



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### WHERE ODISHA STANDS IN INDIA: A SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPARISON.

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#### Abstract

Socio-economic indicators are used by policy makers and planners in identifying and prioritising development issues that need special attention for planning and follow-up intervention. This paper briefly compares the socio-economic performance of Odisha, an eastern Indian state, vis-à-vis that of India, a South Asian country, in order to know where Odisha lags and where it leads its country on various factors of growth and development. Among the socio-economic indicators discussed in this paper include the economy, demography, health, education, agriculture, and mineral resources. It was found that Odisha is far behind its country across many development aspects. The positive side, though, is that in recent years the situation in Odisha has been improving at a good pace. Results of this paper are helpful to the State of Odisha in giving special focus and intervention on identified priority issues. It could be high time for Odisha to adopt strategic planning and strong monitoring-based implementation of programs for the optimal utilisation of its vast natural and human resources.

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#### Introduction:-

Odisha is an Eastern Indian state, lying at 20.9517° N latitude and 85.0985° E longitude. It has a geographical area of 155707 square kilometres, occupying 4.87% of India's area. The state has a long coastline of about 450 kilometres which is rich in fertile silt deposited by rivers such as the Mahanadi, Baitarani, Subarnarekha, Rusikulya, and Budhabalanga. About three-fourths of the state's land is occupied by mountains. Odisha has four seasons: 'winter' from January to February, 'pre-monsoon' from March to May, 'south-west monsoon' from June to September, and 'north-east monsoon' from October to December (Anonymous1, n.d.). However, the people of Odisha notice six different seasons in a year (in Odia called *rootus*), namely *Grishma* (summer), *Barsha* (rainy season), *Sharad* (autumn), *Hemant* (winter), *Shishir* (cool season), and *Basanta* (spring) (Anonymous1, n.d.).

On the other hand, India is a South Asian country with GPS coordinates of 20.5937° N latitude and 78.9629° E longitude. Officially, India is known as the Republic of India (*Bharat Gangarajya*). It is the seventh largest country by area and the second largest by population, and has the biggest democracy in the world. India is bounded by the Indian Ocean in the south, the Arabian Sea in the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal in the southeast, and shares land borders with Myanmar and Bangladesh to the east, China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the northeast, and Pakistan to the west (Anonymous2, n.d.). India's coastline spreads across 7517 kilometres. The Indian climate is strongly influenced by the Himalayas and the Thar Desert, both of which drive the economically and culturally pivotal summer and winter monsoons (Anonymous3, n.d.). The Thar Desert plays a crucial role in attracting the moisture-

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laden southwest summer monsoon winds that provide the majority of India's rainfall between June and October. Four major climatic groupings predominate in India: tropical wet, tropical dry, subtropical humid, and montane (Anonymous2, n.d.).

#### **Socio-Economic Indicators:-**

**Economy:** In recent years, Odisha's economy has been growing fast. As per the results of the 2014-15 economic survey, Odisha's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) was expected to grow at 8.78% during the 2014-15 fiscal year and, according to Dun and Bradstreet, is projected to further grow at a rate of 8.1% in 2015-20 (Anonymous4, n.d.). Odisha has an agriculture-based economy but is transitioning towards an industry and services-based economy. Meanwhile, India's economy is the seventh largest in the world based on its nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the third largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). India is a developing economy with an average growth rate of approximately 7% over the last two decades. India's economy became the world's fastest growing major economy in the last quarter of 2014, replacing that of the People's Republic of China (Anonymous5, n.d.).

In 2015-16 and at current prices, the GDP of Odisha is Rs.332329 crore while the GDP of India is Rs.13567192 crore. The GDP growth rate of Odisha (7.27%) lags behind that of India (8.6%). The per capita net state domestic product (income) of Odisha is Rs.66890 while the per capita net national income of India is Rs.93231. The per capita income of Odisha is growing at 5.99% whereas the growth rate of the per capita net income of India is at 7.3%. The shares of the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors to Odisha's GDP are 27.24%, 27.48%, and 45.28%, respectively. In India, the primary sector contributes less (19.57%) while the tertiary sector contributes more (53.29%) to the national income as compared to that of Odisha. Credit-deposit ratio in banks is 43.9% for Odisha and 77.1% for India.

