



**DISTRICT
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
REPORT
BANKURA**



**DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**

FOREWORD

“Human Development” as a distinct concept developed in the 80s. The basic feature of our understanding of the concept is not, however, confined to abstract ideas. Just as poverty is multidimensional, so are the processes of human self realisation and social progress. It is, therefore, imperative that economic policies are so structured as to attain the twin objectives of human self realisation and social progress based on the contemporary realities as well as the aspirations of the future generations. What is again important towards attainment of these objectives is an “inclusive approach”. It is the participatory mode that is crucial to the success of the whole process of human development. This is a process that is qualitatively and substantially different from the conventional process. Human development is about people, about expanding their choices and enhancing their capabilities. It seeks to unfold opportunities for the people, particularly those living at the bottom, to live a decent, healthy and fulfilling life.

The policies and programmes of the State Government over the last three decades have been directed towards creating conditions for the people where full flowering of human capabilities becomes a reality. Efforts of the State Government have been reinforced by spontaneous and overwhelming support of the people. It is basically the involvement of the people in the development process that has significantly contributed to improvement of human development indices of the State. Our 11th Plan’s focus is also on wider participation of the people in consonance with the essence of inclusive approach—the approach that will manifest itself in the whole range of activities of the Government.

The State Government in the Development and Planning Department in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Planning Commission of India took the initiative of preparing the first Human Development Report of the State and published it in May 2004. The West Bengal Human Development Report, 2004 received wide acclaim from different cross sections of the society. It also won UN Award for its dispassionate quality of analysis and richness in content. Our initiative to prepare District Human Development Report (s) is an attempt to make an in-depth study and analysis of the quality of life of the people as well as to identify the areas where we need to intervene for enhancing their capabilities and to effectively address the grey areas.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that UNDP and the Planning Commission of India have come forward to support our initiatives. We have been able to finalise the District Human Development Reports of Malda and Bankura districts. Shri Prabhat Kumar Mishra, IAS, now District Magistrate, North 24 Parganas (formerly District Magistrate, Bankura) took the pioneering role in preparing the report of the Bankura district. The report is the product of wider interactions and participation at various levels as will be evident from its approach and content. I record my deep sense of appreciation of the painstaking efforts of the entire team of officials of the Development and Planning Department in preparing this Report. I also put on record my sincere gratitude to the people’s representatives at different levels and the officials of Bankura district who have contributed directly or indirectly to the process of preparing the District Human Development Report. All these efforts will, however, prove meaningful if this Report can in any way help attainment of our twin objectives - human self realisation and social progress.

[Nirupam Sen]

Preface

The objective of all the interventions is to bring in human development. A district human development report has to basically address the issue of formulation of a strategy, which will accelerate the pace of human development. Therefore, the objective of the present exercise is to build up a developmental path, which will address human development in Bankura. Normally a human development report covers three aspects related to human development—standard of living, health and education. Broadly the same format has been maintained in this exercise. However, a separate chapter has been kept for gender issues. The issue of vulnerability also requires special attention since it is not just the state and level of human development that matters. The capacity of people to cope with unfavourable circumstances and respond to adversity is equally important. In other words, vulnerability of a human being has to be reduced parallelly with the advancement on the ladder of human development.

When we talk of building of a strategy, all concerned who are expected to participate in its execution must be involved at the formulation stage. In other words, the whole exercise has to be participatory in nature. An attempt has been made to involve all the line departments in this exercise. At the same time other stakeholders have also been involved in identification of the bottlenecks and solutions. We have included a large number of case studies to capture the success stories from the district itself that can be scaled up to accelerate the pace of human development.

The formulation of Human Development Index (HDI) has not been attempted here. In the process of formulation of a strategy, intra-district scenario needs to be brought out. The quality of data varies from district to district and if the usual data available at the district level is used to formulate the HDI, the comparison across district may become erroneous. Since quality of data within a district is likely to be similar, a comparison within a district may provide us a relative picture of progress and a comparison of blocks over conveniently defined indicator will not be off the mark. In any case using the normal HDI formulae may not be able to capture the specific nuances and barriers to human development in different parts of a district. Since we need to build a strategy we should use a framework, which is flexible enough to capture the specific need of the district in terms of human development. HDI formulation is rather complicated and is difficult to comprehend, say, for panchayat level functionaries who are likely to participate in execution of schemes in the process of human development.

Considering the above, the Human Development Radar has been attempted which may be helpful. It is easily understandable and the weak areas can be quickly identified. In addition, the indicators may be selected as per the district specific issues.

This exercise started with a district level workshop involving all the line departments, Panchayat functionaries and other government officials. One expert group was formed for each area in human development at the district level consisting of government officials, Panchayat functionaries, representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGO) and representatives from academia. Based on the issues highlighted in the district level workshop weaker pockets under each sector in the district were identified. This was followed by sample surveys and focused group discussions involving all the stakeholders in these areas. Block-level workshops were organized on block-specific weaker areas of human development. This helped in identification of barriers to human development under each area in this district. The process of documentation was initiated thereafter. Specific studies were also initiated by various research

groups and findings have been incorporated. The draft report was presented again at the district level involving all stakeholders before finalisation.

I put on record my sincere thanks to all who have been involved in this exercise. Natural Resource Database Management Systems (NRDMS) Centre, Bankura provided the basic data to initiate the exercise. I believe NRDMS may act as the final repository of all data which may be updated from time to time. Blocks may act as the nodal point for collection of all data at the grassroot which may be fed to NRDMS from time to time. I am grateful to the officers of the line departments including the departments of Land, Forest, Agriculture, Animal Resource Development, Fisheries, Agri-irrigation, Public Health Engineering, Khadi and Village Industries, Sericulture, Handloom, Education, Health, Social Welfare and Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics. I was assisted by a dedicated band of officers from the Bankura collectorate which included Sri Soumitra Sengupta, Sri Partha Ghosh and Sri Biswajit Barat, Centre-in-Charge, NRDMS, Bankura. I am also very thankful to the Sabhadhipati, Bankura Zilla Parishad for her kind support and to the Karmadhakshya, Siksha Sanskriti Tathya O Krira Sthayee Samity and other Karmadhakshyas of Bankura Zilla Parishad for their inputs and involvement in the whole exercise. I express my deep gratitude to the representatives from academia who have helped us in providing us the framework and background of this exercise. Special mention may be made of Prof. Tarapada Dhar, Prof. Pratip Mukherjee, Dr. Himangshu Ghosh, Dr. Mousumi Mukhopadhyay (Patra), Dr. Subikash Chowdhury, Prof. Priyam Sengupta. Some of the NGOs namely Care India, Pratichi (India) Trust, Lutheran World Service, PRADAN, Nari Bikash Sangha have contributed immensely and we are grateful to them.

Finally I express my sincere thanks to the Development & Planning Department, Government of West Bengal for their kind guidance and constant encouragement.

