

## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOR KARNATAKA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO VISION 2020

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**Abstract:** The present study is a modest attempt to highlight some of the important human development goals for Karnataka with special reference to Vision 2020. Every state requires a clear vision of what should be achieved in a given period of time and how it is to be achieved. The Vision of the state should incorporate the aspirations of its people for a better future. To elaborate and further, the report on India Vision 2020 states that “A vision is neither a prediction of what will actually occur nor simply a wish list of desirable but unattainable ends. Three basic human development goals have been chosen for analysis. They are reduction of poverty, attainment of hundred percent literacy and universal elementary education and improvement of basic health and demographic indicators. The study points out that while in most of the cases, Karnataka is on track to achieve its target in 2020. The study also substantiates a nexus between poverty, education and health. Finally there are areas of grave concern such as dipping sex ratio and massive dropout rates in elementary education. In the run to our dream of a prosperous, educated and healthy Karnataka, these issues are to be addressed impromptu.

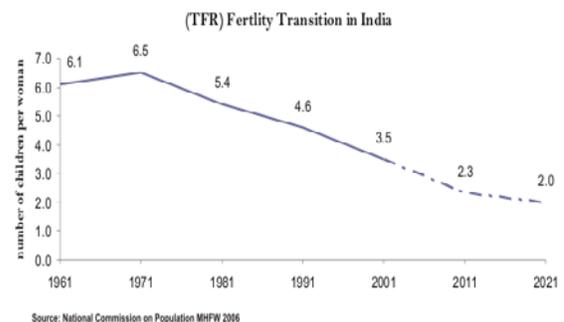
**Keywords:** human development goals, Sex ratio, Growth rates, Issues, Gender Development Index

### INTRODUCTION

At the start of twenty first century there is a rush among economists and institutions to identify and underline specific goals and targets to be achieved by the countries during specified time frame work. This rush is not baseless. The United Nations prescribed eight Millennium Development Goals, (MDG) which were adopted by 189 countries at the UN Millennium Summit held in September 2000. The Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved by the year 2015. All the goals set up by the United Nations are related to a broader canvass of Human Development. More specifically the eight MDG Goals are as Follows:

- (i) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- (ii) Achieve universal primary education.
- (iii) Promote gender inequality and empower women.
- (iv) to reduce child mortality.
- (v) Improve maternal health.
- (vi) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
- (vii) Ensure environmental sustainability.
- (viii) Develop a global partnership for development.

In order to achieve these goals, each goal has been identified in terms of specific targets and sub targets. There are, in all 18 targets identified by the UN. The progress in relation to these targets is measured in terms of 48 well-defined quantitative indicators. Although individual countries cannot be forced to adopt measures to attain MDG goals, countries such as India and China cannot remain neutral to these goals lest the resolution itself would face a debacle at the global front. Considering merely the population in these countries, a global fight against poverty and improvement in the areas of health and education does not make any sense unless India and China take the lead from front.

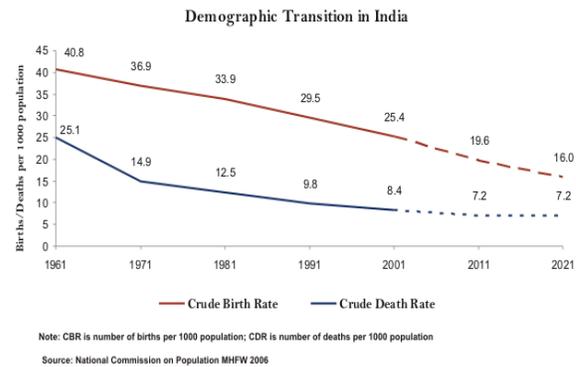


India, being in the thickness of the things, witnessed the first step in this direction in the form of a committee on India Vision 2020 under the chairmanship of Dr. S P Gupta. The Committee submitted its report on December 5, 2002. The Vision 2020 document talks about diverse aspects of economic and human development ranging from education, energy, and environment. A glimpse at the Report can convince us the immense importance of Human Development aspects which remain a key strategy to achieve overall economic development in any country. Nonetheless, the Report accepts-

“This vision statement is neither a prediction of what will actually occur, nor simply a Wish-list of desirable but unattainable ends. Rather, it is a statement of what we believe is possible for our nation to achieve, provided we are able to fully mobilize all the available resources – human, organizational, technological and financial – generate the requisite will and make the required effort.”

