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Regional Analysis of Per Capita Income and Socio-Economic Status of Urban Beggars in Aligarh District

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Abstract

The present study deals with the variations in the income, socio-economic status of urban beggars, and the relationship between their per capita income and the selected variables of socio-economic development in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh. The study is based on primary source of data, collected through the field survey in the Aligarh district carried out during 2009. All the towns were selected for the survey. The 6 per cent wards from each town have been selected in which 25 per cent beggars' households from each ward were randomly surveyed for the study. Altogether, 396 households were selected for the present study. The analysis of the present research work reveals that the high level of per capita income of urban beggars is witnessed in the south-eastern part, while, low level of income is experienced in the central part of Aligarh district. Moreover, the majority of blocks (fifty per cent) of the district witnessed low level of development among urban beggars.

Keywords: *Per Capita Income, Development, Urban Beggars, Aligarh.*

INTRODUCTION

Begging being a serious problem confronts in many urban areas across the globe. The situation becomes worse when it confronts urban areas of less developed nations. Despite the pronounced manifestation of this problem in developing countries, people still regard begging as a normal phenomenon (Adedibu 1989; Ogunkan and Fawole 2009; Tambawal 2010 cited by Namwata et al. 2012; Adedibu and Jelili 2011). Begging is a social ill whose implications for city economy and environment call for concern of urban planners. The negative impacts of begging on social and physical environments are obvious in the tendency of beggars to delay and obstruct free flow human and vehicular traffic, and their high propensity to generate dirty materials either as waste or as parts of their belongings (Jelili 2006 cited by Namwata et al. 2010). The presence of beggars is perceived to be indicative of larger social ills or issues and can cause others to avoid beggar-inhabited areas (Clapper 2012). Begging is commonly defined as the act of stopping people on the street to ask for assistance, for example in the form of food or money (Bose and Hwang 2002; Collins and Blomley 2003).

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Begging has been a traditional profession in India as charity is considered one of the noblest of human virtues according to Hindu tradition (Dhruvasan 1963). Beggars in India are the victims of an unbalanced socio-economic system. They are amongst the most vulnerable people in our society and show the low soci0-economic conditions of that group and this is the human degradation to the lowest extent for them, and a menace to the healthy society. Most of them are the product of economic deprivation, destitution and neglect (Cama, 1945). Fitzpatrick and Kennedy (2000) defined begging as "*asking passer-by for money in a public space*". Michael Adler defined beggars as "*people who beg, that is, who ask for money for themselves without offering anything in return*" (Adler, Bromley, and Rosie 2000). Mukharjee (1945) pointed out that "*Beggary is a symptom of social disorganisation*". The major factors making for its prevalence are to be found in the breakdown of the socio-economic structure of the country.

The development is an outcome of the efforts made for the eradication of poverty and unemployment and regional inequalities (Seer, 1989). According to Verma (1993), development of a region can be identified with an increase in the employment opportunities, availability of infrastructural facilities, amenities and services, proper distribution of resources, increase in production, and investment in consumption and so on. Thus, the development refers to an improvement of all the sectors of economic, social and cultural pursuits.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study has been undertaken with the following specific objectives:

i. to examine the regional variations of per capita income of urban beggars in the Aligarh district,
ii. to inspect the geographical disparities in the level of development in the study area,
iii. to see the relationship of per capita income of the urban beggars (dependent variable) with the selected variables of socio-economic development.

Study Area

Aligarh district, a medium sized district, is spreading over an area of 3700.4 square kilometers in the Western part of Uttar Pradesh. It occupies the north-western part of the Uttar Pradesh which is fertile region of Ganga and Yamuna, known as *Doab*. In the world map, the geographical location of this district is in North-Eastern Hemisphere and lying between the parallels of 27°29' and 28°11' north latitudes and meridians of 77°29' and 78°38' east longitudes. Its boundary touches the boundaries of five other districts (Bulandshahr, Badaun, Mathura, Hathras and Etah) of the Uttar Pradesh and one state (Haryana) of India. At present, the district is divided into five Tahsils namely, Koil, Khair, Gabhana, Atrauli and Iglas for the purpose of land record keeping, land revenue collection, judicial administration, etc. These tahsils are further sub-divided into 12 development blocks namely: Atrauli, Gangiri, Bijauli, Jawan, Chandus, Khair, Tappal, Dhanipur, Lodha, Akrabad, Iglas and Gonda.

