

TOWARDS A STRUCTURED AND PLANNED GOVERNANCE MODEL - A QUALITATIVE ECONOMIC REVIEW OF ODISHA ECONOMY (Article Review)

*** Bishnu Prasad Kar**

Geography of Odisha

Odisha, the coastal state of eastern India with a geographical area of four lakh fifty five thousand square kilometer (4, 55, 000 sqkm), & 4, 55, 00, 000 (approx) population, is a recognized epicenter of natural beauty with 480 kilometer long coastal belt along the coast-line of Bay of Bengal. Odisha is moving towards become an important hub of all kinds of Industrial and Commercial activities.

If we observe the developmental trend of Odisha since independence, there is no denying the fact that Odisha is treading the growth phase, be it the Hirakud multipurpose water project, Rourkela Steel Plant, NALCO, Paradeep Port, HAL, Sunabeda division are some of the distinct milestones in this regard.

But in reality, even if there has been a substantial growth in the field of Industry, Communication, Electrification, Employment, a lot of work needs to be done in the area of Health, & Education.

There are many schools in remote areas of the state running without teachers and basic infrastructure. In many parts of the state, the drop-out ratio in Primary and Mid- schools are substantially high more than the national average. Health sector is no exception to this. There are areas which do not have a Primary Health Center and even most of the health centers run without doctors and essential life saving drugs.

To sum up, even with the vast base of mineral resources, reserve forest, ground water, long coast-line, fertile land, and skilled manpower, Odisha has not reached that level of growth, which it should have during the transition.

Status of Per-capita Income

As per the economic survey report (2019) of the state, the per-capita income of the state is increasing and poverty has been reduced to a substantial extent. Following table indicates a comparative status of per-capita income of Odisha and India.

* **Bishnu Prasad Kar**, Assistant Professor, ASTHA School of Management, Bhubaneswar, Email : bishnuprasadkar74@gmail.com .

Year	Per-capita Income of Odisha	Average Growth Percentage/ Annum	Per-capita Income of India	Average Growth Percentage/Annum
2003-04	5836		20989	
2012-13	54703	83.73%	68748	22.75%
2018-19	95164	12.32%	126460	14%

Source: Reviewer

The above table reveals the fact that through- out the period of analysis, Odisha is lagging behind the national average in per-capita income. But in average annual growth rate in per-capita income Odisha is way ahead of the national average during the period of 2003-04 to 2012-13. (83.73% against 22.75%). However, things have drastically changed thereon as Odisha witnessed a substantial fall in per-capita income growth in comparison to the national average.(12.32% against 14%) in 2018-19.

Trend of Poverty Reduction

The following table indicates the trend of poverty reduction in Odisha between 2003-04 to 2011-12 as per the report of Prof. D.B. Tendulkar the Chairman of NITI Ayog.

Year	% of People living Below Poverty line.	Average Annual Rate of Poverty Reduction
2003-04	57.2%	
2011-12	32.59%	3.07%

Source: Reviewer

As per the analysis the poverty reduction rate during this period was 3.07%. If the trend has continued, then people living below poverty line would have been around 9% in Odisha. But with Odisha govt. continuing with its flagship welfare programmes of providing subsidized rice to people living below poverty line, currently the number of families availing this benefit is more than 50 lakhs. If we take the average member of a family at 6, then the total number of beneficiaries will be around three crores.

Status of Agriculture

Out of the 4.5 crores of people, nearly 80% are living in rural areas and solely depend on agriculture. The state has 60.65 lakh hectares of agricultural land and 54% of these lands are

irrigated. There are different categories of farmers in Odisha and the following table shows their class and numbers.

Serial no.	Categories of Farmer	Numbers of Farmer
1	< 1 Acers	33.21 Lakhs
2	1 Acre to 2 Acre	9.18 Lakhs
3	2Acre to 4 Acre	31.10 Lakhs
4	Share croppers	50Lakhs
5	Daily Wage Agricultural Labour	24.2Lakhs

Source: Reviewer

These above categories of farmers are deprived of getting their basic needs for doing agricultural activities like: Seeds, Pesticides, Medicines, Soil testing, Water supply, etc. On the other hand, inadequate and improper market and storage facilities deny these farmers to get a deserved output price resulting in an acute and continuous loss causing mental distress. The problem should be addressed on wartime basis to achieve the milestone of doubling the income of farmers by 2022.

For accelerating the growth of the state, the state Govt. is in the process of executing number of projects. To expedite the process the pre-requisites like man power requirement, infrastructural facilities, project moratorium period, expert review, and budgetary approval are needed which are to be attained on a war footing

As per the survey report of K. Kasturirangan the former chairman of ISRO in respect to the maintenance of transparency, livelihood status, and the pace of development of different states in India, Kerala occupies the top position followed by the states like Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. In addition to this small states like Goa, Meghalaya, and Himachal Pradesh have also shown positive growth. However large states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha are at the bottom in the above mentioned index.

Thus, planning should be made in accordance with growth of population. Approximately 80% of the population resides in rural areas and it seems that a substantial part of these rural inhabitants have migrated to urban areas and stay there on a permanent basis. This may create work force imbalances in rural areas and agricultural prospects in the state might be affected.

To prevent such inconvenience, relentless effort should be made for all-round development of rural Odisha by treating each village as a cluster of development in the field of health, education, communication, MSME, and so on. The designated authority of the respective departments has to visit the villages on a regular basis to observe and assess the pace of execution of various schemes

of both the State and Central Government. In addition to this they need to have direct conversation with the local people to know their strengths, weaknesses and at the same time have to evaluate the possible opportunity for these rural inhabitants so that they will stay in their native areas and the rural-urban gap can be minimized. This is possible if the flagship innovative governance model of 5T will be implemented across all areas with all sincerity.

About Author

This Article is a review to its original version titled as “ An analysis of the development in the progress of Odisha “ authored by Suryanarayan Kar and was published in the daily odia “The Samaj” dt. 28/12/2020. The Author was a retired additional secretary to Govt. of Odisha and to his credit he wrote no. of article related to the economy of the state and the country which was simultaneously published in various state level and national level news papers and journals.