

THE IDEA OF SOCIAL WELL-BEING AND ITS UTILITY IN GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH

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Abstract: *Through extensive literature review, the present paper, attempts to understand the development of the idea of Social well-being. This paper traces how the understanding of Well-being has developed into as a multi-dimensional variable such as financial stability, self-expectations, social interaction, individualism, and community and so on from its sociological origins where well-being is associated with happiness, quality of life, and life satisfaction (Lou and Shih 1997; Oswald, 1997; Radcliff, 2001). This paper argues that Well-being is a dynamic process and it is dependent of the free will of people, although there are external circumstances that can impede this possibility or affect seriously the potential for this pursuit. This paper synthesize the works of various scholars from Amratya Sen's "Capability Approach", to Erik Allardt's "Dimension of Needs" and finally to that of Baker and Linch's approach of "Well-being as equality" to understand the theoretical development of the concept of well-being.*

Finally, this paper attempts to explain the significance of the idea of social well-being in Geographical literature by looking through various published and unpublished works of geographical research on the concept of social-wellbeing and explores how geographers have adopted this pioneering area to make one of its own.

Key Words: *Social well-being, Individualism, Community, Dynamic Process.*

1.0. INTRODUCTION:

Since the time of the ancient Greek to the present day situation, all the theory and the field of the investigation about the well-being reveals that what would be the nature(objectivity or subjectivity) of the concept of well-being? For some scholars it is possible to speak about the objectivity of the concept of well-being, because it is possible to recognize some universal needs that the people need to satisfy. At the same time it is possible to make different kind of measurements in order to know to what extent people satisfy these needs. For other scholars, like Diener, it is necessary to distinguish between objective and subjective well-being. In objective well-being it is possible to recognize universal needs whereas in subjective well-being it is necessary to have in consideration the psychological aspects of any personal evaluation about the quality of life itself and also the cultural aspects that can affect the perception of the good life. Well-being is a complex phenomenon and it is necessary to mix objective and subjective methods to understand this complexity (Forgeard et al. 2011, 98). Well-being is the presence of positive affects and evaluation; the absence of negative effects of one's life taking into consideration past experiences, current life situations, and expectations and well-being must include good physical health, a healthful physical environment, the benefits of love and the possibility of communication, and a sense of faith. Therefore, wellbeing phenomenon is a very complex and multi-dimensional concept and even elusive state for social scientists to understand. Well being concepts and definitions are related to the idea of how good is life or how satisfied any person is with his own life (Saari 2011, 10). According to Michaelson (taken from Forgeard 2011, 98) the well-being is a "dynamic process that gives people a sense of how their lives are going through the interaction between their circumstances, activities, and psycho-logical resources". Many scholars believed that well-being is a cultural construction (Gergen 2009, 20; Diener 2009,)The idea of well-being is created in a specific cultural set-ting with specific cultural values and perceptions about what is good or not.

According to Paul Knox well-being is the satisfaction of the needs and wants of the population, and the needs associated with different elements of well-being may be resolve in different ways. Generally there are three types of well-being which are mutually related. They are- I. Physical well-being/ material well-being (health, fitness, physical safety, finance or income, quality of the living environment, and privacy, possessions, meals or food, transport, neighbourhood, security, and stability or tenure.) II. Social well-being (the quality and breadth of interpersonal relationship with the family and relatives in the surrounding people and friends) III. and Emotional or Psychological well-being(affect or mood, satisfaction, or fulfilment, self-esteem, status/respect, and religious freedom and faith. (Felce and Perry 1995, p. 60)

Social well-being is associated with the total condition of individual and community life. The social well-being is largely depends on the level of material possessed or accessed as that supports all other parts of life and maintain social status. Now, the basic question is that there is any relationship or linkage between well-being and social well-being? Social well-being and the well-being of the individual are inseperable. Kenneth Wilkinson, in his book Community in Rural America (1991), explicitly reveals that the connection when he writes that "the well-being of the individual is not possible without the well-being of the community" (p. 18).For understanding of the concept social well-being it is necessary to a comparative understanding of structure (economic and social system) and stage of a society or a country. Every society or country passes through different developmental process or stages, first phase of development indicates economic growth and in its later phase it is the social well-being. The study of socially relevant issues and concepts (social problem, social space, standard of living, social welfare et cetera) has been started in the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century, although the real development of these studies was basically started by 1960s. However, D.M. Smith (1973, 1977), P.L. Knox (1974) and others social scientists build up a social welfare approach as a central theme in geography. The beginning of Social well-being studies in geography is embedded in the real world problem.