MAPS

Aligarh District: Administrative Divisions, 2001

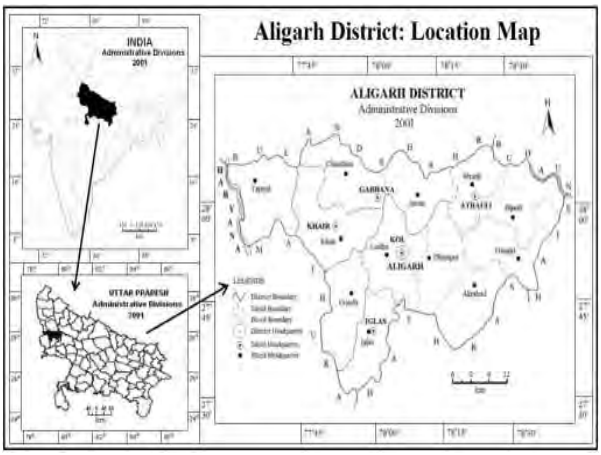

Figure 1

Source: Census of India &
Vikas Bhawan, Aligarh, 2008.

According to 2001 Census, the district accommodates a residential population of 29, 92, 286 of which 29 per cent was classified as urban and 71 per cent as rural. The general density of population in the district was 820 persons per sq. km. However, it was 607 persons per sq. km. in the rural sector and 5,949 persons per sq. km. in the urban sector. The general sex ratio that is the number of females per thousand males was 862 in the district, whereas, the figures for the rural and urban areas were 856 and 876 respectively. The literacy rate in the district is 58.5 per cent and the male literacy rate is 71.7 per cent and females are 43.0 per cent literate while, the percentage of literacy in rural and urban population was 56.5 and 63.2 respectively.

According to the Census of India there were 7,50,307 beggars and vagrants in India in 1981, which declined to 5,42,875 in 1991, though it further increased to 6,27,688 in 2001. Out of the total beggars, about two third beggars were in rural areas while one-third in urban areas. The matter of begging is not the ignorable issue of the society, but in fact, the begging has become one of the most problematic social issues of India. It is, therefore, necessary that empirical studies have to be undertaken aimed at collecting relevant data on the subject.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

The study is based on primary source of data that has been collected the through field survey in the Aligarh district, carried out during 2009. All the 13 towns were selected for the survey. The two blocks (Chandaus and Bijauli) of the district do not have any town or urban unit (means there is no urban population) that is why; they were excluded for this analysis. The 6 per cent wards from each town have been selected in which 25 per cent beggars' households from each ward were randomly surveyed for the study. Altogether, 396 households were selected for the present study.

In the present analysis, a set of seventeen indicators of development have been taken into account to determine the levels of socio-economic status of the urban beggars at one hand and per capita income on the other hand in the twelve blocks of the district. These indicators fall into five categories like population characteristics, literacy, employment, income and household infrastructural facilities. In the first step, the raw data for each variable which determines the areal variations of per capita income and levels of their socio-economic status have been computed into standard score. It is generally known as Z value or Z-score. The score quantify the departure of individual observations, expressed in a comparable form. This means it becomes a linear transformation of the original data (Smith, 1973: 85). It may be expressed as:

$$Z_{ij} = \frac{X_{ij} - \overline{X_i}}{\sigma_i}$$

Where: Z_{ij} = Standardised value of the variable i in block j,

X_{ij} = Actual value of variable i in block j,

$\overline{X_i}$ = Mean value of variable i in all blocks,

σ_i = Standard deviation of variable i in all blocks.

In the second step, the Z-scores of all variables have been added block wise and the average has taken out for these variables which may be called as composite score (CS) for each block and may be algebraically expressed as:

$$CS = \frac{\sum Z_{ij}}{N}$$

Where: CS stands composite score,

$\sum Z_{ij}$ indicates Z-scores of all variables i in district j,

N refers to the number of variables.

The positive values relating to the districts' Z-score explain high level, while, negative values indicate the low per capita income of urban beggars, and their levels of development in the study area. The correlation co-efficient is worked out among dependent variable (per capita income) and independent variables (selected

variables of development) and student t-test technique is applied to find out the determinants which are significant at 1 per cent and 5 per cent levels.

