Spatial Variation in Socio-Economic Deprivation and Development Status in Purulia District

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Abstract: The present study is an attempt to analyse the pattern of block-level socio-economic deprivation and development using secondary data from district statistical handbook and district census handbook in Purulia district of West Bengal. Three methods such as deprivation index, average deprivation index and development index have been applied here to measure the block-level socio-economic deprivation and development. The results of the study point out that there is a wide variation in block-level socio-economic deprivation status in terms of health, education, economy and infrastructure in the study area. The study reveals that Health and infrastructural deprivation are highest in Purulia-II block (0.96 and 0.87) and educational and economic deprivation is highest in Jhalda-II (0.98) and Neturia block (0.90) in the district. The results also highlight that there is a wide disparity in block-level social-economic development status. The study shows that Puncha (0.54), Raghunathpur-I (0.54), Santuri (0.53) and Manbazar-II block (0.52) are the develop blocks, whereas most backward blocks are Jhalda-II (0.14) and Arsha (0.18) in Purulia district. The State Government along with the Central Government should take effective measures for the backward blocks to address the socio-economic deprivation and enhancing the developmental status in Purulia district of West Bengal.

Keywords: Indicators, Block-level deprivation, Socio-economic development, Backward blocks.

1. INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic development is a multi-dimensional process, which progresses the quality of life of the people (Ohlan, 2013). Socio-economic development plays an important role in the process of a region. There are several types of socio-economic dimensions like demography, health, education, economy and infrastructure. The Geographers and economists used these socio-economic dimensions to evaluate the socio-economic development of an area. Regional disparity is the major outcome of unequal regional development that differs from region to region depending upon socio-cultural, demographic, educational, economic and environmental features (Nizamuddin, 2014). Regional imbalances lead to various social-economic and environmental problems. The problem of unequal regional development in terms of socio-economic development has become a worldwide concern in the present time, threatening the peace and integrity of nations (Tripathy et al, 2011). Regional disparity in socio-economic development in India is now a serious problem. However, the Government has taken socio-economic developmental programmes to reduce the regional developmental difference by providing various social and economic facilities.

Several research work on regional disparity in socio-economic development were carried out by researchers like Arabinda Acharya (Acharya, 2011), Rakesh Raman and Reena Kumari (Raman & Kumari, 2012), Shahnaz Mohiuddin and Haseena Hashia (Mohiuddin & Hashia, 2012), Suman Paul (Paul, 2012), Bipul Chandra Sarkar (Sarkar, 2013), Syed Nawaz-ul-Huda, Farkhunda Burke, Muhammad Azam and Sohail Gadiwala (Huda et al, 2013), Suraj Jacob (Jacob, 2014), Nafisa Banu and Surendra Kaur Rawal (Banu & Rawal, 2015), Ravi S. Ahuja and Ashish A. Nikam (Ahuja & Nikam, 2015), Chand Sultana and Nasim Aktar (Sultana & Nasim, 2016), Koyel Sam and Namita Chakma (Sam & Chakma, 2016), Mosfudar Rahaman (Rahaman, 2016), Mithun Ray and Mijanur Rahaman (Roy & Rahaman, 2017) and Debapriya Poddar, Jayanta Das and Tapash Mandal (Poddar et al, 2018).

There are two objectives of the study. (1) To measure the block-level socio-economic deprivation status in terms of health, education, economy and infrastructure in Purulia district of West Bengal. (2) To identify the block-level socio-economic development status in Purulia district of West Bengal.