2.0. METHODOLOGY

Descriptive analytical methods have been used for the whole research. The research is mainly based on secondary information published from different books, journals, Magazines, Newspaper reports, inventory records, internets etc. Simply, this research is a simplest form and mutual efforts that represents an overall concept about Social Well-being and explain the significance of the idea of Social-Well-being in Geographical Research and explores how Geographers have adopted this pioneering area to make one of its own.

3.0 THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND EVALUATION OF WELLBEING RESEARCH:

Knowing the historical background to the study of wellbeing is necessary to the definition and approach of wellbeing. There are two approaches for the study of well-being namely: i.**Hedonic tradition** which highlighted happiness, positive affect, low negative affect, and satisfaction with life (e.g., Bradburn, 1969; Diener, 1984; Kahneman, Diener, & Schwarz, 1999; Lyubomirsky & Lepper, 1999) ii.**Eudaimonic tradition** which highlighted positive psychological functioning and human development (e.g., Rogers, 1961; Ryff, 1989a; 1989b; Waterman, 1993).

But most of the scholars and researchers now believe that wellbeing is a multi-dimensional construct (e.g., Diener, 2009; Michaelson, Abdallah, Steuer, Thompson, & Marks, 2009; Stiglitz, Sen, & Fitoussi 2009).Ryff's early work (Ryff, 1989a) identified aspects that constitute wellbeing: autonomy; environmental mastery; positive relationships with others; purpose in life; realisation of potential and self-acceptance.

There are two different ways in which the well-being has been evaluated. The first way is the objective or universalistic measures of the well-being that represent one important tradition in social sciences (especially in economics and sociology). This perspective has the name of the social indicators movement (Noll 2004, 151). The social indicators movement was born in the Unites States in the sixties, and it was a reaction against the reductionist conception of human development that only considered the economic indicators, like income or gross national product, as indicators of well-being (Rapley 2003, 3).The second way to evaluate the well-being is a subjective and constructionist perspective. From this perspective well-being is a culturally and historically influenced concept, and the methodological strategy to study it needs to be a qualitative way. Ethnography, case studies, deep interviews, visual and art methods, all of these methodologies are used for this kind of studies of the well-being. The constructionism and qualitative perspective of the well-being studies is increasing (Merriam 2002, 15) because the problems of the social indicators have to capture the complexity of the well-being phenomena, specially the cultural and historical dimensions that constantly are affecting the idea of well-being that every person, group or community has. There are two different approaches of the evaluation of well-being; objective or universal perspective and the subjective or constructionist one can be for many scholars complementary (Forgeard et al. 2011, 79), and it is possible to use mixed methods (Wol-ley 2009, 7). When well-being research is designed in national or international scale it is not possible to do constructionist or qualitative research, on the other hand, when the well-being research has the aim to know about the well-being of a group of persons or a community, the design of quantitative indicators as the only means can be irrelevant. The evaluation of well-being, as well as the concept of well-being, is a very complex task.