September, 2006
Bankura

Prabhat Kumar Mishra
District Magistrate
Bankura

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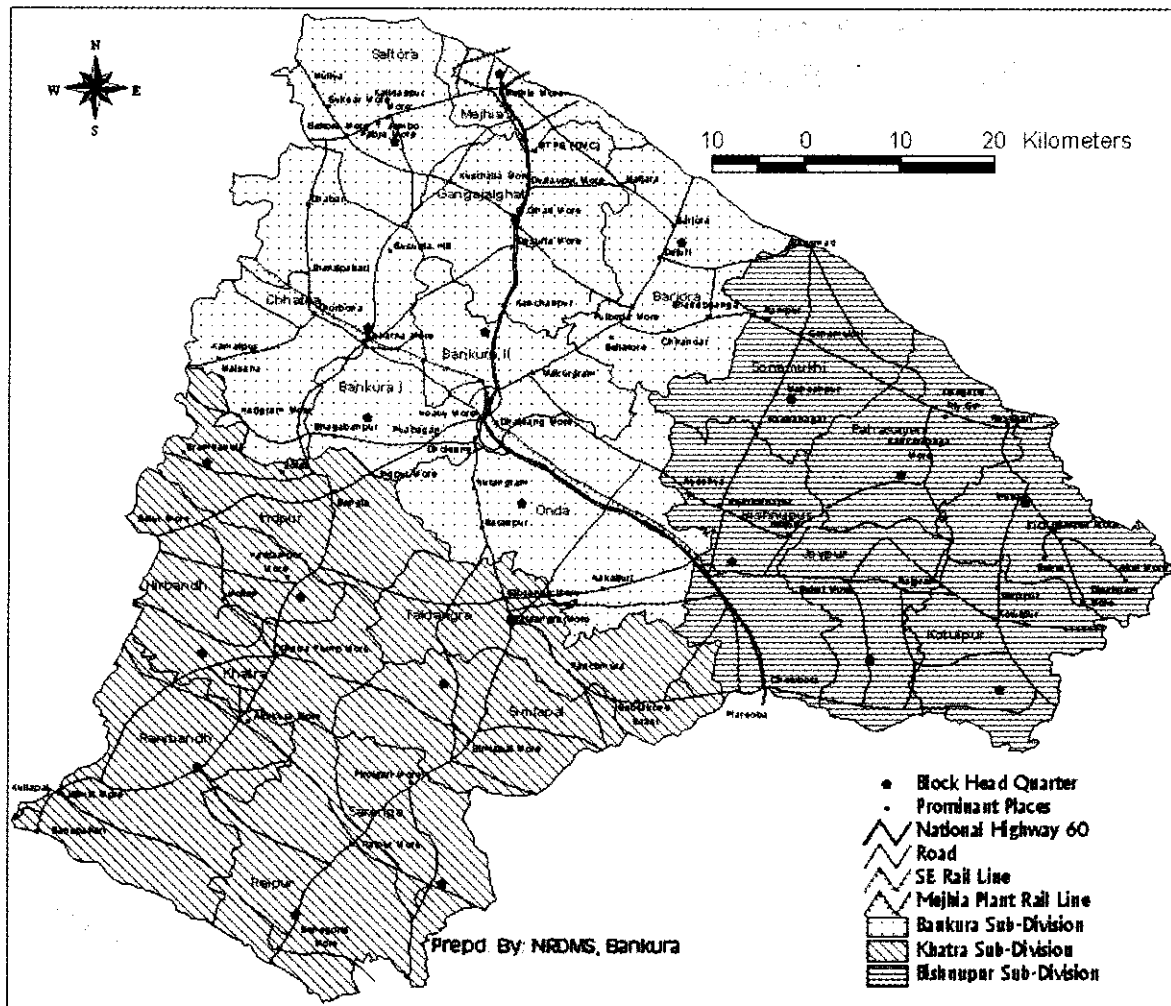
Human development and its measurement

Chapter 1

Human development is not just economic growth. It is about growth with expansion of choices, access to services and participation of people in the process of development leading to their empowerment. Growth cannot translate itself into human development unless it leads to improvement in their knowledge, health and income. Measuring progress of an administrative unit in terms of human development be it a country, a province, a district or a sub-district unit may require a number of indices. However, under the aegis of United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP), a standard methodology for calculation of Human development attainment has been developed

since 1990 when the first Global Human Development report was published. Three basic indicators were taken up for assessing relative position of countries in the Human development ladder – life expectancy at birth representing attainment in the health sector, literacy rate and combined gross enrolment in the primary, secondary and tertiary education indicating attainment in the domain of knowledge and gross domestic product indicating attainment in the income sector. Equal weightage has been given to the three indicators and thus relative Human Development Index (HDI) of administrative units is calculated.

1.1 Bankura : some key features



Map 1.1 Administrative map of Bankura

Bankura, the fourth largest district of West Bengal is located in the western part of the state, which is popularly known as 'Rath' from time immemorial. It has an area of 6882 sq.km. and according to the census of 2001, it has a population of 31,92,695. It is bounded by Paschim Medinipur and Hooghly district in the east, Purulia district in the west, Bardhaman district in the north and east. In shape, it resembles an isosceles triangle wedged in between Purulia and Bardhaman, with its apex nearly opposite Raniganj and with an irregular base line resting on Pachim Medinipur and Hooghly. Bankura is drained by Damodar, Darkeswar and Kangsabati along with their tributaries of which Gandeswari, Silai and Kumari deserve separate mention. This district has a moderate deposit of coal and a number of good deposits of china clay. As census, 2001 data reveals, it ranks twelfth in the state so far as total population is concerned.

The headquarters of this district is at Bankura, from

which it has derived its name. According to one tradition, the town was named after a local chieftain called Bankura Rai, while according to another legend the town is so called after Bir Bankura, a prince of Bishnupur. Another hypothesis suggests that the name is a corruption of Bankunda, meaning five tanks, which can be found in a Sanskrit verse by Edu Mishra, a fifteenth century genealogist. In old official records like Statistical and Geographical Report of the District of Bancoorah by Lieutenant Col. J. E. Gastrell, we find the town referred to as "Bancoorah or Bancoodah".

The district of Bankura acquired its present shape and dimension in 1879 though till 1881, the district judgship was known as West Burdwan. It was given the name Bankura in 1881 and since then the administrative and judicial jurisdictions of the district have been coterminous with the geographical boundaries of Bankura. Present administrative and demographic profiles of the district are summarised in the following Tables.

Table 1.1 Administrative profile

Sub-division	3	(Bankura Sadar, Bishnupur, Khatra)
Block	22	
Municipality	3	(Bankura, Bishnupur and Sonamukhi)
Gram-Panchayat	190	
Village	5187	
Mouza	3828	Inhabited : 3543 Uninhabited : 285
No. of ITDP Mouza	747	
Police Station	22	

Table 1.2 Administrative structure of Bankura**Rural (22 Blocks)**

Sub-Division	Name of the Block/ Municipality	Total No. of Gram- Panchayat/ Ward	Population (2001 census)			Percentage of SC population	Percentage of ST population
			Total	Male	Female		
Bankura Sadar	Bankura-I	6	95840	49083	46757	36.55	6.66
	Bankura-II	7	123415	63330	60085	28.89	2.83
	Chhatna	13	169215	85669	83546	27.38	21.82
	Saltora	8	121552	62239	59313	33.61	19.01
	Mejhia	5	76123	39525	36598	32.88	2.08
	Gangagalghati	10	162007	83117	78890	33.65	4.06
	Barjora	11	179007	92368	86639	32.47	1.80
	Onda	15	220572	112875	107697	32.47	4.78
Khatra	Indpur	7	137825	70990	66835	38.17	9.80
	Taldangra	9	128747	65713	63034	23.73	13.86
	Simlapal	7	127445	65297	62148	24.98	14.82
	Khatra	7	102569	52563	50006	24.74	22.24
	Hirbandh	5	72502	37301	35201	24.56	28.54
	Raipur	10	151293	77252	74041	20.73	28.50
	Sarenga	6	95128	48759	46369	27.80	19.81
	Ranibandh	8	104326	53168	51158	11.24	47.28
Bishnupur	Bishnupur	9	138768	71200	67568	32.71	7.69
	Joypur	9	141497	72348	69149	37.58	2.19
	Kotulpur	8	167547	86385	81162	34.38	3.31
	Sonamukhi	10	142328	73221	69107	41.96	3.56
	Patrasayer	10	164060	83517	80543	44.70	2.96
	Indus	10	152847	78404	74443	41.77	1.90
Total	190	2974613	1524324	1450289	31.87	11.06	