The correlation co-efficient has been computed on the basis of the Karl Pearson's correlation co-efficient (r) method which is as follows:

$$r = \frac{\Sigma xy - \Sigma x \Sigma y / n}{\sqrt{\Sigma x^2 - \frac{(\Sigma x)^2}{n}} \sqrt{\Sigma y^2 - \frac{(\Sigma y)^2}{n}}}$$

Where: *r* is the co-efficient of correlation,
X, y are the two given variables,
n is the number of observation.

To find out the computed 't' value, student t-test technique is used which is given below:

$$t = r\sqrt{\frac{(n-2)}{1-r^2}}$$

Where: *t* is the calculated value of 't' in the test of significance,

r is the computed value of co-efficient of correlation,

n is the number of observation.

Besides, advanced statistical techniques, GIS-Arc view programme (Version 3.2a) has been applied to show the spatial variations of per capita income of the urban beggars and their levels of development among the blocks of the Aligarh district through maps.

Regional Analysis of Per Capita Income

Table 1 also shows the regional variations of per capita income of urban beggars in the district and it varies from lowest -1.07 score in Gonda block to the highest 2.38 score in Dhanipur block that may be categorised into three grades as high (above 0.50 score), medium (0.50 to - 0.50 score) and low (below -0.50 score) as given in Table 2. The pattern of per capita income of urban beggars in the district is shown by the Figure 2. The Table 2 depicts that the two blocks of the district have high level (above 0.50 score) of per capita income and they form a small region in the south-eastern part of the district comprising the blocks of Dhanipur and Akrabad. Six blocks of the district recorded the medium level (0.50 to -0.50 score) of urban per capita income they are Tappal, Khair, Iglas, Jawan, Atrauli and Gangiri, and five out of them, form two distinct regions. First region lying in the north-western part of the district includes the blocks Tappal and Khair while second region is being situated in north-eastern part of the district composes the blocks of Jawan, Atrauli and Gangiri, but Iglas block does not make any region in the district. The blocks of Lodha and Gonda having the low level (below -0.50 score) of per capita income constitute a distinguished region in the central and south-western parts of the district. Thus, an analysis of the Figure 2 exhibits that the high level of per capita income of urban beggars is witnessed in the south-eastern part, while, low level of income is experienced in the central part of the study area. The other peripheral blocks of the district observed the medium level of per capita income.

Table 1: Block-Wise Distribution of Z-score of Per Capita Income and Levels of Development among Urban Beggar Population in Aligarh District, 2009

Name of the Block	Per Capita Income	Development	Per Capita Income vis-à-vis Development
Lodha	-0.95	-0.21	PCI_3 D_3
Dhanipur	2.38	0.59	PCI_1 D_1
Akrabad	0.96	0.51	PCI_1 D_1
Gonda	-1.07	-0.41	PCI_3 D_3
Iglas	-0.2	-0.03	PCI_2 D_2
Khair	-0.29	-0.2	PCI_2 D_3

Tappal	-0.24	0.2	PCI_2 D_1
Chandaus	-	-	-
Jawan	0	0.03	PCI_2 D_2
Atrauli	-0.24	-0.22	PCI_2 D_3
Bijauli	-	-	-
Gangiri	-0.35	-0.26	PCI_2 D_3

Source: Calculation is based on Sample Survey.
Note: PCI_1= High Level of Per Capita Income, PCI_2= Medium Level of Per Capita Income, PCI_3= Low Level of Per Capita Income, D_1= High Level of Development, D_2= Medium Level of Development and D_3= Low Level of Development

Table 2: Levels of Per Capita Income and Levels of Development among Urban Beggars in Aligarh District, 2009

Category	Z-Score	No. of Blocks	Name of the Blocks
Per Capita Income			
High	Above 0.50	02	Dhanipur and Akrabad
Medium	0.50 to -0.50	06	Jawan, Atrauli, Gangiri, Iglas, Khair and Tappal,
Low	Below -0.50	02	Lodha and Gonda
Development			
High	Above 0.17	03	Dhanipur, Akrabad and Tappal
Medium	0.17 to -0.17	02	Jawan and Iglas
Low	Below -0.17	05	Lodha, Khair, Gonda, Atrauli and Gangiri

Source: Based on Table 1.