#### **Population:-**

As per the 2011 census, the total population of Odisha is 41.97 million, accounting for only 3.47% of India's total population of 1.21 billion. Females comprise 49.46% of the total population of Odisha and 48.53% of the population in the whole of India. More people live in rural Odisha (83.31% of the population) as compared to the 68.86% of the Indian population that live in rural areas. The share of the socially disadvantaged population in Odisha is quite higher than in India. In Odisha, the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe comprise 17.1% and 22.8% of the population, respectively, while in India, these comprise 16.6% and 8.6%, respectively. Decadal growth rate in Odisha is lesser at 14% than India's 17.72%. There is a huge gap in population density between the state of Odisha (270) and the country (382). However, the youth population is at par in both locations (Odisha at 18.37% and India at 19.16%) as is the nearly equal adolescent population (Odisha at 19.71% and India at 20.91%). The same comparison was found for child population with 12.56% in Odisha and 13.59% in India.

#### **Sex Ratio:-**

The sex ratio in Odisha (979) is comparatively better than that of India (943). The child sex ratio in Odisha is also higher (941) than the country average (919).

#### **Slum Population:-**

The slum population in Odisha and India constitute 3.72% and 5.41% of the population, respectively. This is 22.3% of the urban Odisha population and is 17.4% of the urban Indian population. This indicates the high presence of slums in urban areas in both the state and the country.

#### **Households:-**

The total numbers of households in Odisha and India are 9605629 and 248408494, respectively. The average household size in Odisha (4.3) is lesser than in India (4.8). For both rural and urban Odisha, the average household size is the same (4.5) whereas it is higher in rural India (4.9) than in urban India (4.6). The number of households per 100 occupied residential households in Odisha (102) is slightly higher than in India (101).

#### **Houseless Households:-**

In Odisha, about 10334 (0.11%) of the total 9605629 households are houseless, which is numerically less than the number of houseless households in India (0.18%). The average size of houseless households is lesser than that of households with houses. In Odisha, it is 3.3 as compared to India's 3.9.

**Housing by Condition:-**

The housing condition in Odisha and India is categorised as good, livable, and dilapidated. In terms of houses considered 'good', Odisha (29.5%) lags behind India (53.1%). However, there are more 'livable' houses found in Odisha (62.1%) than in India (41.5%). There are still 8.3% and 5.4% 'dilapidated' houses seen in Odisha and India, respectively.

**Drinking Water:-**

In Odisha, the main source of drinking water is hand pump (41.5%) followed by tube well (20.0%), well (19.5%), and tap water (13.8%). In contrast, the major source of drinking water in India is tap (43.5%) followed by hand pump (33.5%), well (11.0%), and tube well (8.5%). In Odisha, about 35.4% of households go 'away' from their houses to collect drinking water from the nearest source as against 17.6% of households in India. In Odisha, drinking water is mostly available 'near the premises' (42.2%) while for India, it is 'within the premises' (46.6%). A higher percentage of households in India (85.5%) have access to safe drinking water compared to the 75.3% of Odisha households that do have access.

**Sources of Lighting:-**

Almost all households in Odisha (98.9%) and India (99.5%) have lighting in their houses, with the main source of lighting being 'kerosene' (55.3%) in Odisha and 'electricity' (67.2%) in India. For some Indian states particularly Odisha, electrification is still a long way to go.

**Drainage Connectivity:-**

Drainage is a big challenge in both Odisha and India as there is 'no drainage' facility for 80.7% of households in Odisha and 48.9% in India. Wherever drainage is available, it is mostly 'open drainage' (Odisha 15.0% and India 33.0%); the rest are 'closed drainage'. Odisha needs to invest more in building and improving drainages.

**Bathing Facility:-**

In Odisha, a mere 14.1% of households have a bath room and about 19.7% have a bathing facility. In India, higher percentages of 42.0% and 58.9% of households have a bath room and a bathing facility, respectively. Again, Odisha needs to do a lot to catch up to India in this aspect.

**Latrine Facilities:-**

Only 22.4% of households in Odisha have a latrine facility within their premises. Even today, most people in rural Odisha prefer open defecation. In India, about 46.9% of households have a latrine facility within the premises.

**Kitchen Facility:-**

Only one-fifth of the households in Odisha still do not have a kitchen facility in their premises as compared to the 81.1% of households that do have. In India, about 87.3% of households have a kitchen facility in their premises.