## THE REPORT FURTHER ENUNCIATES:

“By 2020, the people of India will be more numerous, better educated, healthier and more prosperous than at any time in our long history.”



## INDIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Population growth is one of India's biggest challenges. Since 1951 the population of the country has increased from 361.1 million to 1028.7 million.

**Table.2: population size and growth, 1951-2001**

Year	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	
<b>Population</b> (in millions)	361.1	439.2	548.2	683.3	846.4	1028.7	
<b>Growth over decade</b> (%)		13.3	21.6	24.8	24.7	23.9	21.5
<b>Population by broader age-groups</b> (%)	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	
<b>0-14</b>	38.4	41.0	42.0	39.5	37.5	35.4	
<b>15-59</b>	56.0	53.3	52.0	54.0	55.7	57.0	
<b>60+</b>	5.5	5.6	6.0	6.5	6.8	7.5	
<b>Sex Ratio</b> (females per 1000 males)	946	941	930	934	927	933	
<b>Urban population</b> (%)	17.3	18.0	19.9	23.3	25.7	27.8	
<b>Density</b> (number of persons lives per sq. kms)	117	142	177	216	274	325	

## THE STATE OF KARNATAKA: PRESENT SCENARIO

Karnataka, early known as Mysore came into being on November 11956, with the merger of five different provenances where Kannada was the main language. It currently

has 29 revenue districts, 176 blocks, and 27,481 villages. The State was covered out of two districts and one taluk of the former Madras Presidency; four districts of the erstwhile princely State of Hyderabad; the former Part C State of Coorg and nine

districts of the former princely state of Mysore. As a consequence of the amalgamation of regions of varying levels of socio-economic development and different political and administrative structures, the modern State has inherited a legacy of regional and developmental imbalances.

Top three districts in density of population per sq km are Bangalore Urban (4,378), Dakshina Kannada (457), Bangalore Rural (431) and lowest density districts are Chikmagalur (158), Uttara Kannada (140) and Kodagu (135).

Karnataka is India's eighth largest State in terms of geographical size. Its share of 5.31% of the nation's total population in 1991 has reduced to around 5% in 2008. The State's decadal growth rate of population has also been declining, though it is higher than neighboring states. The share of the states rural population is estimated to have declined from 69% in 1991 to about 64% in 2008.

**Table.1: Key Demographic & Health Data**

Indicator	Karnataka	India
Pop.Gr.Rate in %(1991-2001)	17.5	21.5
SexRatio(females/1000 males)	965	933
Literacy Male rate in %	76.1	75.2
Literacy Female rate in %	56.9	53.7
Total Fertility Rate	2.08	2.07
Crude Birth Rate	20.1	23.5
Crude death rate	7.1	7.5
Life expectancy(Male)	62.8	61.6
Life expectancy(Female)	66.2	63.3
Infant mortality rate	48	57
Maternal mortality rate	228	301
Under 5 mortality rate	54.7	74.3
Anemia(6-35 Months)	83%	79%

Source:\*Census of India 2001, SRS 2006, NFHSIII2005-06, and Karnataka Vision 2020.

The density of population for Karnataka increased to 258 persons per sq km in 2001 from 211 in 1991. The State has witnessed an increase in literacy rate (*excluding age group of 0-6 years*) from 61.29% in 1991 to 69.14% in 2001. Though Male literacy has reached nearly 76.1 the case is not so interesting with Female literacy rate at 56.9. Where Dakshina Kannada scores with highest literacy percentage of 88.62% the district of Yadigir stands lowest at just 52.53%. Karnataka. Overall decadal growth of the literacy is 34.81%. The literacy rates for males recorded at 29.14% and for females – 42.64%. predominantly being an industrial state has practically higher degree of urbanization 38.42%, which is higher than overall India's urban population of 27.82%. Considering Karnataka as one of the progressive state, its income i.e. Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at Current Prices in 2006-07 at Rs 1,94,008, crores against Rs.37,18,000 crores for India, which makes it 5.2 % of the country's GDP.

**IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES IN KARNATAKA**

The basic issue is not to dwell upon the implication of a vision, a goal, a target, a projection, a prediction or any such words pronounced; the idea is to influence the ways and the strategies in which our future will be better shaped in years to come. To this effect, it is imperative to identify specific goals in such objective terms as may be conceived easily and attempted aggressively. Further it is also important to note that no Single goal may be attempted in equal earnest in all parts of the country (all states) as the development strategies and hitherto achievements are quite diverse to attract any kind of uniform acceptance. Our vision for 2020 must address, therefore to some crucial issues relevant to our society (state) to ascertain ourselves about the distance we have reached and the goal that

we seek to attain by the end of the second decade of this millennium. There are three basic goals that all the states in our country must achieve sooner than the later:

1. Elimination of poverty particularly extreme poverty.
2. Education for all with special emphasis on female education.
3. Remove human deprivation in health.