2. STUDY AREA

Purulia district is located in the western part of West Bengal. The latitudinal extension is from 22°43'00'' N to 23°42'00''N and longitudinal extent is from 85°49'00" E to 86°54'00" E and the total area is 6,259 square kilometres as per the census, 2011. There are 3 subdivisions, 3 municipalities, 20 blocks, 170-gram panchayats and 2459 inhabited villages in the district. The administrative headquarter of the district is Purulia. The total population of the district is 29,30,115, population density is 468, and the male and female population are 51.96% and 48.04% to the total population as per the 2011 census.
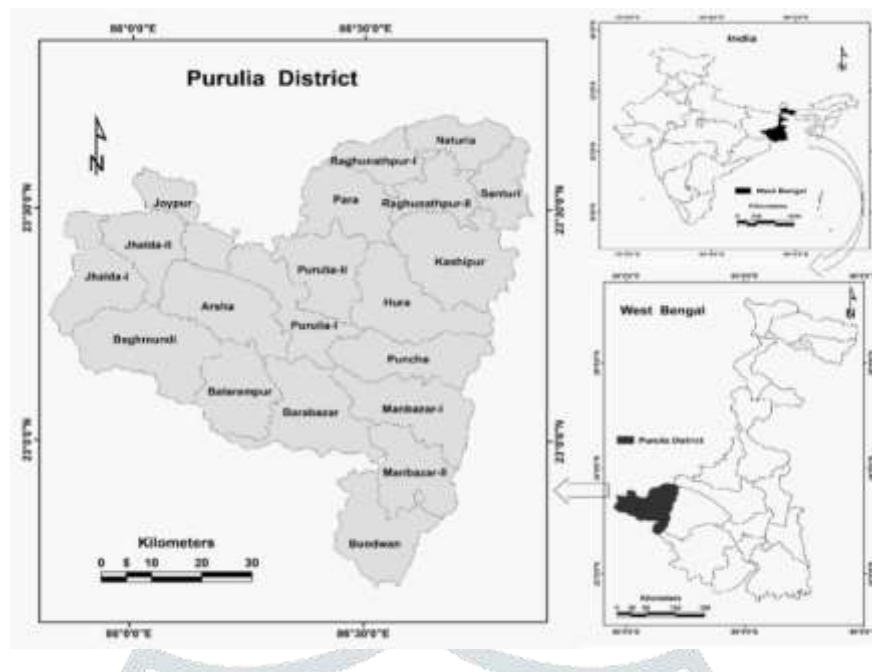
Figure 1. Location map of the study area

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study is mainly based on secondary data. Block-level data of Purulia district has been collected from district statistical handbook, 2014 and district census handbook, 2011. Total twenty-tow indicators are selected to measure the block-level socio-economic deprivation and development status in Purulia district of West Bengal. These indicators are grouped into four categories like health (5 indicators), education (5 indicators), economy (6 indicators) and infrastructure (6 indicators). Statistical analysis has been done by using Microsoft excel 2010, and thematic maps are prepared by using ArcMap10.3 in the study.

Table 1. Indicators of socio-economic deprivation and development

Category	Symbol	Indicators
Health	X1	Number of health centres per 10,000 population
	X2	Number of sub-centres per 10,000 population
	X3	Number of family welfare centres per 10,000 population
	X4	Number of beds per 10,000 population
	X5	Number of doctors per 10,000 population
Education	X6	Number of primary schools per 10,000 population
	X7	Number of upper-primary schools per 10,000 population
	X8	Number of secondary and higher secondary schools per 10,000 population
	X9	Percentage of total literacy
	X10	Percentage of female literacy
Economy	X11	Percentage of workers to the total population
	X12	Number of commercial banks per 10,000 population
	X13	Number of gramin banks per 10,000 population
	X14	Number of co-operative societies per 10,000 population
	X15	Percentage of cultivable area to the total area
	X16	Percentage of irrigated area to the total cultivated area
Infrastructure	X17	Number of fair price shops per 10,000 population
	X18	Number of fertiliser depots per10,000 population
	X19	Percentage of household under safe drinking water
	X20	Percentage of electrification household
	X21	Percentage of household having latrine
	X22	Length of roads maintained by PWD per 10,000 population

Three methods such as deprivation index, average deprivation index and development index have been used to analyse the socio-economic deprivation and development (Sarkar, 2013). These methods of calculation such as follows:

Deprivation Index

$$I_{ij} = \frac{\text{Maximum value of } X_{ij} - X_{ij}}{\text{Maximum value of } X_{ij} - \text{Minimum value of } X_{ij}}$$

Where I_{ij} indicates deprivation index of the ith variable at the jth unit of study, X_{ij} denotes the original value of ith variable at jth unit of study. The value ranges from 0 to 1, where 0 indicate the absence of deprivation and 1 indicate highest deprived.

Average deprivation index

The average deprivation index is calculated by taking the averages of all indicators in a category study like education or infrastructure.

$I_j = \Sigma I_{ij} / N$.

Where I_j is average deprivation index of the jth unit of study and N is the number of indicators under in a particular category.