**Fuel Used for Cooking:-**

As per the 2011 population census, firewood is still mainly used for cooking in households in both Odisha (65.0%) and India (49%). Only 9.8% of households in Odisha and 28.5% of households in India are using LPG for cooking. More efforts are needed to increase the use and availability of LPG for cooking in both Odisha and India to ensure the health of individuals and the environment in general.

**Life Expectancy:-**

Life expectancy at birth in 2002-06 is higher in India (male 62.6 and female 64.2 years) than in Odisha (male 59.5 and female 59.6 years). Also, data show that females live longer than males in both state and country. Projected levels of life expectancy at birth in 2016-20 have been estimated at 68.8 years for males and 71.1 years for females in India and at 66.3 and 69.6 years for males and females in Odisha, respectively. These are expected to rise further in 2021-25 for both India (males at 69.8 and females at 72.3 years) and Odisha (males at 67.8 and females at 71.6 years).

**Maternal Health:-**

Maternal mortality rate (per 100000 live births) in Odisha (15.1) is higher than in India (11.7). The crude birth rate (per 1000 persons) in Odisha (19.6) is lesser than in India (21.4) but the projected crude birth rate is expected to fall to 16.2 in Odisha and 18.0 in India in 2016-20 and will further reach 14.4 in Odisha and 16.0 in India in 2021-25.

**Fertility Indicators:-**

In the year 2013, the General Fertility Rate (live births per 1000 women) in Odisha (69.3) is less than in India (78.5). Similarly, the Total Fertility Rate (births per woman) is lesser in Odisha (2.1) than in India (2.3). The Gross Reproduction Rate (female children per woman) in Odisha and India is 1.0 and 1.1, respectively.

**Mortality Indicators:-**

In 2013, a higher crude death rate (per thousand persons) was recorded in Odisha (8.4) compared to India (7.0) but this is expected to fall to 8.2 and 8.1 in 2016-20 and 2021-25, respectively. Similarly, for India, it will be reduced to 7.1 and 7.2 in 2016-20 and 2021-25, respectively. The natural growth rate (per thousand persons) in 2013 was recorded at 11.3 and 14.4 in Odisha and India, respectively.

**Agriculture:-**

As per the agriculture census of 2010-11, the number of holdings of all classes in Odisha is 4667466 with an operated area of 4852014 hectares. About 92% fall under the marginal and small holding category with 70% of the total operated area. The average size of holdings is 1.04 hectares. In India, a total of 138348461 holdings cover an operated area of 159591855 hectares with the average size of holdings at 1.15 hectares, which is greater than in Odisha. Data in 2013-14 show that food grain productivity in Odisha (1625 kg/ha) is quite lower than that in India (2101 kg/ha). Odisha contributes only 3.15% to India's food grain production. Per hectare fertilizer consumption in Odisha is 57.11 kg which is quite lower than the national average of 125.39 kg/ha.

**Marked Surplus Ratio:-**

Data in 2012-13 in Odisha show that the marked surplus ratios (MSR) for rice, urad, moong, arhar, and niger seed are 73.96%, 70.95%, 73.88%, 74.58%, and 97.67%, respectively, while for India, the MSR values for these are 81.51%, 77.76%, 85.55%, 84.33%, and 97.67%, respectively. This depicts that the MSR for all crops in Odisha is lesser than the values observed in India.

**Horticulture Crops:-**

The total area planted to horticulture crops in Odisha (1359.63 thousand ha) accounts for only 5.81% of the total area under horticulture crops in India (23410.00 thousand ha). For this, Odisha contributes only 4.32% to the total horticulture production of India (280986.11 thousand MT).

**Forest:-**

Odisha (37.34%) covers more forest area of the total geographical area than India (23.96%). However, the forest cover in tribal districts is a little lesser in Odisha (39.27%) than in India (40.59%).

**Protected Areas:-**

Out of the 103 National Parks in India, only two are found in Odisha while 19 out of the total 531 wildlife sanctuaries in India are found in Odisha.

**Animal Husbandry:-**

As per 2012 data, the total livestock in Odisha is 20732498 which is only 4.05% of the total livestock in India. Per capita availability of milk (in 2014-15) in Odisha (118 gm/day) is quite less than in India (322 gm/day). Also, only 2.45% of the total egg production in India is produced in Odisha.