Urban (3 Municipalities)

Bankura Sadar	Bankura	23	128781	66429	62352	22.99	0.78
Bishnupur	Bishnupur	19	61947	31223	30724	21.66	0.49
Bishnupur	Sonamukhi	15	27354	14026	13328	23.59	1.30
Total		57	218082	111678	106404	22.69	0.76

Source: Census, 2001 & Office of the District Magistrate, Bankura

Table 1.3 Demographic features of Bankura

1	Population	Total : 31,92,695 (Male : 16,36,002, Female : 15,56,693)
2	Scheduled Caste	9,97,408 (31.24 percent)
3	Scheduled Tribe	3,30,683 (10.36 percent)
4	Population between 0-6 age group	14.08 percent
5	Main Workers	29.61 percent
6	Marginal workers	15.10 percent
7	Non-workers	55.25 percent
8	Cultivators	13.77 percent
9	Agricultural labourers	15.67 percent
10	Household industries	2.34 percent
11	Other workers	12.59 percent
12	Decennial growth rate in the decade 1991-2001	13.79 percent
13	Literacy rate (excluding 0-6 Population)	63.84 percent (Male:- 77 percent, Female:- 49 percent)
14	Percentage of rural population to total	92.63 percent
15	Percentage of urban population to total	7.37 percent
16	Sex ratio (per 1000 Male)	953
17	Density of population (per Square Km.)	464

Source: Census, 2001

1.2.1 Strength :

(i) Land :

Total area of this district is 688200 hectares out of which forest area is 147700 hectares, while the high land and medium land are 1,76,915 and 1,50,611 hectares respectively. The huge land area may be put to productive use by undertaking plantation and other activities, which may generate gainful employment. The population density is 464 per sq. km. (almost half of the state average!) and per capita land availability is more.

Again highland covers an area of 1,76,915 Hec. where traditional cultivation of paddy is not remunerative. There lies scope for integrated land and water development under micro-watershed approach. In fact, on an average Bankura gets a rainfall of 1400 mm. and there is a huge scope for surface water based irrigation system.

(ii) Human resources :

Out of a total population of 31,92,695, main worker and marginal workers constitute 44.71 percent and as

such skilled and unskilled work-force is available in plenty for making full use of land in agriculture and allied activities as well as service-oriented activities. There are a huge number of highly skilled artisans in the district.

(iii) Agro-climatic condition :

The agro-climatic condition of the district is suitable for plantation and horticultural crops. The district with dry climatic condition and vast wasteland has great potential for undertaking plantation and horticultural activities like mango, guava, citrus fruits and medicinal and aromatic plant. At the same time the dry climate is very suited to animal resource development and seed production.

(iv) Educational and research organisation :

There are 15 Colleges, 491 Secondary Schools, 3462 Primary Schools, 16 Madhyamik Siksha Kendras and 451 Sishu Siksha Kendras and two Engineering Colleges and three Polytechnics. In the field of agriculture, there is one Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Sonamukhi, one Horticultural Research and Development Centre at Taldangra, one Rice Research Centre at Bankura, one Dryland Farming Research Center at Susunia.

Moreover, there are number of fodder farms in the district and the infrastructural facilities of Animal Resource Development Department is sound. These may be used to the maximum advantage.

(v) Connectivity:

South Eastern Railway connects Bankura with Kolkata, which passes through this district. Once abandoned BDR Railway has also been upgraded to broad gauge. National Highway (NH)-60 that connects NH-2 and NH-6 passes through Bankura. Bankura has very good road communication with Durgapur, an important industrial city of the state. It has excellent road connectivity with Raniganj-Asansol industrial belt as well. Moreover, the network of surfaced road is very good. A large number of very good quality rural roads has come up under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana (PMGSY). This has opened up scope for trade and commerce and also service-oriented activities in the remote areas.

(vi) People's participation in development :

Over the last two decades, the Panchayat Raj institutions have achieved significant maturity and have been performing commendable role in planning and implementations of development schemes. There is tremendous scope for involving community in resource management with the objective of reduction of poverty. People in the villages are quite willing to participate in the process of development — even to the extent of doing 'shramdan'. People have also shown cohesion in taking up group activities and can be easily mobilized around poverty reduction activities.

1.2.2 Weakness :

(i) Small size of land holdings :

A study on distribution of operational holdings according to size class reveals that, average size of holding in the district is 1.02 acre. Out of total of 475605 holding, 318647, i.e. 67 percent belongs to marginal size class. For marginal class, average size of holding is 0.53 acre. Besides, small land holding size class constitutes 21.94 percent. Thus in this district, marginal and small land holding size classes together constitute nearly 90 percent of the total land holding. In other words, size of agricultural holding is less than one Hectare for 67 percent and less than two Hectares

for 90 percent holding size. Considering the poor irrigation facilities, low fertility and resultant low productivity, such holding pattern is not able to make much impact on the quality of life of people at large.

(ii) Low fertility of soil :

The district is divided into three distinct topographical regions, viz, the hilly terrain in western part, undulating central part and alluvial plain in the eastern part, unidentifiably merging into one another. The hilly region is characterised by large granite rocks, central part by red lateritic and eastern part by alluvial and loamy soil.

The undulating terrain of about 90000 hectares is susceptible to soil erosion and the hard granite base leaves lesser scope for economic production. A major part of the land in the central region is lateritic in nature and the soil is devoid of many basic nutrients essential for normal crop. The soil is acidic which reduces the efficacy of fertilizers.

(iii) Poor irrigation facility :

There is a good surface irrigation network under the commands of Kangsabati & Damodar canal irrigation system. Moreover, there is also a good network of River Lift irrigation (RLI) stations. But these major & minor irrigation facilities have not been able to operate at their full potential due to dilapidated and obsolete distribution network & derelict machinery. Cropping intensity is as low as 147 percent. Uneven distribution of rainfall, low water retention capacity of soil, undulating land structure and recurrent crop failure are other problem areas. The district is drained by rivers like Darakeswar, Damodar, Kangsabati, Silabati and Gandhewari. They are mainly rain-fed and their flow is mostly seasonal.

(iv) Low agricultural productivity :

The economy of Bankura district is predominantly agrarian. Moreover, the crop pattern is tilted heavily towards paddy cultivation using the traditional agricultural practices. Unconducive topography, very small size of the land holdings, poor irrigation coverage, low water retention capacity of soil etc. offer limited scope for farm mechanization. Use of farm mechanization in agriculture is low also due to lack of awareness among farmers. Farm mechanization is

limited to eastern alluvial tract among comparatively prosperous farmers. On the other hand response to crop diversification is poor and the pace of change of cropping pattern is low.

(v) Lack of entrepreneurship :

The district is predominantly agricultural. Majority of population depends on agriculture and allied activities. Though there are large chunks of barren land that could have been utilized for setting up industrial units and there are traditional crafts and skilled workforce that could have been consolidated for drawing larger economic returns and tapping export potential, the district witnessed low rate of expansion of industrial sector. Moreover, the expansion remained limited to some pockets in the northern region only.