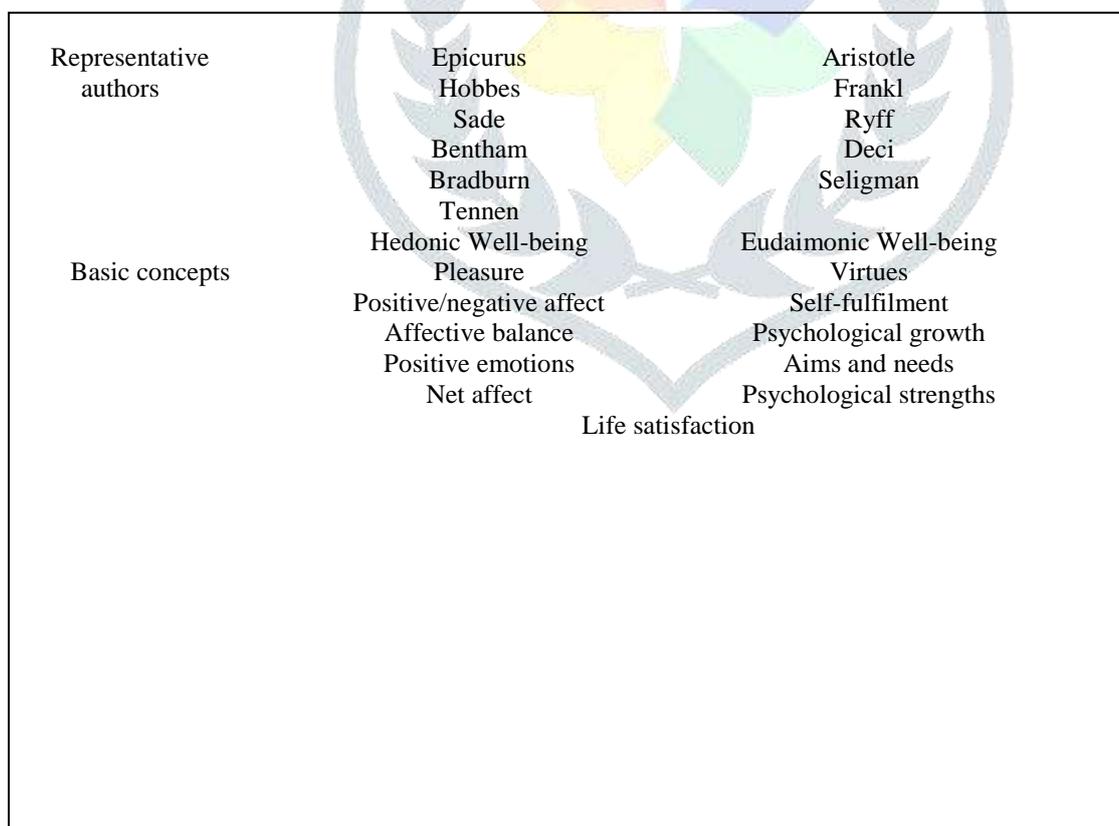


Figure: "Philosophical Traditions of Well-being"
(Adapted from Vázquez et al. 2009, 15)

4.0. WELL-BEING AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

There are different social scientists from different disciplines who have been interested in developing theoretical frameworks to understand the idea of well-being. One of them is Amartya Sen who has developed the approach named Capability Approach (1987, 33). To **Amartya Sen** the well-being is a complex phenomenon, and to evaluate the well-being he proposes that the human life can be understood as groups of “doing” and “being”. These two groups together are called “functioning”. One important aspect in Amartya Sen’s point of view is that it goes beyond the most narrow perspective of income or commodities in evaluating the degree of well-being. Other scholar that has a specific approach to the well-being is **Erik Allardt (1973)**. To Erik Allardt well-being is a system with three different dimensions of needs-i. Having, ii. Loving and iii. Being. ‘Having’ refers to material conditions, which people need to satisfy to survive; ‘Loving’ is about the social needs, like social support and self-identity that is developed in the social life, ‘Being’ that refers to the personal growth. These three dimensions are important to understand and to satisfy the well-being. Other aspect that Allardt stresses is that the well-being can have objective and subjective approaches in every dimension, for example the loving dimension can have objective measures and subjective as well, like self-report about the subject’s own perception of these feelings.