Development Index

$DI = (1 - \Sigma I_{ij} / n)$

Where DI is development index of the jth unit of study, 1 is the absolute developed condition, and $\Sigma I_{ij}/N$ is average deprivation index of a particular group.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1 Block-level health deprivation status in Purulia district of West Bengal

Health is an important aspect of development. Table-2 represents the block-level health deprivation in the Purulia district of West Bengal. Here, the average deprivation index scores of five indicators like number of health centres per 10,000 population (X1), number of sub-centres per 10,000 population (X2), number of family welfare centres per 10,000 population (X3), number of beds per 10,000 population (X4) and number of doctors per 10,000 population (X5) are taken to calculate the health deprivation index. The highest health deprivation index is found in Purulia-II block (0.96) and lowest in Santuri block (0.25). The district has been classified into four categories based on health deprivation index scores – very high (more than 0.90), high (0.70-0.90), moderate (0.50-0.70) and low (less than 0.50) health deprivation blocks (Table-2). Very high health deprivation is found in five blocks, namely Arsha 0.91), Barabazar (0.91), Jhalda-I (0.93), Jhalda-II (0.92) and Purulia-II (0.96). High health deprivation is identified in nine blocks such as Baghmundi (0.79), Hura (0.85), Joypur (0.83), Manbazar-I (0.89) Para (0.75), Puncha (0.80) Raghunathpur-I (0.72) and Raghunathpur-II (0.86). On the other hand, moderate health deprivation region consists of five blocks, namely Balarampur (0.53), Bandowan (0.62), Kashipur (0.52), Manbazar-II (0.53) and Neturia (0.56). Only one block, namely Santuri (0.25) falls in the low health deprivation category.

Table 2. Block-level health deprivation in Purulia district

Sl. no.	Block name	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	Health deprivation index	Rank within the district	Level of deprivation
1	Arsha	0.95	0.75	0.91	0.98	0.94	0.91	16	Very high
2	Baghmundi	0.62	0.70	0.85	0.93	0.85	0.79	10	High
3	Balarampur	0.18	0.00	0.77	0.90	0.81	0.53	4	Moderate
4	Bandowan	0.29	0.38	0.68	0.93	0.81	0.62	6	Moderate
5	Barabazar	1.00	0.68	0.94	0.98	0.97	0.91	17	Very high
6	Hura	0.73	0.72	0.91	0.98	0.91	0.85	13	High
7	Jhalda-I	0.88	0.99	0.86	0.97	0.95	0.93	19	Very high
8	Jhalda-II	0.93	0.94	0.89	0.98	0.84	0.92	18	Very high
9	Joypur	0.62	0.79	0.85	0.97	0.94	0.83	12	High
10	Kashipur	0.60	0.72	0.00	0.68	0.59	0.52	2	Moderate
11	Manbazar-I	0.95	0.72	0.91	0.96	0.91	0.89	15	High
12	Manbazar-II	0.00	0.29	0.69	0.92	0.73	0.53	3	Moderate
13	Neturia	0.19	0.32	0.63	0.92	0.74	0.56	5	Moderate
14	Para	0.59	0.83	1.00	0.83	0.48	0.75	8	High
15	Puncha	0.58	0.71	0.83	0.95	0.90	0.80	11	High
16	Purulia-I	0.51	0.97	0.90	0.67	0.90	0.79	9	High
17	Purulia-II	0.82	1.00	0.95	1.00	1.00	0.96	20	Very high
18	Raghunathpur-I	0.62	0.39	0.68	0.98	0.93	0.72	7	High
19	Raghunathpur-II	0.72	0.96	0.75	0.95	0.91	0.86	14	High
20	Santuri	0.03	0.67	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.25	1	Low

Source: Data is computed by the author

4.2 Block-level educational deprivation status in Purulia district of West Bengal

Table-3 shows the block-level educational deprivation status in the Purulia district of West Bengal. The average deprivation index scores of five indicators are used to calculate the educational deprivation index; these indicators are number of primary schools per 10,000 population (X6), number of upper-primary schools per 10,000 population (X7), number of secondary and higher secondary schools per 10,000 population (X8), percentage of total literacy (X9) and percentage of female literacy (X10). The highest educational deprivation is found in Jhalda-II block (0.98) and lowest in Puncha block (0.08). Here, the district has been classified into four categories based on educational deprivation index scores - very high (more than 0.90), high (0.70-0.90),