(vi) Illiteracy :

As per Census 2001, Literacy rate is 63.84 percent. It is much lower than national and state average. Literacy is even lower in case of female, which is only 49.8 percent. In fact there are 688 number of mouzas in the district where the female literacy rate is less than 30 percent.

1.2.3 Opportunities :

(i) Plantation and horticulture :

Land utilisation pattern reveals that only 59.5 percent of total land is under cultivation. The district has a vast area of cultivable wasteland comprising 2 percent of total geographical area. A part of that is acidic-alkaline or sand cast. These areas offer scope for further development.

On the other hand, the agro-climatic condition of the district is suitable for plantation/horticulture. Mulberry and arjun plantation and horticultural crops such as mango, guava, cashewnut, jackfruit, banana, papaya, citrus fruits etc. can be grown in large scale. There is also scope for development of floriculture, medicinal and aromatic plants in the district. Total area under horticultural crops in the district is around 4775 Hectare and that under mulberry and arjun plantation is 4606 Hectare.

Area of cultivable wasteland in the district is 18846 hectare, a major part of which can be utilised for the purpose. There are seven seed farms, one Horticultural

Research & Development Centre at Taldangra and about two hundred and fifty seed-dealers in the district.

Systematic identification of areas to be covered under plantation/horticulture, getting timely supply of planting materials and other inputs like technical advice, marketing arrangement, market information enabling the farmers to fetch remunerative price are the need of the day. The activity will help marginal and small farmers, to generate employment, improve nutritional standards through development of wasteland and soil conservation by peripheral plantation.

(ii) Irrigation & minor irrigation :

The facilities created under the Irrigation & Waterways as well as Minor Irrigation Departments have not been utilised to its fullest extent. As per record, 96 percent of cultivable area is under irrigation coverage. But a much smaller part of cultivable area gets actual irrigation. It has earlier been explained that the reasons behind are dilapidated and obsolete distribution network, derelict machinery and siltation in canal system. There lies much scope for system improvement so that more areas are brought under actual irrigation. There also lies scope for further exploitation of surface runoff water. Average annual rainfall in the district is nearly 1500 mm., which runs off and goes waste. If this huge runoff water is systematically and planfully tapped, the scope for irrigation will be enhanced substantially. At the same time, this will check soil erosion and recharge ground water.

(iii) Sericulture development :

The land use pattern and climate in certain parts of the district is suitable for mulberry and arjun plantation & silkworm rearing. Both mulberry culture and traditional tasar culture have enough scope for further development in both eastern & western parts of this district.

(iv) Scope for medium, small & cottage industries :

Bankura has great potential for expansion of activity in medium small scale & cottage industry. The industrial belts of Asansol, Raniganj & Durgapur are very close to Barjora & Mejia. Good connectivity of road and rail, steady power situation, availability of land for setting up industries and cheap labour, both skilled and unskilled,

offer ample scope for growth. The district is rich in minerals like coal, fire clay, china clay, silica etc. and there is a scope to establish industries using the available minerals as the raw material. Already a few medium industries have come up but there lies much greater scope, especially for cottage and small-scale industries.

The district has rich tradition of 'Baluchari' and 'Swarnachari' saree in handloom sector. There are 14473 nos. of handlooms & 136183 weavers. But this sector is facing crisis at present. There remains great scope for diversification & upgradation in this sector with much greater employment potential. The growth of sericulture in the district during last few years has been very promising. There also lies scope for related activities, which may generate gainful employment for women-folk.

The district is famous for some unique traditional crafts; pottery work of Panchmura, Baluchari silk sarees of Bishnupur, Dokra work of Bikna, Patrasayer and Gopalpur, stone craft of Susunia are unique in the state. There are large pockets in the district where the people have endogenous skills in manufacturing fishing hook, fishing net, bamboo craft and manufacturing of babui rope.

(v) Change in agricultural practices :

Cultivation pattern of this district is predominantly mono-cropped and paddy is the primary crop of this district. Proportion of net cropped area to total geographical area is 56 percent, area under mono-crop is 35.20 percent. Cropping intensity is 147 percent. In this district wheat, oilseed and vegetables are other major crops. High yielding variety (HYV) seeds are used wherever irrigation is available. Use of chemical fertiliser is predominant. Hardly any organic manure that helps to soften hard lateritic soil is applied. Use of bio-pesticides is very rare.

Hence there is enough opportunity for crop diversification, changing the cropping pattern, substitution of chemical manure by bio-fertiliser, introduction of organic farming leading to the use of bio-fertilisers, vermiculture composts etc.

(vi) Women's empowerment and strong presence of self-help groups (SHG) :

Due to reservation in membership and post of office bearers in three tiers of Panchayat Raj system, this

district has witnessed rise of women participation in Panchayat bodies as well as in development administration at the grass-root.

On the other hand, formation of Self Help Groups (SHG), imparting skills to the members of SHGs, and their participation in productive activities have resulted in enlargement of share of female folk in economic activities. There still lies huge opportunity for the women SHGs for taking part in economic activities in a big way.

1.2.4 Threat :

The mainstay of economic activity of the people of the district is agriculture and allied. This sector faces threat from the following factors.

(i) Drought :

Though the district receives average annual rainfall of 1400 mm. in a year, which is not a poor figure so to say, 80 percent of the total rainfall is received during the 4 months of the year. Moreover the land being undulating, lateritic & porous, result in poor subsoil moisture which becomes a potent threat to the crop. Fluctuating rainfall, with intermittent drought spell between two successive rainfalls, makes the crop, generally the Kharif crop, very vulnerable and seriously affects the yield. When the drought spell lengthens it takes a heavy toll on the crop and resultant low output and low income traps the farmers, with very small holding size, in a vicious cycle of the loan from private lenders. Moreover there is a tendency to overexploit the underground water for the purpose of irrigation, which is not desirable. In case of Blocks under Bishnupur Sub-division, there is such overexploitation of this source. Kotulpur Block has already been declared a black zone with respect to the availability of ground water.

(ii) High prices of agricultural inputs and pesticides :

The farmers are very much dependant upon chemical fertilizers & pesticides for their agriculture. The prices of chemical fertilisers and pesticides are increasing with the passage of time but the prices of agricultural produces like paddy are decreasing which poses a serious threat to the prospect of this sector. To be added with it the fluctuating prices of other agricultural crops, mainly, oilseed and pulses which has

also contributed to the vulnerability of the farmers. Overuse of chemical fertiliser and pesticides is posing a serious hazard to human health.

(iii) Changes in technology & market trend :

The pace of change in economic activity fails to cope with the rapid changes in technology as well as market trend. The future of handloom sub sector with its products on cotton, silk & Tasar have failed to compete with the products of synthetic & other imported fibres and weavers are now at the verge of starvation. The rapid change in the trend in the market and the failure of weavers and other small artisans and craftsmen to adapt to the market trend has made them very vulnerable and there is hardly any prospect of those people who are engaged in this activity unless they adapt themselves to technological innovations and changes quickly.

In some sectors there are middlemen who are making a hefty profit and the condition of artisans is very pathetic. As a result, in Baluchari sector, for example, the next generation is getting frustrated and wants to break away from this sector. In all probability, Baluchari will vanish unless something is done.