Finally, the third theoretical framework it is about well-being as equality. To **Lynch Baker (2004, 20)** the equality has five dimensions that are fundamental to the human life and well-being-i. Economic equality: means the egalitarian distribution of resources; ii. Equal opportunity: a part of the work world and to learn; iii. Cultural equality: means equal respect and recognition; iv. Political equality: means equality in power relations; v. Affective equality: means equality in relations of care, love and solidarity. This last dimension of the equality has been object of a closer analysis (**Lynch Baker 2009**) for these scholars. They explain in this way the affective equality: Being deprived of the capacity to develop supportive affective relations of love, care and solidarity, or the experience of engaging in them when one has the capacity, is therefore a serious human deprivation for most people: it is core dimension of affective inequality (**Lynch Baker 2009,1**).

5.0. OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY:

The major objectives of the present study are:

- 5.1. To understand the development of the idea of Social Well-being in social sciences and traces how the understanding of well-being has developed into as a multi-dimensional variables.
- 5.2. To find out the work of social well-being and relevant literatures in Geographical studies spatially reference to India.
- 5.3. To explain the significance of the idea of Social-Well-being in Geographical Research and explores how Geographers have adopted this pioneering area to make one of its own.

6.0. SOCIAL INDICATOR MOVEMENT AND BACKGROUND OF SOCIAL WELL-BEING RESEARCH:

It is well established that nearly half of the world population is unable to fulfill their basic needs (food, shelter, clothing etc) and there are considerable regional disparities with regard to the availability of the basic facilities for human survival. How this regional disparity, social injustice, spatial variations in quality of life can be minimized and what are the major welfare schemes to check the menace of inequality - all this are widely accepted issue of social well-being in the 1970s. In human geography, after the quantitative and theoretical movement (mid 1950s and onwards), a new revolution started in the 1970s that is 'critical Revolution'. It originated as a result of the radical reaction in opposition to the quantitative technique and model building emphasis of the 1960s. Since then; a movement towards welfare approach in human geography has been developed by human geographers to solve the economic and social problems around the world. The real development of welfare approach took place by the famous human geographer D.M. Smith and P.L. Knox. Work on social phenomenon. Although the level of material well-being is higher in developed countries due to early industrialization and rapid urbanization comparing to the developing countries in which social facilities are very limited and basic need services remain in the margin of priority.

Social indicators research was born in the United States in the mid-1960s in the field of social science. **Raymond Bauer (1966)** was the first invented the term ‘social indicators’. According to him the main purpose of social indicator is not primarily to record historical events but to provide with the basis of planning for future. According to him, Social indicators were “statistics, statistical series, and all other forms of evidence that enable us to assess where we stand and are going with respect to our values and goals” (**Bauer, 1966: 1**). “Social indicators movement” is a child of the sixties and early seventies of the 20th century, although there are several predecessors of modern social indicators research. Italian statistician and criminologist **Alfredo Niceforo (1921)**, in his book “*Les indices numérique de la civilisation et du progress*” made a significant attempt to identify quantifiable symptoms of living conditions in a broad sense – indicators in our modern terminology – in order to measure and monitor levels and degrees of civilization and social progress across time and space. Therefore, Alfredo Niceforo, may be considered as the originator of comprehensive welfare and quality of life measurement approach. Social indicators research related ideas, concepts, and approaches first developed and discussed in the United States and then expanse to European and other countries.

D.M. Smith, distinguished between the word 'welfare' and 'social welfare'. Welfare is sometimes applied to a form of social security payments, and social welfare is applied to a set of social policy measures. Now a growing number of geographers are taking up research in spatial variations of social phenomenon, highlighting the concept of territorial social Justice

At the beginning of the 21st century, social indicators and social well-being research are well established fields of social science in many countries around the world. There are numerous definitions of social indicators, but recently two definitions are significant and worth to be mentioned. The first definition derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics: “Social indicators are measures of social well-being which provide a contemporary view of social conditions and monitor trends in a range of areas of social concern over time” (**McEwin, 1995: 314-315**). The second one came out from United Nations document: “Social indicators can be defined as statistics that usefully reflect important social conditions and that facilitate the process of assessing those conditions and their evolution. Social indicators are used to identify social problems that require action, to develop priorities and goals for action and spending, and to assess the effectiveness of programmes and policies” (United Nations, 1994)

7.0. CONCEPT AND DEFENATION OF SOCIAL WELL BEING:

According to Webster's Dictionary the term "Welfare" means "well-being". But there is a significant comparison between well-being and welfare can express the difference at the level of unit of analysis (**Matikka 2001**, 25). The welfare research concentrates in the conditions of good life in the societal or macro-level, where as in the well-being research the level of analysis is personal or micro-level.