moderate (0.50-0.70) and low (less than 0.50) educational deprivation blocks. Very high educational deprivation is found in only one block, namely Jhalda-II block (0.98). Arsha (0.86) and Joypur block (0.73) belong to high educational deprivation category. In contrast, five blocks namely Baghmundi (0.60), Balarampur (0.60), Jhalda-I (0.53), Para (0.54) and Raghunathpur-II (0.52) come under moderate educational deprivation category. Most of the blocks of the study area fall in low educational deprivation category, these are Bandowan (0.31), Barabazar (0.33), Hura (0.12), Kashipur (0.14), Manbazar-I (0.39), Manbazar-II (0.26), Neturia (0.25), Puncha (0.08), Purulia-I (0.41), Purulia-II (0.46), Raghunathpur-I (0.36) and Santuri (0.31).

Table 3. Block-level educational deprivation in Purulia district

Sl. no.	Block name	X6	X7	X8	X9	X10	Educational deprivation index	Rank within the district	Level of deprivation
1	Arsha	0.85	0.62	1.00	0.99	0.86	0.86	19	High
2	Baghmundi	0.55	0.15	0.75	0.83	0.73	0.60	17	Moderate
3	Balarampur	0.45	0.24	0.77	0.82	0.72	0.60	16	Moderate
4	Bandowan	0.03	0.12	0.33	0.62	0.48	0.31	7	Low
5	Barabazar	0.22	0.01	0.50	0.47	0.44	0.33	8	Low
6	Hura	0.19	0.22	0.12	0.03	0.05	0.12	2	Low
7	Joypur	0.85	0.37	0.90	0.82	0.72	0.73	18	High
8	Jhalda-I	0.54	1.00	0.70	0.18	0.21	0.53	14	Moderate
9	Jhalda-II	1.00	0.98	0.90	1.00	1.00	0.98	20	Very High
10	Kashipur	0.31	0.02	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.14	3	Low
11	Manbazar-I	0.09	0.46	0.52	0.46	0.42	0.39	10	Low
12	Manbazar-II	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.61	0.52	0.26	5	Low
13	Neturia	0.34	0.01	0.12	0.42	0.34	0.25	4	Low
14	Para	0.88	0.54	0.66	0.28	0.33	0.54	15	Moderate
15	Puncha	0.16	0.09	0.00	0.08	0.07	0.08	1	Low
16	Purulia-I	0.71	0.54	0.16	0.32	0.30	0.41	11	Low
17	Purulia-II	0.84	0.53	0.22	0.39	0.33	0.46	12	Low
18	Raghunathpur-I	0.53	0.12	0.54	0.35	0.26	0.36	9	Low
19	Raghunathpur-II	0.82	0.94	0.47	0.16	0.20	0.52	13	Moderate
20	Santuri	0.49	0.37	0.19	0.29	0.19	0.31	6	Low

Source: Data is computed by the author

4.3 Block-level economic deprivation status in Purulia district of West Bengal

The economy is the key element of development, which is directly co-related with development. Table-4 delineates the block-level economic deprivation status in the Purulia district of West Bengal. The average deprivation index scores of six indicators are used to calculate economic deprivation index; these indicators are the percentage of workers to the total population (X11), number of commercial banks per 10,000 population (X12), number of gramin banks per 10,000 population (X13), number of co-operative societies per 10,000 population (X14), percentage of cultivable area to total area (X15) and percentage of irrigated area to total cultivated area (X16). Neturia block (0.90) holds the highest economic deprivation and lowest in Raghunathpur-I block (0.42) followed by Manbazar-II block (0.43). The district has been divided into three levels of deprivation based on economic deprivation index scores - high (0.70-0.90), moderate (0.50-0.70) and low (less than 0.50) economic deprivation blocks. Half of the total block fall in high economic deprivation category, namely Arsha (0.80), Balarampur (0.71), Bandowan (0.72), Barabazar (0.74), Jhalda-II (0.77), Kashipur (0.78), Manbazar-I (0.73), Neturia (0.90), Para (0.74) and Santuri block (0.72). On the other hand, moderate economic deprivation is identified seven blocks like Baghmundi (0.60), Hura (0.52), Jhalda-I (0.69), Puncha (0.56), Purulia-I (0.67), Purulia-II (0.67) and Raghunathpur-II block (0.61). Although, only two blocks, namely Manbazar-II (0.43) and Raghunathpur-I (0.42) belong to low economic deprivation category.