Following the global pattern, West Bengal Human Development report published in 2004 has captured human development attainments of the districts in the State. As disaggregated data for the bifurcated districts of Paschim Dinajpur and Medinipur were not available, those were taken as one single district. Accordingly 17 districts of the State were ranked. Bankura was at a relatively lower rung of human development, its rank having been eleventh. The following table shows relative position of the district in the all West Bengal perspective.

Relative position of the district in terms of the three human development indices indicates that in relation to health and educational attainments, the district is closer to the state average, whereas in income, it lags far behind. In income sector Bankura is only second from the bottom, Purulia having even lower income index. The District Human Development Report is a sequel to the State Human development Report and it endeavours to explore in greater details the issues posed by the State Human Development Report.

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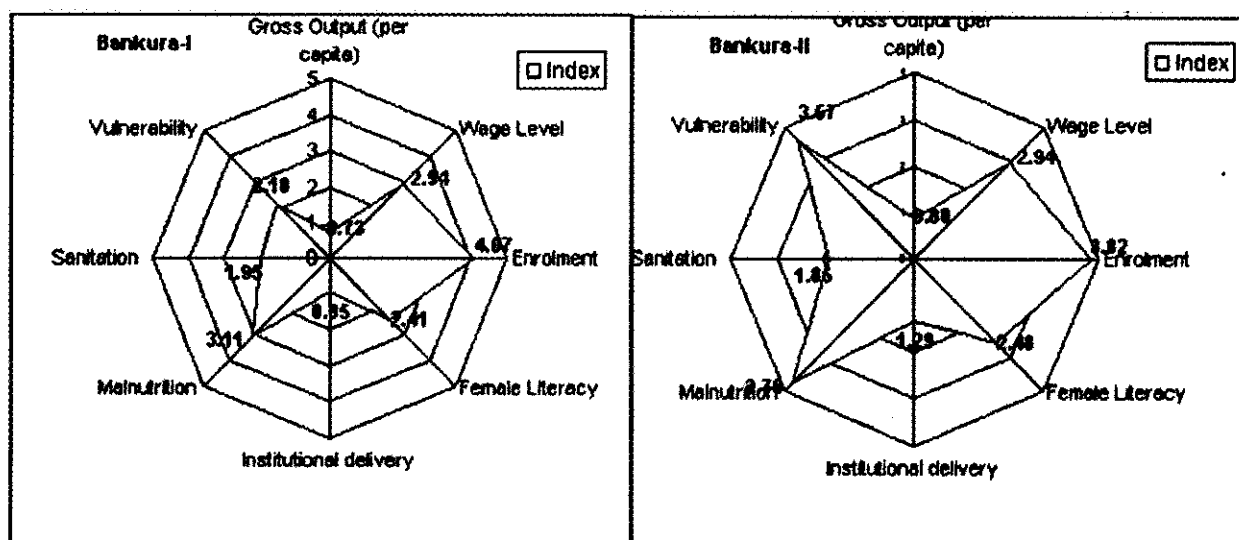
Table 1.4 Human development indices for Bankura vis-à-vis other districts of West Bengal

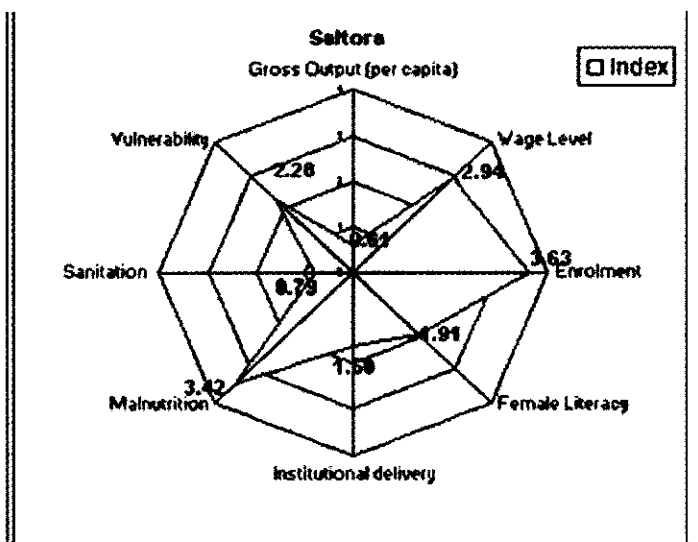
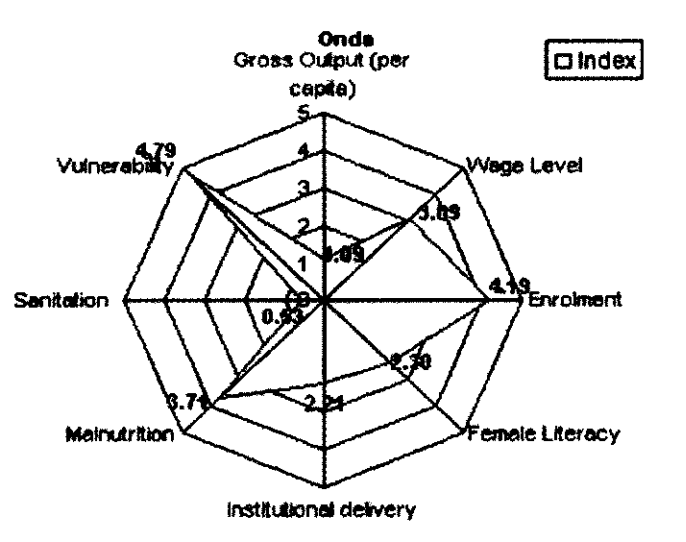
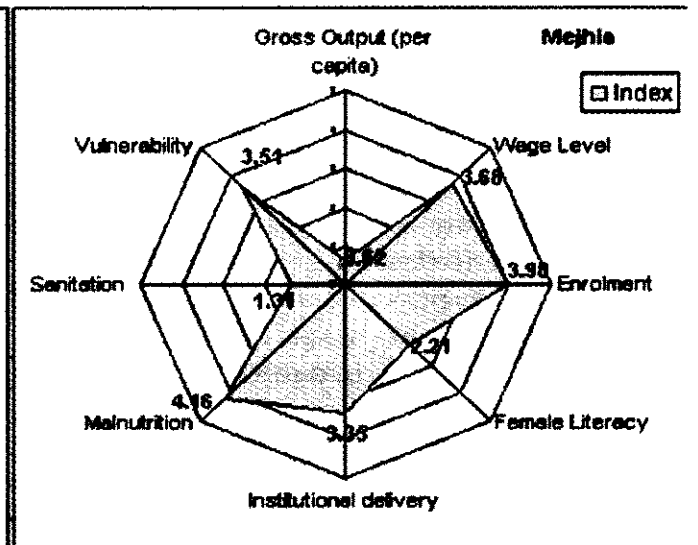
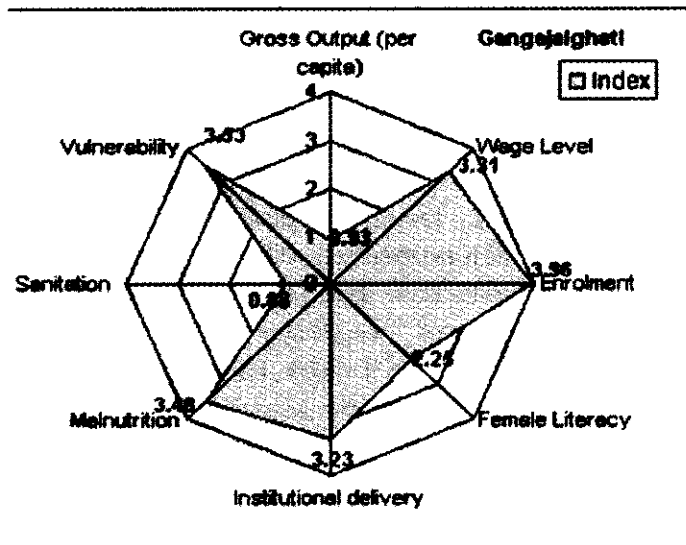
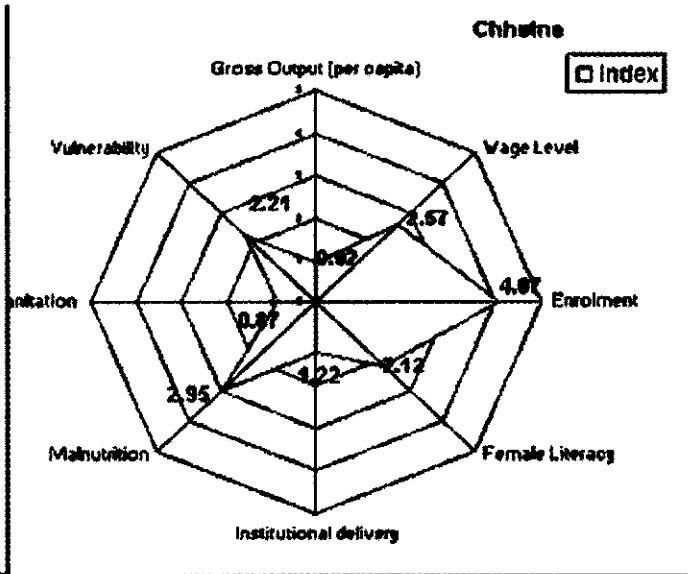
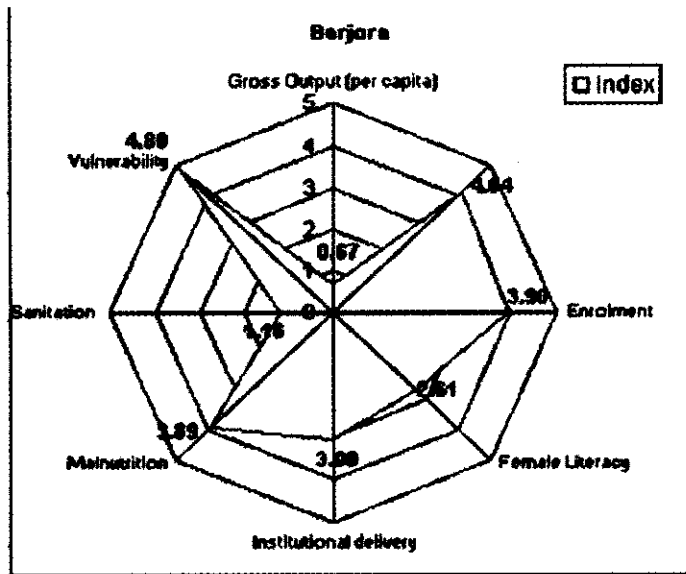
District	Health Index	Income index	Education index	HDI value	HDI rank
Kolkata	0.82	0.73	0.80	0.78	1
Haora	0.77	0.53	0.75	0.68	2
North 24 Paraganas	0.72	0.49	0.76	0.66	3
Darjeeling	0.73	0.49	0.72	0.65	4
Bardhaman	0.74	0.47	0.71	0.64	5
Hugli	0.77	0.46	0.67	0.63	6
Medinipur	0.68	0.45	0.74	0.62	7
South 24 Paragana	0.71	0.40	0.68	0.60	8
Nadia	0.65	0.41	0.66	0.57	9
Jalpaiguri	0.61	0.38	0.60	0.53	10
Koch behar	0.50	0.41	0.65	0.52	11
Bankura	0.67	0.26	0.62	0.52	11
Dinajpur	0.62	0.39	0.53	0.51	13
Birbhum	0.53	0.27	0.61	0.47	14
Murshidabad	0.57	0.29	0.52	0.46	15
Purulia	0.61	0.18	0.55	0.45	16
Malda	0.49	0.36	0.48	0.44	17
West Bengal	0.70	0.43	0.69	0.61	