### PROJECTION OF POPULATION IN KARNATAKA

According to the 2001 census of India, the total population of Karnataka is 52,850,562. Of this, 26,898,918 (50.9%) are male and 25,951,644 (49.1%) are female. There is a decadal increase in population of 17.3% from 1991 to 2001. Population density is 275.6 per sq km, the sex ratio is 964 females to 1000 males and 34.0% of the people in Karnataka live in urban areas. The literacy rate is 66.6% with 76% of males and 57% of females being literate.<sup>[4]</sup> As per the 2001 census, the eight largest cities of Karnataka in order of their population are Bangalore, Hubli-Dharwar, Mysore, Gulbarga, Belgaum, Mangalore, Davanagere and Shimoga.<sup>[5]</sup> The state has one of the largest populations of Anglo-Indians in India. Given below is a composite table of languages and religions of Karnataka as of census 2001 languages in Karnataka Kannada = 66.26%, Urdu = 10.50%, Telugu = 7.03%, Tamil = 3.55%, Tulu = 2.84%, Marathi = 3.6%, others = 6.22%.

Bangalore Urban, Belgaum and Gulbarga are the most populous districts, each of them having a population of more than three million. Gadag, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu districts have a population of less than a million.

83.9% of the population are Hindu, 12.2% are Muslim, 1.9% are Christian, 0.8% are Jains, 0.7% are Buddhist, <0.1% are Sikhs,

and remaining belong to other religions.<sup>[6]</sup> Karnataka is also the location of some of tribes like, Nayaka, Soliga, and Yerava. The joint family system is prevalent in the rural areas of Karnataka and there are extreme cases like the Narasinganavars who reside in the Dharwad district and are recognized as one of the largest undivided families in the world.

### ELIMINATION OF POVERTY IN KARNATAKA

Various studies point out that incidence of poverty has declined in all states in India particularly in the post reform period. The study suggests that Karnataka witnessed a decline in rural poverty by 12.5% during 1983 and 1993-94 as against 13.12 % during post reform period 1993-94 and 1999-2000. Similarly the urban poverty declined by 6.39% during post reform period as against 7.77% during pre reform period. The overall poverty in Karnataka declined by 14.89 % during pre reform period and 13.12 % during post reform period. The figures of poverty reduction for Karnataka were consistent with those of all India figures. The study also suggests that those states where economic development has been faster witnessed faster reduction in urban and rural poverty.

**Table 3: change in rural poverty in different years in Karnataka**

States	Change in Rural poverty between 1983 & 1993-94	Change in Rural poverty between 1993-94 & 1999-00	Change in Urban poverty between 1983 & 1999-00	Change in Urban poverty between 1983 & 1993-94	Change in all areas poverty between 1983 & 1993-94	Change in all areas poverty between 1993-94 & 1999-00
AP	-10.61	-4.87	2.03	-11.7 6.72	-6.72	-6.42
Assam	2.41	-4.97	-0.26	-0.26	-0.39	-4.77
Bihar	-6.16	-13.91	-12.83	-1.59	-7.26	-12.36
Karnataka	-7.62	-9.01	-11.25	-12.3	-8.58	-10.14
Haryana	-7.46	-19.75	-7.77	-6.39	-16.31	-7.46
Karnataka	-6.45	-12.5	2.68	-14.89	-5.08	-13.12
Kerala	-13.27	-16.38	-21.13	-4.28	-14.99	-12.71
MP	-8.26	-3.58	-4.68	-9.94	-7.26	-5.09
Maharashtra	-7.3	-14.21	-5.11	-8.34	-6.58	-11.84
Orissa	-17.17	1.17	1.71	1.19	-16.73	1.41
Punjab	1.25	-5.6	-12.44	-5.6	-4.41	-5.61
Rajasthan	-7.04	-12.72	-7.45	-10.64	-7.05	-12.13
TN	-21.51	-11.93	-7.19	-17.66	-16.63	-13.91
UP	-4.17	-11.06	-14.43	-4.5	-6.22	-9.7
WB	-22.25	-8.95	-9.91	-7.55	-19.19	-8.64
India	-8.38	-10.18	-8.43	-8.74	-8.51	-9.87

Source: - Economic Growth, Poverty and Reforms in India: A Decomposition Analysis Based on State Level Data, N.R. Bhanumurthy and Arup Mitra, Institute of Economic growth, Delhi.