Table 4. Block-level economic deprivation in Purulia district

Sl. no.	Block name	X11	X12	X13	X14	X15	X16	Economic deprivation index	Rank within the district	Level of deprivation
1	Arsha	0.29	0.65	0.99	0.99	0.31	0.79	0.80	19	High
2	Baghmundi	0.34	0.68	0.96	0.29	0.28	0.43	0.60	5	Moderate
3	Balarampur	0.63	0.38	0.94	0.81	0.00	0.78	0.71	10	High
4	Bandowan	0.16	0.68	0.68	0.43	0.72	0.93	0.72	12	High
5	Barabazar	0.19	0.60	0.86	1.00	0.26	0.81	0.74	15	High
6	Hura	0.24	0.55	0.83	0.00	0.31	0.69	0.52	3	Moderate
7	Joypur	0.75	0.58	0.96	0.56	0.34	0.61	0.76	16	High
8	Jhalda-I	0.63	0.40	0.80	0.32	0.53	0.76	0.69	9	Moderate
9	Jhalda-II	0.40	0.72	0.98	0.83	0.26	0.67	0.77	17	High
10	Kashipur	0.61	0.61	0.79	0.85	0.40	0.62	0.78	18	High

11	Manbazar-I	0.27	0.91	0.54	0.69	0.46	0.76	0.73	13	High
12	Manbazar-II	0.00	0.55	0.24	0.39	0.35	0.62	0.43	2	Low
13	Neturia	0.86	0.21	0.89	0.67	0.86	1.00	0.90	20	High
14	Para	0.90	0.53	0.90	0.49	0.24	0.62	0.74	14	High
15	Puncha	0.03	0.88	0.61	0.28	0.35	0.65	0.56	4	Moderate
16	Purulia-I	0.65	1.00	0.37	0.47	0.28	0.58	0.67	7	Moderate
17	Purulia-II	0.61	0.45	1.00	0.51	0.23	0.57	0.67	8	Moderate
18	Raghunathpur-I	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.27	0.77	0.42	1	Low
19	Raghunathpur-II	0.89	0.60	0.12	0.45	1.00	0.00	0.61	6	Moderate
20	Santuri	0.81	0.60	0.59	0.92	0.12	0.54	0.72	11	High

Source: Data is computed by the author

4.4 Block-level infrastructural deprivation status in Purulia district of West Bengal

Table-5 illustrates the block-level infrastructural deprivation status in Purulia district of West Bengal. The average deprivation index scores of six indicators are used to calculate infrastructural deprivation index. These indicators are the number of fair price shops per 10,000 population (X17), the number of fertiliser depots per10,000 population (X18), percentage of household under safe drinking water (X19), percentage of electrification household (X20), percentage of household having latrine ((X21) and length of roads maintained by PWD per 10,000 population (X22). The highest infrastructural deprivation index score is found in Purulia-II block (0.87) and lowest in Raghunathpur-I block (0.36). The district has been classified into three categories based on the level of infrastructural deprivation index scores - High (0.70-0.90), moderate (0.50-0.70) and low (below 0.50) infrastructural deprivation blocks. One-third of the total blocks in Purulia district belong to high infrastructural deprivation category; these blocks are Arsha (0.72), Barabazar (0.74), Jhalda-II (0.78), Kashipur (0.78), Para (0.74), Purulia-II (0.87) and Raghunathpur-II (0.78). Although, eight blocks namely Baghmundi (0.58), Balarampur (0.60), Bandowan (0.55), Hura (0.55), Joypur (0.67), Jhalda-I (0.68), Purulia-I (0.56) and Santuri block (0.59) fall in moderate infrastructure deprivation category. Only three blocks, namely Neturia (0.46), Puncha (042) and Raghunathpur-I (0.36) come under the low infrastructural deprivation category.