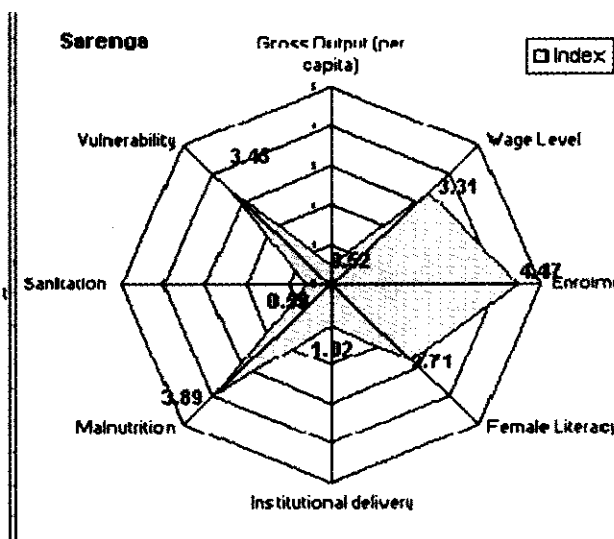
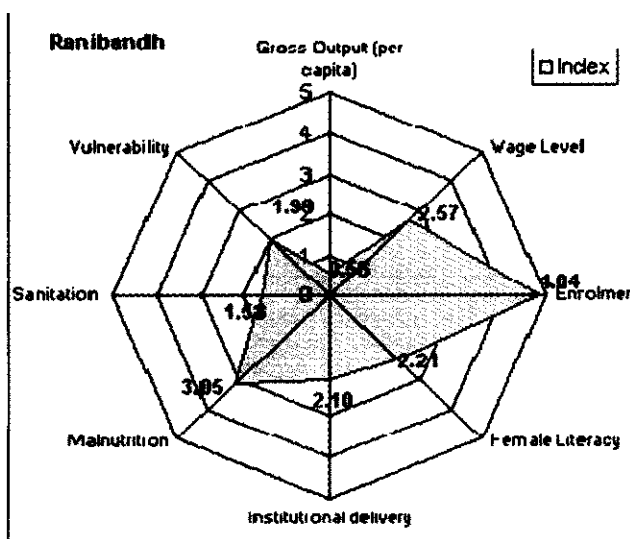
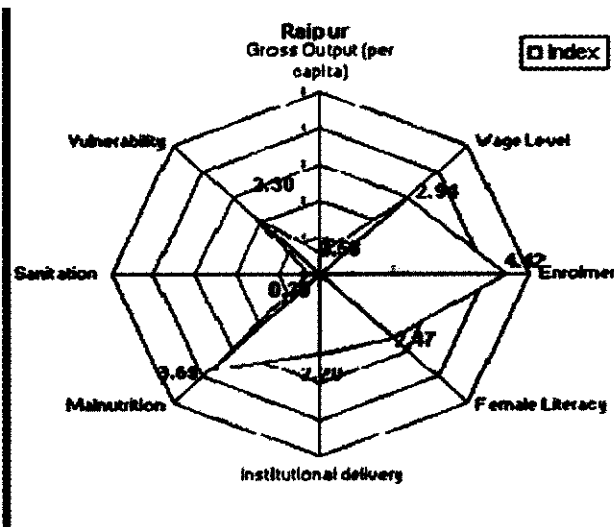
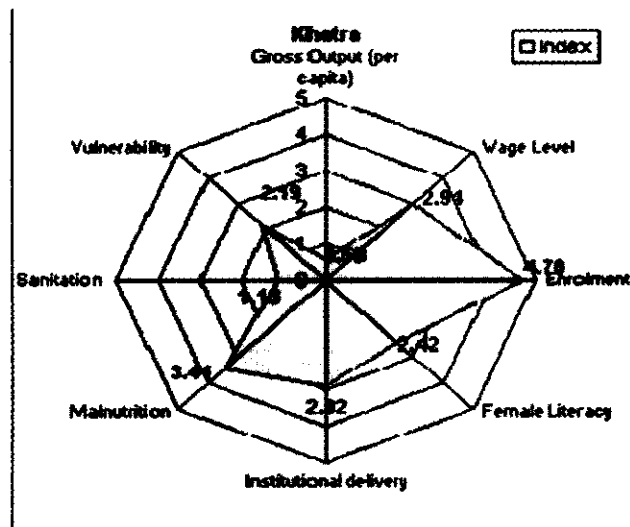
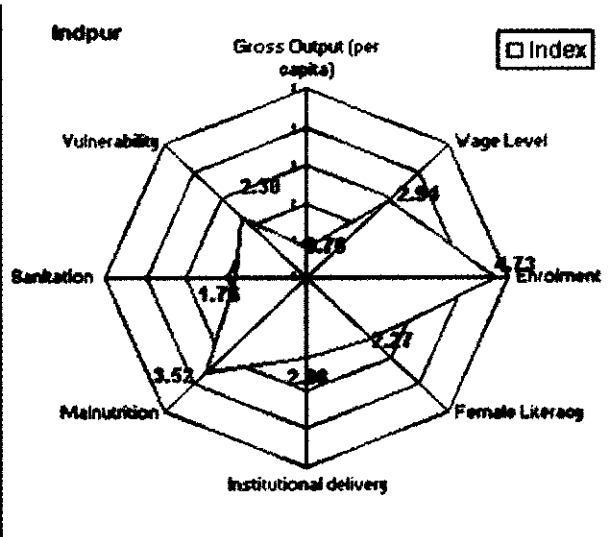
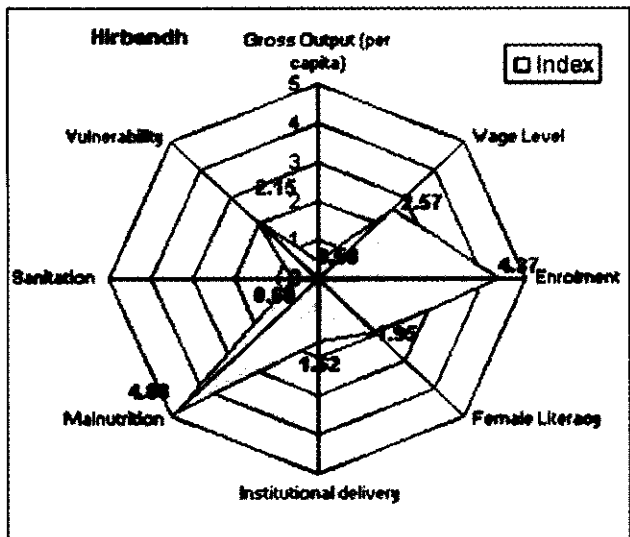
Source: West Bengal Human Development Report, 2004