JHS Bossard (1927) was probably the first one who works on the issue and problems related to Social well-being. In his book entitled "Problems of Social Well-being" he has related social well-being with three components. These are-a. Income in its broad sense b. Physical health and c. state of mind

In 1948, World Health Organization (WHO) identifies social well-being as one of several facets of an individual's overall health. Social well-being is defined as an individual's self-report of his or her relationship with other people, the neighbourhood and the community (**Keyes1998; Larson 1973**). Social well-being is achieved when people's fundamental needs are satisfied. The basic components of social well-being are- Nutrition, Shelter, Education, Health, Leisure, Social Stability, Surplus Income, Physical Environment, Security et cetera.

The key to deciding whether a measure of social well-being is part of an individual's health is whether the measure reflects internal responses to stimuli-feelings, thoughts and behaviours reflecting satisfaction or lack of satisfaction with the social environment." (**Larson,1996 , 186**).The term social well-being refers more specifically to the relationship of individuals to those around them, including their geographical community, which is reflected through identity, cohesion and belonging and the positive aspects of social capital(**Jermen,2001;MC Queen-Thomson and Ziguras,2002;Millsand Brown,2004**).Social well-being is considered as an individual's perceptions of his or her integration, coherence, contribution into the society and societal events considering his or her acceptance of the other people and also evolution of society and potential progress with the dimensions of actualization.

The concept of social well-being is a multidimensional concept as the main aim to capture the complexity of socio-ecological systems. It is recognized that social well-being is a national and international concerns and conditions that affect local communities and individuals and vice versa. The development of the concept of societal wellbeing has raised issues around structural social inequalities (**Wilkinson & Pickett, 2010**) and with the help of Human Development Index (HDI), Gross National Happiness (GNH) etc social well-being is well measured.

However, the phenomena of social well-being consists both the objective and subjective realities and it is the collective situations of prosperity, happiness, good health, level of living, quality of life, welfare of society, level of satisfaction of the people in a community or in a society. Social Well-being is a dynamic process and it is dependent of the free will of people, although there are external circumstances that can impede this possibility or affect seriously the potential for this pursuit. Therefore, social well-being is changeable with quality of life, happiness and life satisfaction and its basic focus is to reduce the inequalities of a community or society with a rising focus on sustainable development.

The quality of life is an important components and a broad expression of social well-being. In the last few decades, social and behavioural scientists discussed the essential qualities of a good society and the good life or quality of life in social and behavioural sciences. According to Aristotle to achieve a "good life" of an individual it is necessary to realize his/her full potentialities, which is known as Eudaimonia. But Emanuel Kant believes that good life or good society can be achieved by acting in to a moral ways. There are three major philosophical approaches to determining the quality of life (**Brock, 1993**).i. First approach explains characteristics of the good life which is based on religious, philosophical and other systems and is closely related to the social indicators tradition in social sciences. ii. Second approach deals with the definition of good life which is based on the satisfaction of preferences. iii. Third approach deals with the experience of individuals in which feelings of joy, pleasure, contentment, and life satisfaction are dominant factors. Therefore, this approach is linked with subjective well-being traditions. Quality of life can be measured with the help of two scientific approaches-"objective "or social indicators and the measurement of subjective well-being(SWB) that processed during the last few decades. **Land (1996)** provides a deep look on the background of the social indicators and subjective well-being movement in the social science. The fundamental difference between social indicators and subjective well-being movements is that the main focus of social indicators movement is on its attention on measuring, where as in subjective movement research, in comparison, is individual's subjective experience of their lives. Social indicators, subjective well-being measures, and economic indices are essential elements to understand and developed a policy about the idea of quality of life. Therefore, Quality of life is a complex, multifaceted construct that demands multiple approaches from different theoretical viewpoints. Happiness is a significant indicator of overall human wellbeing. According to **Mehl (1978)** and **Lou (1995)** happiness is a transitional state of emotion. Life satisfaction is necessary for the sustainability of democracies and that happy citizens make more time volunteering because social interaction is facilitated by well-being (**Tov and Diener, 2009**).