Table 5. Block-level infrastructural deprivation in Purulia district

Sl. No	Block name	X17	X18	X19	X20	X21	X22	Infrastructural deprivation index	Rank within the district	Level of deprivation
1	Arsha	0.00	0.56	0.63	1.00	0.88	0.51	0.72	14	High
2	Baghmundi	0.27	0.57	0.16	0.90	0.41	0.58	0.58	7	Moderate
3	Balarampur	0.82	0.00	0.21	0.77	1.00	0.18	0.60	9	Moderate
4	Bandowan	0.99	0.22	0.08	0.44	0.88	0.12	0.55	4	Moderate
5	Barabazar	0.49	0.61	0.21	0.87	0.95	0.58	0.74	16	High
6	Hura	0.58	0.55	0.15	0.77	0.58	0.13	0.55	5	Moderate
7	Joypur	0.77	0.59	0.00	0.21	0.89	0.91	0.67	12	Moderate
8	Jhalda-I	0.62	0.72	0.16	0.68	0.63	0.57	0.68	13	Moderate
9	Jhalda-II	0.33	0.80	0.05	0.93	0.97	0.82	0.78	18	High
10	Kashipur	0.43	0.77	0.64	0.59	0.47	1.00	0.78	19	High
11	Manbazar-I	0.55	0.79	0.27	0.66	0.83	0.20	0.66	10	Moderate
12	Manbazar-II	0.39	0.69	0.16	0.66	0.87	0.58	0.67	11	Moderate
13	Neturia	0.31	0.97	0.55	0.00	0.31	0.17	0.46	3	Low
14	Para	0.95	0.67	0.25	0.73	0.63	0.47	0.74	15	High
15	Puncha	0.19	0.03	0.44	0.63	0.54	0.25	0.42	2	Low
16	Purulia-I	0.32	0.35	1.00	0.55	0.56	0.00	0.56	6	Moderate
17	Purulia-II	0.85	0.84	0.67	0.67	0.71	0.60	0.87	20	High
18	Raghunathpur-I	0.17	0.73	0.17	0.52	0.18	0.01	0.36	1	Low
19	Raghunathpur-II	1.00	1.00	0.29	0.31	0.37	0.92	0.78	17	High
20	Santuri	0.72	0.71	0.43	0.32	0.00	0.78	0.59	8	Moderate

Source: Data is computed by the author

4.5 Block-level socio-economic development status in Purulia district of West Bengal

Table-6 and Figure-2represent the block-level socio-economic development status in Purulia district of West Bengal. Average development index scores of health, education, economy and infrastructure are used to calculate the socio-economic development index. The socio-economic development index scores reflect the highest development index score in the following blocks namely Puncha (0.54) and Raghunathpur-I block (0.54) and lowest in Jhalda-II block (0.14) followed by Arsha (0.18). The district has been classified into five development categories (Figure-2) based on development index scores– very high (0.51-.60), high (0.41-0.50), moderate (0.31-0.40), low (0.21-0.30) and very low (0.10-0.20) development regions. It can be easily identified from the Figure-2 that eastern part of the district is more developed than the western part. Four blocks of the northeastern and southeastern part of Purulia, namely Puncha (0.54), Raghunathpur-I (0.54), Santuri (0.53) and Manbazar-II (0.53) belong to very high development region. Further, high development region includes four blocks, namely Hura (0.49), Neturia (0.46), Bandowan (0.45) and Kashipur (0.45). One the other hand, seven blocks of the middle and southern part of the study area fall in moderate

development region, these blocks are Purulia-I (0.39), Balarampur (0.39), Baghmundi (0.36), Manbazar-I (0.33), Barabazar (032), Para (0.31) and Raghunathpur-II (0.31). Low development region consists of three blocks namely Jhalda-I (0.29), Purulia-II (0.26) and Joypur (0.25), which are mainly located in the middle and western part of the Purulia district. The remaining two blocks in the west part of the district, namely Jhalda-II (0.14) and Arsha (0.18) are the most backward block, which belongs to very low development region.