**Fisheries:-**

The length of the coastal lines in Odisha and India are 480 km (5.92% of India) and 8118 km, respectively. The total area of water bodies in Odisha is about 11 lakh hectare (14.95% of India) and that in India is 73.59 lakh hectare. Odisha contains about one-third (4.18 lakh ha) of the total blackish water area of India (12.40 lakh ha). In Odisha, 813 fisherman villages have been identified which covers one-fourth of the total 3432 fisherman villages in India. Odisha produces about 4.69 lakh MT of fish while India produces 100.69 lakh MT every year (based on data in 2014-15).

**Literacy Rate:-**

Overall, the literacy rate in Odisha (72.9%) is almost the same as that in India (73.0%). There is also not much difference in literacy rate between the state and the country by gender: male literacy is at 81.6% and 80.9% in Odisha and India, respectively, while female literacy is at 64.0% in Odisha and 64.6% in India. This, however,

shows that there is a huge gap between male and female literacy – 17.6 percent points in Odisha and 16.3 percent points in India. Both rural (70.2%) and urban (85.7%) literacy in Odisha is more than that in India (67.8% and 84.1%, respectively). It is also important to note that youth literacy is in a better state than general. Male youth literacy in Odisha and India is 90.9 and 90.1%, respectively, while female literacy is 81.2% in Odisha and 81.9% in India. Both rural and urban youth of Odisha are also faring well in terms of literacy, with 84.6% and 92.7% for rural and urban youth, respectively, while for India, the rates are at 83.7% and 91.4%, respectively. The gap in youth literacy in Odisha and India is 9.7 and 8.2 percent points, respectively.

#### **Elementary Education:-**

Based on data in 2014-15, the number of primary schools per thousand child population in Odisha is 14, which is higher than that of India at 9. Similarly, there are 13 schools for one thousand children in Odisha as against the total 8 in India. The density of primary and upper primary school per 10 sq. km. in Odisha is 3.66 and 2.04, respectively. For India, these are 3.88 and 1.82, respectively. More schools are found in rural areas in Odisha (93.03%) as compared to India (85.51%). The average number of classrooms per school in Odisha and India is 3.6 and 5.0, respectively. Student–classroom ratio in Odisha (26) is a little less than in India (27), but still, about 9.03% and 4.41% of schools remain to have only a single classroom in Odisha and India, respectively. In terms of school facilities, about 98.03% and 96.06% schools in Odisha and India, respectively, have drinking water facilities. Schools having a girls’ toilet in Odisha and India is 76.82% and 87.08%, respectively. The average number of teachers per school in Odisha is 4.4 against 5.5 in India. The pupil–teacher ratio in Odisha is 25.46 and in India is 25. Under elementary education, 42.27% teachers in Odisha and 47.70% of teachers in India are females. Retention rate in Odisha is 72.11% and is 67.38% in India. Net enrolment ratio in primary schools in Odisha and India is 91.01 and 87.41, respectively.

#### **Secondary Education:-**

In 2013-14, the density of secondary schools per 10 sq. km. in Odisha is 0.61 and in India is 0.71. The average number of classrooms in a school in Odisha is 2.4 against 3.5 in India. Student–classroom ratio is 54 in Odisha and 47 in India while the pupil–teacher ratio in secondary schools is about 23.34 in Odisha and 27 in India. In Odisha, about 90.23% of the schools have a girls’ toilet facility as well as 96.53% of schools in India. Compared to the transition rate (elementary to secondary) of 91.58% in India, the transition rate in Odisha is higher at 94.76%, with a higher student transition rate for girls (95.59%) than for boys (93.97%).

#### **Higher Education:-**

The number of colleges per one lakh population (18-23 years) in Odisha and India is 23 and 27, respectively. The average enrolment per college in Odisha is 606 and is 764 in India. Gender parity index in colleges in Odisha (0.82) is less than that in India (0.93). The pupil–teacher ratio is 20 in Odisha and 23 in Indian colleges.

#### **Health:-**

Data in 2015 show that the average population served per government hospital in Odisha and India is 23884 and 61011, respectively. Average radial distance covered by a sub-centre, Primary Health Centre (PHC), and Community Health Centre (CHC) in Odisha is 2.70 km, 6.11 km, and 11.36 km, respectively, while in India it is 2.54 km, 6.26 km, and 13.55 km, respectively. Similarly, the average number of villages covered by a sub-centre, PHC, and CHC in Odisha is 8, 39, and 136, respectively, against 4, 25, and 119 villages, respectively, in India. In Odisha, the average number of population covered by a male health worker is 9862 and that by a female health worker/ANM is 4241. In India, the average number of population covered by a male health worker and a female health worker is 14980 and 3929, respectively.