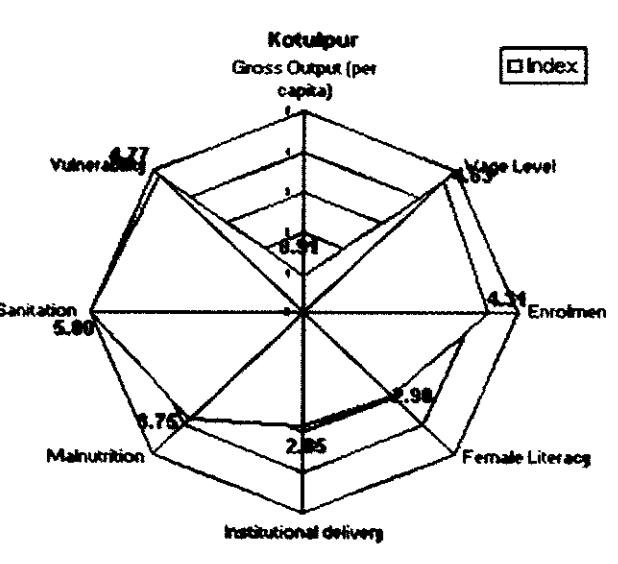
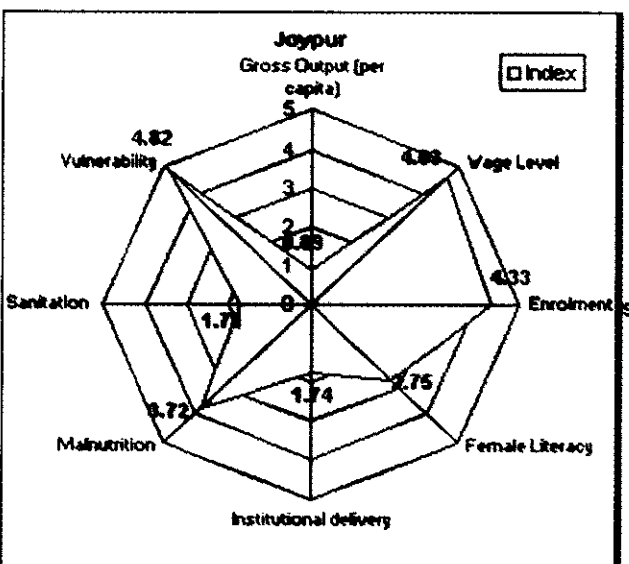
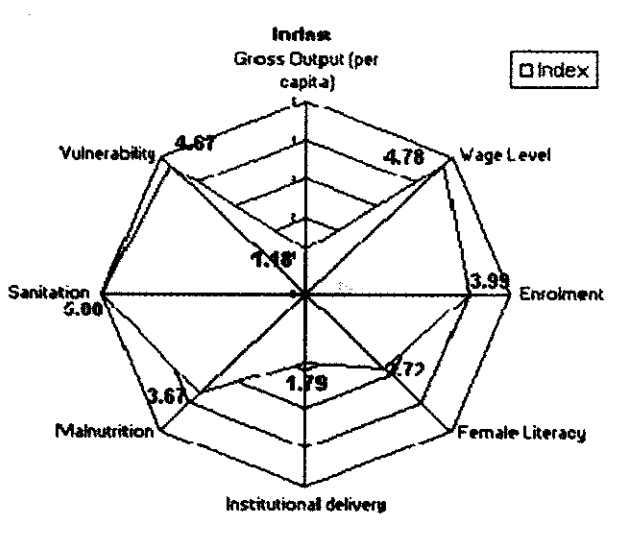
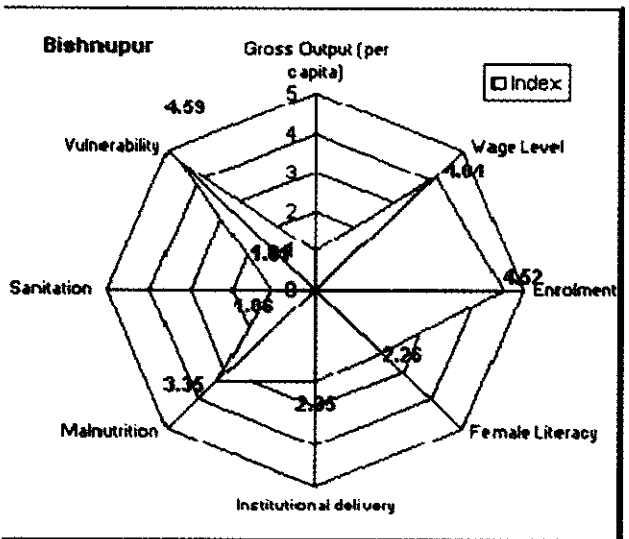
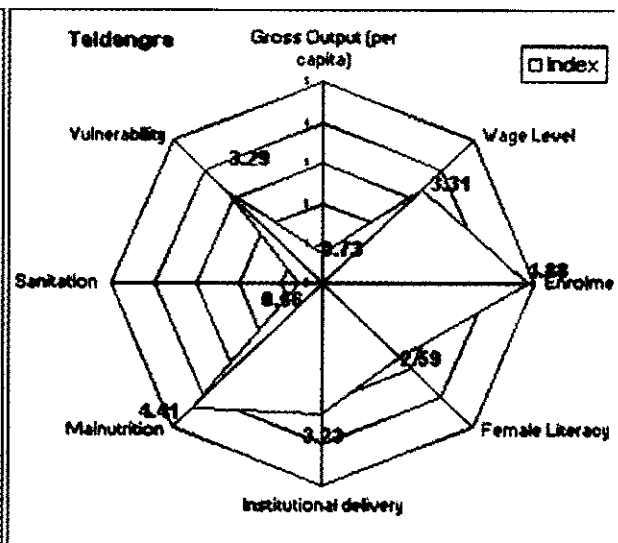
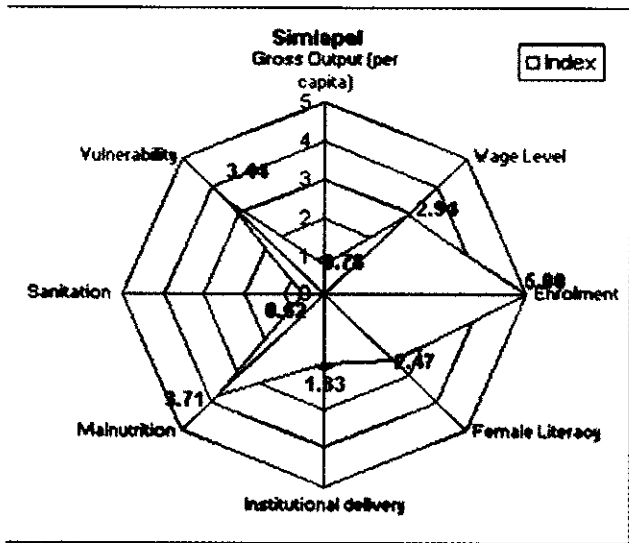
Whereas standard procedures have evolved in measuring relative position of larger units of development, viz., countries, states and districts in the Human Development spectrum, no standard processes have as yet been developed in making comparison amongst lower units like blocks and Gram-Panchayats in terms of human development achievement. Lack of standard data at the disaggregated level is the greatest stumbling block in arriving at such a yardstick. Faced with this dilemma, the district weighed the options of developing some proxy indicators to indicate relative position of blocks in terms of achievements in the health, education and livelihood sectors. However, after detailed debate and discussions at the district level, we have decided to do away with development of human development indices for the blocks. As an alternative, we have decided to construct Human Development Radars for the blocks of the district. The concept of Human Development Radar, explored at length in the National Human Development Report, 2001 has been applied in the specific context of the district. Using this methodology eight indicators have been chosen here to capture the status of human development in different arena. Blocks have been accordingly ranked. The indicators are:- **per capita gross output, wage level, enrolment, institutional delivery, malnutrition, sanitation coverage, female literacy rate and vulnerability.** An effort has been made to capture each area of human development. However, indicators where the available data are reasonable accurate. Per capita gross output has been calculated and normalized with the norm of