There is no unique accepted definition of social wellbeing. Social well-being is a wide-spread, contested, complex and multidimensional term that must include good physical health, a healthful physical environment, the benefits of love and the possibility of communication, and a sense of faith et cetera, expressed by different social scientists in a variety ways with an important overlap. Therefore, Social well-being is a multidimensional phenomenon that captures a mixture of people's life's past experiences, present life situations, and future expectations, with a basic question how they feel and how they function.

Social well-being is a circumstances in which all people can fulfill their basic human needs(water, food, shelter, and health services) with equal access and they are capable to coexist undisturbedly /peacefully in communities with opportunities for improvement.

SOCIALWELL-BEING

Social Well-being is the Equilibrium Juncture between Individual's Resources Availability and the Challenges Faced and a state of Quality of life and Satisfaction.



Fig: Social Well-being

8.0. SOCIAL WELL-BEING STUDIES IN INDIA:

In modern society, the rapidly changing social values have direct relationships to the technological advancement at local, regional, national and international level. A limited number of works on social well-being have been done in Indian context. In India, most of the work on social indicators is *done* under the auspices of the planning commission, the Central Statistical Organization, the Indian Council of social Science Research and the Indian Statistical Institute.

Dube, RS (1982) in his pioneer work entailed "**Social Well-being in Madhay Perdesh,**" highlighted the different components of social well-being of Madhya Pradesh considering territorial variables.

K.W.J. Mccracked (1983) in his study "Dimensions of Social Well-being- Implications of Alternative Spatial Frames, Environment and Planning" have selected seven indicators like: Male and Female income earners, Employment (male and female), Age-standardized Mortality Ratio, Level of Education and Households with telephone connections and television sets. **B.W. Ilbery (1984)** in his book "Core-Periphery Contrasts in European Social Well-being" has presented twenty seven indicators, out of which seven major elements such as Housing; Health; Education; Economic Growth; National Well-being; Leisure and Recreation that describe the effective inequality in European social well-being.

A. Desai (1985), in his research paper entitled "Differential Perception of Residents to Environmental Quality of the Urban Area: The Case of Ahmedabad", describes that the perception and human behaviour of residents and neighborhoods toward the quality of environment in Ahmedabad City depends upon the individual and community characteristics and their interaction with time and space in term of caste, religion, language, occupation etc.

R. Mukherjee, (1989), in his book "The Quality of life Variation in Social Research" *provides a deep look on* the qualitative and quantitative measurement of the quality of life and describe the relationships within and across the subjects and the objects in the light of a successive relation that makes a pure knowledge.

Ahmad, J. (1989), A. Aijazuddin (1993) and A. Ahmad, (1993) analyzed the socio economic backwardness of Muslims in term of the post-independent structure of Muslim society with special reference on its backwardness on the educational front. **K.M. Kulkarni (1990)** in his study "Geographical Patterns of Social Wellbeing with special Reference to Gujarat" describes the spatial pattern of social well-being in Gujarat with three basic objectives-

- i. Measure the levels of social well-being at micro level with the help of "Knox's Index".
- ii. Investigating the inter-district and inter-taluka disparity in social well-being.
- iii. Review the extent of similarity and contrast in patterns of urbanization.