#### **Nutrition:-**

In Odisha, the prevalence of stunting, wasting, and underweight in children under 5 years old is 38.2%, 18.3%, and 34.4%, respectively. In India, the values stand at 38.7%, 15.1%, and 29.4%, respectively, as of 2014. Around 19% of children under 3 years old are born with low birth weight both in Odisha and India. About 51.8% of adolescent girls (15-18 years) in Odisha and 44.7% in India have low body mass index. Only 62% of children aged 12-23 months in Odisha are fully immunised while the rate is higher in India at 65.3%.

#### **Road Transport:-**

As of 2012-13, average road density (per 100 sq. km. area) is higher in Odisha (178 km) than in India (159). Average road length per lakh population in Odisha is 661.50 km whereas it is only 427.59 in India. As of 2014-15,

the length of national highways (NHs) per 1000 sq. km in Odisha is 29.8 km, which is slightly lower than in India (30.4 km). However, the length of NHs per lakh population in Odisha (11.1 km) is higher than in India (8.3 km). The number of buses running per 10 lakh population in Odisha (11) is greatly lesser than that in India (131). The occupancy ratio in Odisha is about 80.1% against 69% in India. In Odisha, the number of motor vehicles per 1000 population is 102 and is 149 in India.

**Communication:-**

Rail density per 1000 sq. km. as of 2012 was 16 in Odisha against 20 in India. However, rail density per 1000 population in Odisha was higher at 0.06 km as against that of India at 0.05 km. As per 2011-12 data, average flights (domestic) handled per day is 40 in Odisha and 3385 in India while the average number of passengers handled per day (domestic) is 3434 in Odisha and 33289 in India. The average cargo handled per day for both Odisha and India is 6 and 2225, respectively, with cargo traffic in 2014-15 at ports in Odisha and India at 86.46 and 1052.23 million tonnes, respectively. Odisha has utilised 59.27% of the capacity of its major ports (109.8 million tonnes) while India has maximized 66.70% (of 871.5 million tonnes). Average persons served per post office in Odisha and India are 5422 and 8354, respectively. Average area served by a post office in Odisha is 19.06 sq. km. against 21.22 sq. km. in India. As of March 2015, urban tele-density (per 100 persons) in Odisha is 172.11 and that in India is 148.6, while tele-density in rural Odisha and rural India is 44.46 and 48.4, respectively. Total internet subscribers per 100 population in Odisha is 17.30 and is 24.09 in India. In both rural Odisha and rural India, internet subscribers per 100 population is low at 10.13 and 12.89, respectively. More urban people in Odisha (51.03) are subscribing to the internet than people in urban India (49.07).

**Minerals:-**

Odisha's mineral resources have a very important position in India's mineral wealth. A wide variety of ores and minerals are found in Odisha such as iron-ore, chromite, manganese-ore, bauxite, coal, nickel-ore, graphite, pyrophyllite, limestone, dolomite, vanadium-ore, copper-ore, lead-ore, china clay, quartz, and mineral sands such as limonite, sillimanite, zircon, and tin ore, among others. Odisha's resources of chromite, nickel-ore, bauxite, iron-ore, manganese, and coal are also formidable, constituting approximately 98%, 91%, 50%, 35%, 27%, and 25%, respectively, of the total resources of the country.

**Human Development Index:-**

As of 2008, the human development index of Odisha was 0.326, the second lowest among the Indian states, while the national average was 0.513. This clearly indicates that in terms of its socio-economic ground, Odisha is performing far behind the nation.

**Conclusion:-**

After studying various socio-economic indicators, it is concluded that Odisha falls far behind its country India. For this, the state of Odisha needs to do more to at least reach the national averages of the socio-economic factors. Despite the improvements it has gradually achieved in recent years, the state needs to double its efforts in development. It needs to tap its rich reserves of natural resources such as ore and minerals, coast lines, and rivers, among others, which makes it better positioned than other Indian states, through proper planning and implementation for the betterment of its people. Results of this comparative study also show that Odisha is a rich state with poor people.

**Disclaimer:-**

The views expressed by the writer does not necessarily reflect the views any institution he is associated with.

**Competing Interests:-**

The author declares that he has no competing interests.

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