There were at least seven states (Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu), which witnessed a faster reduction in poverty during the post nationalization period. The state of Karnataka is on its way to reduce poverty in a massive way and it is expected that incidence of poverty by 2020 would be within acceptable limits.

### EDUCATION AND LITERACY IN KARNATAKA

The ideal goal of any state should be attainment of 100% effective literacy and

later education to all students up to primary level (class V). According to Census 2001, the effective literacy rate (excluding population of 0-6 age group) was 69.14 % in Karnataka as against 64.84 % in India. The effective literacy among male was 79.66% in Karnataka as against 75.26 % in India. Similarly the effective literacy among female was 57.80 % in Karnataka as against 64.84 Percent in India. Karnataka has performed better on literacy front in comparison to India as a whole. However, the state must achieve 100 % literacy by 2020, if not by 2015. A higher level of literacy is positively related to our endeavor towards elimination of poverty. Areas of concern on literacy front remain to be addressed.

One of the important areas of underperformance in literacy in almost all

states without exception is for the age group 15-24 years... The literacy rate among 15-24 years in India is about 75 percent (2001), which in any case is a very poor performance, as this is the age group which can be considered as most active population in the economy. Karnataka has not performed differently in this area, and therefore has to attempt aggressively to bring 100 percent Literacy in this age group. Another area of concern is female literacy particularly adult female literacy. The adult female literacy in Karnataka according to 2001 Census was 57.8 percent. Four major states-Kerala (87.7%), Punjab (63.4%), Tamil Nadu (64.4%) and West Bengal (59.6%) had a better performance than Karnataka. Incidentally, out of the four states out perform in Karnataka, only Punjab has a higher per capita NSDP (Rs. 27,851 at 2002-03 prices). That little less than 50% adult female are illiterate in Karnataka is a matter of serious issue. Our Vision of 2020 in Karnataka is to attain a 100 percent adult literacy and there cannot be any statistical compromise. The female literacy is a crucial social infrastructure or an intermediate goal on our way to improve our educational, demographic and health related indicators. The enrolment in primary education and the completion rate of primary education is very unsatisfactory in India. The universal primary education thus remains a mirage. The overall situation can be best summarized as follows:

- Going by the government data, of the 200 million children in the 6-14 year age group in India, about 59 million are still out of school. Of the rest who are currently in school, four out of every ten children starting school will drop out before completing primary school.
- The enrolment in primary education in Karnataka increased substantially in the three Decades preceding 1991. However,

the progress during 1991 and 2001 has not been satisfactory.

- The net enrolment ratio for standard 1-5 was 93.13 percent and for standard 1-8 was 86.4 percent.
- Karnataka has already targeted to attain 100 percent enrolment ratio for standard 1-8 by 2010. This briefly boils down to enrolment of 30 lakhs schoolchildren by 2010. (Karnataka Education Department, Vision 2010).
- The hundred percent net enrolment ratio is not only to be attained but also to be retained. In Karnataka the dropout rate for primary education (standard 1-5) was as high as 45% in 1992-93, which came down to 35.4% in 1996-97 and to 21.30 percent in 2000-01.
- However, dropout rate for standard 1-8 remained as high as 47.1 percent in 2000-01. The dropout rate thus must decline by at least 4.7 basis points to attain hundred percent retention in elementary education by 2010. It is expected that Karnataka will be able to achieve the target by 2015 if not by 2010. The vision of 2020 is therefore one in which all children (male or female) will not only be enrolled in elementary education but also be retained in the system till completion of education up to eighth standard.

## HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS

The birth rate in India is expected to decline from 23.2 per thousand in 2001 to 18 per thousand by 2020. The relative figures for Karnataka are 21.5 and 15.1 are quite encouraging. Similarly for Karnataka death rate is also likely to decline from 6.7 to 6.4 per thousand during the same period of time, as against 7.5 to 7.1 in case of India.

**Table 4: birth rate and death rate**

Birth rate and Death rate		2001	2011	2020
INDIA	Birth rate	23.2	19.6	18.0
	Death rate	7.5	7.2	7.1
KARNATAKA	Birth rate	20.1	18.5	16.2
	Death rate	7.1	6.8	7.0

Source: Karnataka Vision 2020.