Table 6. Block-wise level of socio-economic development in Purulia district

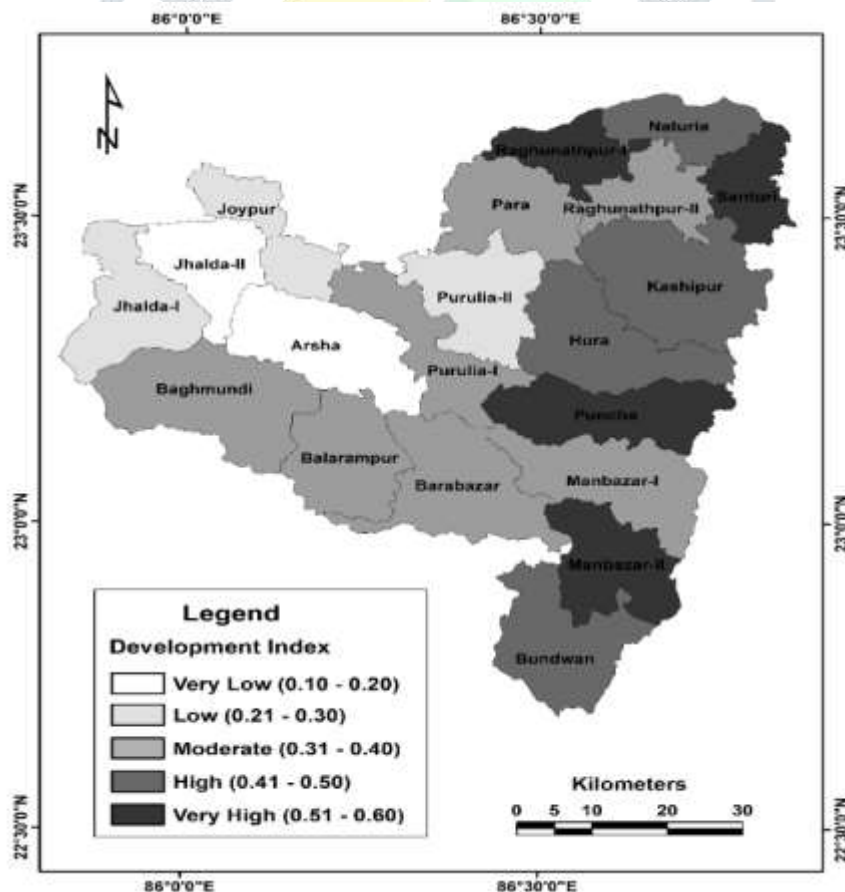| Sl. no	Block name	Health development index	Educational development index	Economic development index	Infrastructural development index	Socio-economic development index	Level of development
1	Arsha	0.09	0.14	0.20	0.28	0.18	Very low
2	Baghmundi	0.21	0.40	0.40	0.42	0.36	Moderate
3	Balarampur	0.47	0.40	0.29	0.40	0.39	Moderate
4	Bandowan	0.38	0.69	0.28	0.45	0.45	High
5	Barabazar	0.09	0.67	0.26	0.26	0.32	Moderate
6	Hura	0.15	0.88	0.48	0.45	0.49	High
7	Jhalda-I	0.07	0.47	0.31	0.32	0.29	Low
8	Jhalda-II	0.08	0.02	0.23	0.22	0.14	Very low
9	Joypur	0.17	0.27	0.24	0.33	0.25	Low
10	Kashipur	0.48	0.86	0.22	0.22	0.45	High
11	Manbazar-I	0.11	0.61	0.27	0.34	0.33	Moderate
12	Manbazar-II	0.47	0.74	0.57	0.33	0.53	Very high
13	Neturia	0.44	0.75	0.10	0.54	0.46	High
14	Para	0.25	0.46	0.26	0.26	0.31	Moderate
15	Puncha	0.20	0.92	0.44	0.58	0.54	Very high
16	Purulia-I	0.21	0.59	0.33	0.44	0.39	Moderate
17	Purulia-II	0.04	0.54	0.33	0.13	0.26	Low
18	Raghunathpur-I	0.28	0.64	0.58	0.64	0.54	Very high
19	Raghunathpur-II	0.14	0.48	0.39	0.22	0.31	Moderate
20	Santuri	0.75	0.69	0.28	0.41	0.53	Very high

Source: Data is computed by the author

Figure 2. Block-level socio-economic development status in Purulia district of West Bengal

5. CONCLUSION

The present study assesses the block-level socio-economic deprivation and development status in Purulia district of West Bengal based on twenty-tow indicators. The findings of the study show that there is a wide variation in block-level socio-economic disparities in terms of health, education, economy and infrastructure. As the level of deprivation in health, education, economy and infrastructure is co-related with socio-economic development; the block-level disparity is also found in the socio-economic development. The study reveals that the eastern part of the district is comparatively more developed than the western part. The most backward blocks of Purulia district are Jhalda-II and Arsha, whereas Puncha, Raghunathpur-I, Santuri and Manbazar-II are the developed blocks. For eliminating the block-level development discrimination, proper actions should be taken to improve the health, education, economy and infrastructural status. The State Government along with the Central Government should take effective measures for the backward blocks to address the socio-economic deprivation and to enhance the overall development status in Purulia district of West Bengal. Simultaneously, the local administrative authority, such as gram panchayat should act responsibly to implement the Government initiatives.

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