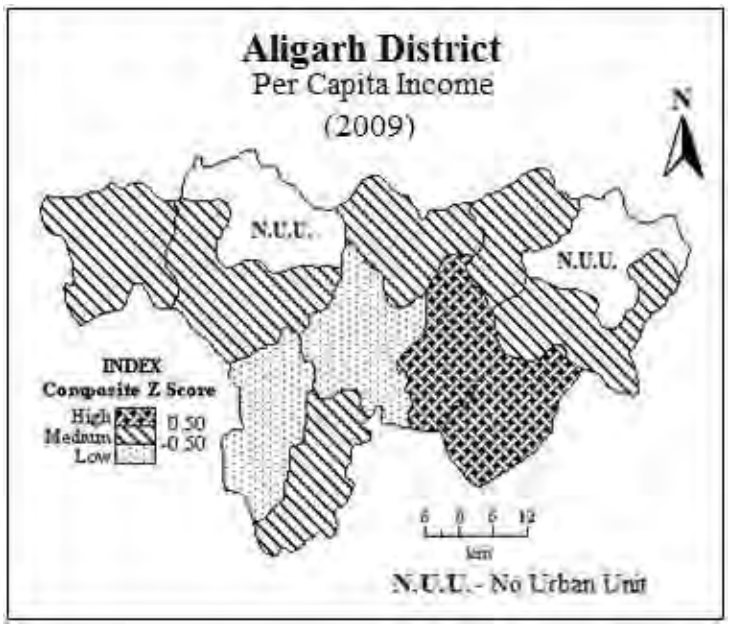

Figure 2

Regional Analysis in the Level of Development

The level of socio-economic development is the aggregate output of the attainment of the various selected indicators of socio-economic development. It can be measured in an area with the help of several indicators but beggars are the persons who are considered as poorest of the poor and do not have so much infrastructural facilities available within their households that is why, some selected indicators has been chosen to measure their level of development.

Table 1 reveals the block-wise development among urban beggar population in Aligarh district. The range of socio-economic development varies from -0.41 score in Gonda block to 0.59 score in Dhanipur block. This range of variations may be arranged into three grades as high (above 0.17 score), medium (0.17 to - 0.17 score) and low (below -0.17 score). Table 2 shows that three blocks i.e. Dhanipur, Akrabad and Tappal of the district have the high level (above 0.17 score) of development, in which, Dhanipur and Akrabad blocks make a recognizable region in the south-eastern part of the district. The two blocks namely Jawan and Iglas witnessed medium level (0.17 to -0.17 score) of development and fail to share the boundary of adjacent blocks of same level to make any region in the district. The remaining five blocks of the district accounted the low (below -0.17 score) level of development among the urban beggar population these blocks are Khair, Lodha, Gonda, Atrauli and Gangiri which form two different regions. First region by comprising the blocks of Khair, Lodha and Gonda lies in the central and western parts, whereas, second region by including the blocks of Atrauli and Gangiri locates in the north-eastern part of the study unit. The geographical analysis of the Figure 4 discloses that the majority of blocks (fifty per cent) of the district witnessed low level of development among urban beggars, while, high level of development is experienced in the south-eastern part of the district.

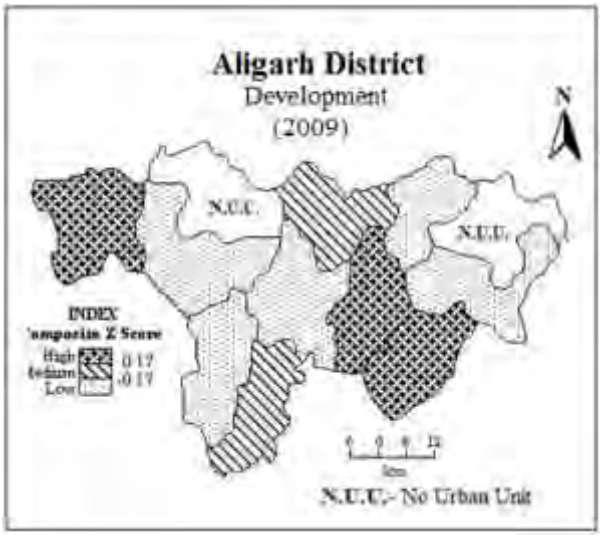

Figure 3

Relationship of Per Capita Income with Levels of Development

Figure 4 depicts block-wise pictorial relationship between urban per capita income and levels of development among the urban beggars which reveals that two blocks namely, Dhanipur and Akrabad having the high level (above 0.50 z-scores) of per capita income also experienced the high level of development and make an identifiable region in the south-eastern part of the district. There are six blocks which have medium level (0.50 to -0.50 z-scores) of per capita income, in which, Tappal block has the high level of development, the blocks of Iglas and Jawan witnessed medium level of development and the