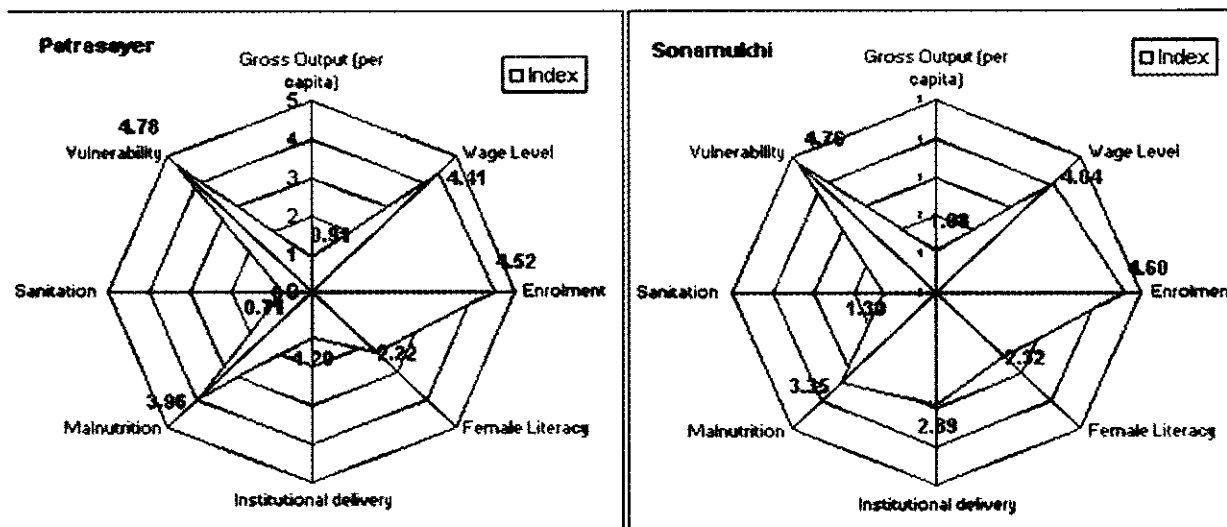
\$ 1 per person per day delineated in the Millennium Developmental Goal (MDG). Wage level is another indicator signifying the standard of living. Average of the wage level in the lean and peak season has been taken and normalized with respect to the minimum wage as applicable under the existing norms. Enrolment has been taken for the education sector and institutional delivery to capture the maternal health. Since malnutrition is one of the biggest reasons of child death, the same has been adopted. Sanitation coverage being one of the major weaknesses on human development attainment in this district, has also been included. Female literacy has been kept as one of the indicators to understand the gender status. The last indicator adopted is vulnerability. This is an indicator derived from two major aspects which determine vulnerability in this district – migration and fluctuations in foodgrain production. Blocks have been divided into three categories with respect to migration – severe (1), moderate (0.5) and no migration (0). Figures in the bracket are meant to quantify the extent of migration. Similarly standard deviation of fluctuations in foodgrain production has been calculated and is normalized with respect to the mean foodgrain production. Both these parameters have been given equal weightage while calculating vulnerability index for a block. For malnutrition and vulnerability inverse of the actual figure have been used as per the usual methodology followed for a human development radar. The Human Development Radar thus calculated for different Blocks has been depicted :











As can be seen, Hirbandh block is lowest on the ladder of human development and Indas is at the highest rung of the ladder. Even blocks that are relatively better off

have weaker areas which is a concern and which should find a place in chalking out a human development strategy.