The ideal replacement rate in terms of TFR is identified as 2.1. This ideal TFR rate is expected to be achieved by Karnataka in the year 2011, whereas India as a whole would continue to witness an upsurge in population due to higher TFR rate (2.2 in 2020). So far Infant mortality rate is concerned; there would be a significant decline for both state and the country. However considering even a modest target of infant mortality rate of 20 per thousand, by the year 2020, the projected figures point out dire need to address this issue on urgent basis.

**Table 5: total fertility and infant mortality**

Total Fertility and Infant Mortality		2001	2011	2020
INDIA	TFR	23.2	19.6	18.0
	IMR	57	56	48
KARNATAKA	TFR	2.08	3.1	2.5
	IMR	48	46	42

Source: Karnataka Vision 2020.

Improved health care has added 'Years to life'. The longer life is expected to be sweetened by a marked improvement in the standard of living. The state's annual plan for 2006-07 has allocated 35.4% of resources towards social sectors, an attempt which needs to be applauded. As on today, Life expectancy in Karnataka stands significantly

higher, than that of India's. The tempo shall continue by 2020 and thereafter. This means that People of Karnataka (both male and Female) on an average shall be living for more than 70 years.

**Table 6: life expectancy at birth**

Life Expectancy at Birth		2001	2011	2020
INDIA	Male	63.8	67.3	68.8
	Female	66.1	69.6	71.1
KARNATAKA	Male	62.8	64.5	66.2
	Female	66.2	66.8	68.5

Source: Karnataka Vision 2020.

Karnataka unlike other industrially progressive states is known for its highly uncomfortable sex ratio.

**Table 6: sex ratio at birth**

Life Expectancy at birth	2001	2011	2020
India	933	932	930
Karnataka	965	971	975
Gujarat	920	904	889
Maharashtra	922	915	907
Tamil Nadu	987	992	997
Kerala	1058	1050	1041

Source: India Vision 2020.

It is also to be believed that The Bangalore and Chikamanlore districts still have highest sex ratios instate at 987 as compared to Bellary at 835 in 2001. Though the condition in Karnataka along with entire country is disturbing, the future does not look good in this regard. By 2020 states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala will be able to improve their sex ratio considerably; Karnataka will further make it worse at 889.

There is consensus among the experts to declare 'Saving the girl child is national emergency'.

### **TO REMOVE THE GENDER DISPARITIES IN WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT**

There are gender and wage gaps in employment as shown by the Worker Population Ratio. Average daily wage for casual workers of age 15-59 year in both urban and rural areas were low. While wages for men and women were Rs.55.26 and Rs.33.85 in rural areas, wage disparity increased in urban areas with an amount of Rs.84.25 for men and Rs.38.83 for women. According to the 61<sup>st</sup> round of NSSO survey 2004-05 the unemployment rate for both rural and urban Karnataka is the lowest amongst neighboring States. However, the unemployment rates for educated females of age above 15 years, at 13.2 % in rural areas and 17.7% in urban areas, is higher than neighbouring states(except Kerala). Corresponding figures for rural and urban males show low values of 3.9% and 3.4% respectively. This indicates significant challenges faced by educated women in securing employment in the State.

### **TO REMOVE EXISTENCE OF CHILD LABOUR**

Child labour remains a persistent problem, especially in rural areas, with the number of working children per 1000 children in the age group of 10-14 years in rural Karnataka (at WPR of 111 per 1000)being higher than the national average (at WPR of 71) or in its urban areas(with WPR of 20)

### **CONCLUSION**

The above study presents a realistic view of some basic human development issues in the perspective of 2020. Fight against poverty, universal elementary education along with hundred percent literacy and a longer,

healthier and prosperous human life are what we aim to achieve for our state of Karnataka in particular and India in general. These goals are not easy to attain once we start breaking down our objective into minute details. We also observe that the three objectives are not independent. For example, reducing the incidence of poverty is directly linked with literacy and education indicators, which, in turn, affects demographic and health indicators. The state wise study suggests that those states that have attained higher human development levels in terms of literacy and education have been able to show remarkable improvements in birth rate, death rate, infant and female mortality rates and sex ratio. This being the case there is no scope for complacency at any front so far as these three primary human development goals are concerned. A study of such nature cannot be confined to limited sets of variables as we have done here. This, notwithstanding, we have attempted to highlight some of the important aspects of our vision 2020, more importantly the nexus between these issues which we leave deliberately left for a renewed debate and further research

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