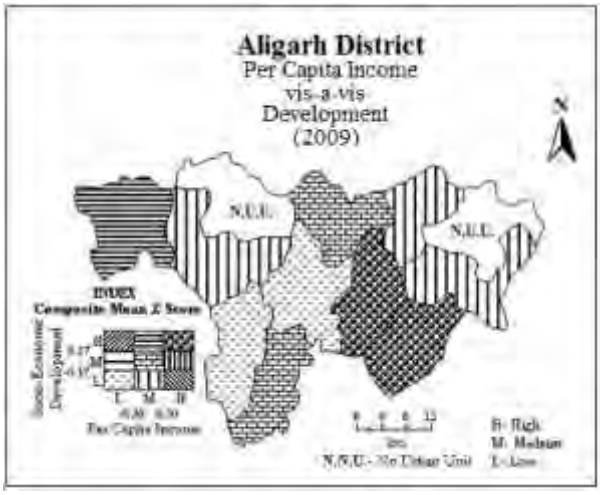

Figure 4

low level of development is observed in blocks of Khair, Atrauli and Gangiri, in which, Atrauli and Gangiri blocks of the district make a region in the north-eastern part of the district. The low grade (below -0.50 z-scores) of per capita income as well as level of development is observed in the blocks of Lodha and Gonda of the district which also make a distinct region in the central and south-western parts of the district.

Correlation of Per Capita Income with the selected Variables of Development

The analysis of correlation of per capita income of urban beggars (dependent variable) with selected the indicators of development (independent variables) has been listed in Table 3. The correlation shows that out of seventeen independent indicators, the coefficient of correlation of six indicators (X_1, X_2, X_6, X_7, X_8 and X_9) has a higher level of significant relationship with the per capita income and positively correlated with the per capita income. Among these six indicators, five indicators (X_1= male population, X_2= female population, X_6= male literacy, X_7= female literacy and X_9= male employment rate) are significant at the confidence level of 95 per cent, while, only one indicator (X_8= total employment rate) is significant at the confidence level of 99 per cent. Instead of one star and double star indicators, other indicators of socio-economic development are also correlated with the per capita income rate but not up to a significant level.

Table 3: Results of Correlation (r) of Per Capita Income of Urban Beggars with Other Selected Indicators of Development in Aligarh District, 2009

Variable	Definition of Variables	Per Capita Income
X_1	Percentage of male population to the total selected population	.644**
X_2	Percentage of female population to the total selected population	.595**
X_3	Sex-Ratio	0.557
X_4	Household Size	0.371
X_5	Total Literacy Rate	0.167
X_6	Male Literacy Rate	.677**
X_7	Female Literacy Rate	.614**
X_8	Total Employment Rate	.719*
X_9	Male Employment Rate	.725**
X_{10}	Female Employment Rate	0.443
X_{11}	Per Capita Income	1
X_{12}	Percentage of households having own houses	0.545
X_{13}	Percentage of households living in pucca houses	0.38
X_{14}	Percentage of households having the drinking water facility within their premises	0.441
X_{15}	Percentage of households having bathroom facility within their premises	0.11
X_{16}	Percentage of households having latrine facility within their premises	-0.01
X_{17}	Percentage of households having electricity facility within their premises	0.19

Source: Calculation is based on Sample Survey.

* Significance at 1 per cent level, ** Significance at 5 per cent level

CONCLUSION

The geographical patterns of per capita income and levels of development among the urban beggar population and their relationship clearly depict that there is large variations among the blocks of the study area. The analysis of the per capita income shows that the high level of per capita income of urban beggars is witnessed in the south-eastern part, while, low level of income is experienced in the central part of the study area. The other peripheral blocks of the district observed the medium level of per capita income. Moreover, the Levels of socio-economic development among urban beggar population in the district is concerned, it is observed that the majority of blocks (fifty per cent) of the district witnessed low level of development among urban beggars, while, high level of development is experienced in the south-eastern part of the district.

The relationship between per capita income and levels of development shows that about sixty percent blocks of the district of Aligarh are perfectly positive correlated with each other and forty per cent blocks of the district moderately related with each other in this regard. The analysis of t-test indicates that the per capita income of urban beggars is mainly alimented by male population, female population, male literacy, female literacy, male employment rate and total employment rate in the district.

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