He considered eleven major and twenty four sub-indicators of social well-being, but his main emphasis on health, education, employment, recreation, social facilities and security measures for identifying the levels of social well-being. **Kulkarni's (1984)** another important work "Levels of Crowding and Social Well-being in Intra-urban Environment" analyze different phenomenon of social well-being through various other indicators and his major emphases on the density of population and its impact on the patterns of social wellbeing. It is well established fact that in urban areas, the high density of population reflects among different aspects the accessibility to various social amenities such as school, market, hospital, post and telegraph, parks, office, bus and railway station and playground, etc contribute to level of well-being in Ahamdabad city than the peripheral areas.

Fakhruddin (1991) in his study "Quality of urban Life" punctuated that the influences of social, environmental and residential structure upon the quality of life of the residents of Lucknow city. The major objectives of his study are to find out the deprived zones of the city using appropriate indicators of well-being. **M. Swaminathan, (1993)**, in her paper named "Aspects of Urban Poverty in Bombay" raised her view that only income is not suitable to improve the qualitative aspect of life, it depends upon healthy living environment. Therefore, their qualitative aspect of life was more dependent upon the environmental situation than on the economic aspect of their life.

N. Anjum (1997) in her paper entailed "Habitat, Environmental Degradation and Quality of Life in Modinagar, Ghaziabad, District U.P." try to find out the overall habitat condition, environmental degradation and the quality of life. **D.S. Srivastava & R.Varnia (1997)**, in their study "Urban Schedule Castes: A Study in Socio-Economic Deprivation of Sagar City" shows that the socio-economic status and the impact

of social customs on the economic life of schedule castes-dominated Sagar city, through interview and personal observations. The major findings of their study is that low level of literacy, profanity, maltreatment et cetera are responsible for unemployment, worst quality of life prevailing among the schedule caste population at Sagar city comparing to upper caste population.

S.N. Ahmad, &M. Shamim, (1998), in their study "Spatial Dimensions of Social and Economic Inequalities in Bihar", describes the regional variations in the socio economic conditions of Bihar state. They used income index to form a composite index. Out of 31 districts almost 50 per cent of them recorded only a medium level of living. Northeastern and north-western parts of the Bihar Plain reported the least development. **P. V. Sarma (1999)**, in his paper "Inequality in the Quality of life in India", presented a comparative picture of quality of life in the different states of India and his major emphasis on Human Development. However, he prepared Human Development Index (HDI) and on the basis of HDI value Punjab occupied the first position and Bihar ranked at last position.

K. Mazumdar (2001), in his study "Multivariate Analysis of Quality of life in Indian Cities" told that the concept quality of life is a multidimensional phenomenon. To reduce the disparity problem among Indian cities he used five sets of quality of life indicators and proposed a methodology, which was described in his paper in full length and he assumed that all the cities could be mapped on multi-dimensional space and to be presented by a vector.

The geography of social well-being in India till now/hitherto waits its due place among the other fields and sub-fields of human geography.

9.0. DIMENSIONS OF SOCIAL WELL-BEING: Social well-being consists of several elements that, together, indicate whether and to what degree individuals are functioning well in their social lives—for examples as neighbours, as co-workers and as citizens (**Keyes 1998**). According to **Keyes (1998)** there are five dimensions of social well-being that operationalized at the level of the individuals. These five dimensions are—Social integration, Social contribution, Social coherence, Social actualization and Social acceptance.



Fig: Dimensions of social well-being.

I. Social integration: Social integration is individual's evaluation of the quality of relationships to the society and self. Social integration draws on conceptions of social cohesion (Durkheim), cultural estrangement and social isolation (Seeman), and class consciousness (Marx).

II. Social contribution: is individual's evaluation of his/her own social value as well as belief in having something valuable to share with the society.

III. Social coherence: is individual's perception of the quality organization, and the soundness of the living world and it is analogous to meaninglessness in life (**Mirowsky and Ross 1989; Seeman 1959, 1991**), and involves appraisals that society is discernable, sensible, and predictable.

IV. Social actualization: individual's belief in the evaluation of society and the possibility of progress and actualization through it.

