990.
- Life expectancy at birth for women (65.4 years) is much higher than that for the country as a whole (59.7 years).
- Maharashtra has done fairly well – reducing the infant mortality rate (IMR) and raising life expectancy at birth. From 105 in 1971, the IMR declined to 48 per 1000 births in 1999 with a marginal differential between males and females.

Challenges

- The agriculture sector is the laggard, continuing to be at the mercy of uncertain monsoon. Rural population is subject to high degree of instability in incomes and levels of living. The primary sector, agriculture in particular, has not shown the same momentum as the other sectors. Its share declined from 42.14 per cent in 1960-61 to 27.69 per cent in 1980-81 and fell to 17.44 per cent by 1999-2000.
- The average landholding size has also decreased over the years, further intensifying the pressure of population on land and impacting adversely on productivity.
- Wealth is unevenly distributed and wide disparities exist. Economic growth has come largely from non-agricultural sectors, essentially in areas like Mumbai and Thane, resulting in both sectoral and regional imbalances of development.
- Maharashtra's population at 96.4 million constitutes 9.4 per cent of India's population. The population density increased by more than two and half times from 129 persons per sq. km in 1961 to 314 persons in 2001.
- HDI ranking low since high per capita incomes have not resulted in corresponding levels of human development attainment. Marathwada districts are most backward and score low on the HDI.
- Largest urban slum dwelling population and grave intra-state differences, both in the levels of attainment and poverty ratios. The Census Report of 2001 found that 31.7 per cent of the 33.6 million people of Maharashtra, living in 62 towns and cities, were slum dwellers.
- About 57 per cent of rural and 54 per cent of urban households consume less than the required standard calorie intake of 2,700 per day. Nutritional deficiencies are more evident in women and children below 3 years and among the tribal populations.
- The challenge of HIV and AIDS constitutes one of the biggest hurdles for Maharashtra, which records the highest prevalence of this disease among Indian States. Only two districts reported no cases.
- Public investment and health expenditure is not only inadequate but has declined since the 1990's, lowering Maharashtra's position vis-à-vis the other States of India. Qualitatively and quantitatively there is a wide gap in healthcare infrastructure available in rural and urban areas.
- According to the Maharashtra NSS 55th Round, more than 40 per cent of agricultural labourers even in the age group 15-29 remain non-literate.

- High dropout levels are disturbing. By Standard X only 47 per cent of boys and 40 per cent of girls remain in school. This gender based dropout rate needs to be addressed speedily.
- The sex ratio records declining trends - in 1901 it was 978 women to 1000 men, in 1991 it fell to 934 and in 2001 even further to 922. A deficit of this nature confirms that socio-economic conditions are weighted against women.
- The National Crimes Records Bureau ranks Maharashtra high in terms of the number of crimes against women (173.81 crimes per year per million population).
- For 35.8 per cent of the women their earned income is controlled by the husband or other senior members of their family.

Key Recommendations

- The engines of growth in the rural economy need to be strengthened further, especially as the bulk of the employment continues to be in the farm sector. Stabilisation of income potential from agricultural operations by providing farm inputs to improve the productivity of land and predictability of incomes, reducing the vulnerability of small farmers/farm labourers, discouraging the migration of unskilled labour to urban areas and encouraging reverse migration.
- Management of water resources crucial by conserving water, optimizing water shares, increasing equity in distribution and increasing the proportion of arable land under irrigation.
- Provision of school-based nutrition in a practical manner would improve their nutrition status and ensure attendance and facilitate learning.
- Improve literacy levels by greater enrolment and by preventing neo-literates from relapsing into illiteracy.
- Strict enforcement of the legally marriageable age would improve their health, enable women to complete secondary education, correct the female-male ratio and delay childbearing tasks till they are ready.
- Eliminate the system of male-proxies for elected women and restore real power to women.
- Focus on immunisation and other health related programmes to improve child health.
- Improvement of healthcare by improving accessibility to Medicare facilities, especially in rural areas.
- Enhancing the nutritional status of persons who currently consume less than 90 per cent of required calorific value per day.

Human Development Index (2000)

Districts	Human Development Index (HDI) 2000	
	(Value)	(Rank)
Mumbai	1.00	2
Mumbai (Subn.)	1.00	1
Thane	0.82	3
Raigad	0.70	6
Ratnagiri	0.44	22
Sindhudurg	0.60	9
Nashik	0.51	13
Dhule	0.36	30
Nandurbar	0.28	32
Jalgaon	0.50	14
Ahmednagar	0.57	11
Pune	0.76	4
Satara	0.59	10
Sangli	0.68	7
Solapur	0.48	17
Kolhapur	0.64	8
Aurangabad	0.57	12
Jalna	0.27	33
Parbhani	0.43	24
Hingoli	0.43	25
Beed	0.47	18
Nanded	0.37	29
Osmanabad	0.38	28

Latur	0.47	19
Buldhana	0.41	27
Akola	0.44	23
Washim	0.36	31
Amravati	0.50	15
Yavatmal	0.22	34
Wardha	0.49	16
Nagpur	0.71	5
Bhandara	0.46	20
Gondiya	0.46	21
Chandrapur	0.41	26
Gadchiroli	0.21	35
Maharashtra	0.58	
<i>Source: Government of Maharashtra (2002) Human Development Report Maharashtra 2002, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai, pp. 131.</i>		