V. Social Acceptance: Social acceptance is the construal of society through the character and qualities of other people as a generalized category. Social acceptance is the social analogue to personal acceptance: People who feel good about their personalities and accept both the good and the bad aspects of their lives exemplify good mental health (**Fey 1955; Ryff 1989**).

10.0. SIGNIFICANCE OF SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH:

Geography of social well-being deals with the analysis of social patterns and processes derived from the distribution, and access to, scarce resources. The idea of social well-being has great importance not only in the field of physiological and sociological literature but also in the field of Geographical literature and also different disciplines related to humanities and social sciences.

a. Health of population:

Several factors regulate the social well-being and the well-off of the society, population characteristics (rates of fertility, mortality, migration, marriage, divorce, dependency, and the like etc) is vital one. Levels of well-being and characteristics of populations are directly and positively correlated. Changes in several population parameters are influence the levels of well-being, similarly, changes in levels of well-being affect various aspects of population. Emotional and physical health as an aspect of well-being determinants trends of population, but the range of well-being phenomenon is very limited.

A high level of interest in social issues is an international phenomenon, in which social well-being take place a significant role for developing the economic prosperity of a nation or a community/The utility of social well being is recognised by Governments and policy makers. Government and policy makers developed a policy reminding socio-cultural areas including health, education, employment and family. Government and societies seek economic growth and also increasingly concerned about its impact on natural and social environment (OECD, 2001).

b. Social relationships in locality and livelihood:

Social relationships are necessary for an individual or family well-being and activities considering the locality and livelihood conditions. Social well-being and social relationships are closely related to each other i.e., status and pattern of social well-being of an individual or a community and also a society is highly reflected on its social relationships with the changes of space and time. Social relationships play an important role in housing decisions, residential relocation, quality of life, employment opportunities et cetera and all these elements affect social well-being. The improvement of local well-being takes place not only in relation to industrial location, land use, and transport facilities but also in relation to health, education and social welfare which is an important indicator of social well-being. Social well-being is as important as physical well-being. For making good social health, good relationship with others, personal relationships, social connections, social order etc. of an individual as well as community and society social well-being is necessary. Social well-being also provides healthy social life with full filling the basic human needs, conserve value system. Peace cannot be sustained over the long term without addressing the social well-being of a population. Therefore, social well-being maintains the balance of a society providing opportunity for advancement keep in the mind value or public policy relevance. However, Social well-being denotes Socio-Economic profiles of a region and takes place a significant role for developing the economic prosperity of a Nation or a Community. Long-term sustainability of livelihood and peace of a community or a region can be developed only maintaining the balance of social well-being considering socio economic scenario of a region.

c. Cultural and technological overtones:

Social well-being of any society across the globe has cultural as well as technological overtones, although there are disparities at an international level in various aspects as well as individual level. Many scholars believed that well-being is a cultural construction (Gergen 2009, 20 ; Diener 2009,)The idea of well-being is created in a specific cultural setting with specific cultural values and perceptions about what is good or not.

d. Judge the socio-spatial structure of a region or community:

There is a history of social and spatial discrimination in Indian society mainly due to unequal resource distribution as well as unjust social structure at regional and national level prevailing among the religions, culture and social hierarchy. Spatial structure of region or city and distributional pattern of amenities and facilities highlights, socio economic and political processes taking place. The socio-spatial structure of a region or city can be judged through the extent of spatial inequality in the social well-being of the relevant social groups in a region or a city.

e. Social Well-being and policy development: Government policy of a region or a country takes place a vital role for developing the status and conditions of social well-being of an individuals or communities and vice versa. Government is encouraging opportunities for national and local services to develop and deliver services related to wellbeing. It is also necessary to develop wellbeing strategies in the long term if the concept is to have any value or public policy relevance. This means developing a long-term perspective on how to encourage wellbeing through the life-course and associated life-stages. It also entails delivering policy aligned to wider issues of economic cycles and social change. The other requirement for wellbeing policy formulation will be the continued consumerization and globalisation of healthcare (Jones-Devitt, 2011).

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