

Impact of economic development on quality of life and human happiness of urban socio economic classes: a study of suburban Mumbai

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Keywords

Economic development; Quality of Life; Human happiness; Consumption. Gross Domestic Product.

Abstract

This paper emphasizes that for a nation to revitalize in terms of development, not only does it need to evaluate in terms of GDP growth rate, but also has to take care of the Quality of Life of its citizen and their human happiness. There is strong correlation between macro-economic development parameters like Quality of Life Index (measured through Health, Education and Standard of living) and GDP growth rate (as per World Bank report). It also has correlation with subjective quality of life based on the perception of urban socio economic classes, as measured in this study. The subjective quality of life is studied through five parameters like Quality of house, education, health care, transportation and recreation facilities. Human happiness is evaluated through the perception of respondents towards change in their financial conditions and the respondent's perception towards change in the consumption expenditure influencing their quality of life.

This empirical research through spearman's rank correlation tried to establish the relationship between macro-economic indicators with the quality of life parameters as perceived by people.

The study was conducted in Mumbai, and its suburban areas .with a sample of 850 respondents taken through structured questionnaire, during 2012-13.

The paper begins with the purpose of study followed by the empirical outcome and its implications.

The managerial implication of the study highlights the association of quantitative economic development with larger aspect of human development, for the policy makers to understand the various areas which needs to be taken care to cater towards revitalizing the development of the nation.

Introduction

Economic development of a nation is a much discussed macro-economic aspect to understand the direction and magnitude of growth of the nation. But countries need to evaluate this with a broader approach, measuring through the human development of a nation as has been evaluated through health, education and basic standard of living enjoyed by the people.

In-order to revitalize, every nation needs to evaluate the quality of life of their human capital understanding their perception towards their quality of life and expectation of betterment to attain happiness in life. This would facilitate the public policy makers to understand the need to fulfill attainment of both quantitative and qualitative growth.

Quality of life and human happiness as perceived by the people of a nation aims towards social growth which largely has a strong correlation with the quantitative growth of the nation measured through the GDP of any country, which depicts the goods and services produced within the geographic boundary of a nation within a specified time period of say one year. 67% of GDP comprises of Consumption and that is influenced by people's standard of living. Many countries as such have taken effective measure to retain their economic performance. The study of Porter (1989) found that poor quality of human capital resulted in poor economic performance of Italy. On the contrary Singapore's remarkable economic development had been an outcome of human development, Aahad M. Osman-Cani et al. (1998). All these studies brought out the importance of human development.

The Human Development Report has been commissioned by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) since 1990 with an objective of encouraging government, different international organizations and policy makers. This index enables these bodies to understand the need of the human capital and facilitate to adopt such measures, which would address the different statistical indicators of human development and thus exhibits the relative socio-economic progress of the nation. The dimension of HDI reports have changed over the years, yet the three parameters of health, education and living standard had always remained the focus area. (Alkire, 2002, 2010)

The 1990 *Human Development Report* gave the clear and fundamental articulation of the concept of human development. It was the only report to date to focus on the concepts and measures of Human Development,

hence provides the richest introduction of any of the reports. The first Chapter of that report, entitled "*Defining and Measuring Human Development*", opens with these now-famous words: "People are the real wealth of a nation. The basic objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to live long, healthy and creative lives." Though this appears to be a simple truth, but it gets overlooked with the accumulation of commodities and financial wealth. It needs to be noted that "the expansion of output and wealth is only a means. The end of development must be human well-being." (HDI Report 1990)

Human development brings forth the usage and expansion of human capabilities, in the process of production and distribution of commodities. The focus goes on choices about what people should do, have and be, to determine their own livelihood. Human development is, not only concerned with fulfilment of basic needs and satisfaction obtained out of it but also, observe human development as a participatory and dynamic process. There is no difference in its application to less developed and highly developed countries. Sen-Fittoussi commission, and the OECD taxonomy on efforts to measure the progress of societies, echo this similar observation. (Sabina Alkire, 2010)

As the HDI has an association with the economic development of a nation similarly studies have shown that the perception of people towards anticipation in their change in financial condition over a period of time also influences their consumption and both these creates a state of happiness in the mind of the people.

This analysis extends the literature in the following ways: First, this paper uses the HDI of India for a period of 10 years and correlates with the quantitative development statistics given by GDP of the nation for the same period. Then the perception towards the quality of life enjoyed by the urban socio economic classes of Mumbai is studied through five parameters like i) the quality of house they live in, ii) the quality of education facility they get, iii) the quality of health care facility available to them, iv) the quality of transportation facility they can avail, v) the means of recreation facility that can be obtained by them. These population's perception towards their change in consumption and change in financial situation is also studied to understand their quality of life and happiness as perceived by them.

2 A Brief Review of Literature

The concept of Quality of Life (QOL) was developed by Carol Estwing Ferraus and Marjorie Powers in 1984 to measure quality of life in terms of satisfaction of life. Quality of life thus means both happiness and unhappiness of an individual over various life aspects of their day to day living. Both human development and quality of life criterion tries to identify all those external aspects which makes an individual happy from within.

Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi provided, fully multidimensional approaches to human well-being and progress, which share a great deal of similarity at the level of general categories of discussion (health, relationships), even though the particular local articulations are very distinct. For example, consider these five lists: the set of dimensions identified by the Sarkozy Commission on the Measurement of Economic Development and Social Progress led by Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi, the Gross National Happiness Index of Bhutan, the categories identified in Voices of the poor, the categories identified by Ranis, Samman and Stewart as being relevant to measures 'Beyond the HDI' and the categories all these have been found useful in participatory work as well as measurement, which were proposed by John Finnis.

The history of development research has many distinction between growth and development Sen (2000) gives one of its most articulate rationales: "It is as important to recognize the crucial role of wealth in determining living conditions and quality of life as it is to understand the qualified and contingent nature of this relationship. An adequate conception of development must go much beyond the accumulation of wealth and the growth of gross national product and other income related variables."

The concept of human development was established in the United Nation Development Programme's *Human Development Reports*. The specific purpose of this body was to establish a broader and complete picture of development which helps in the achievement of growth. It extended this through obtainment of healthy human capital- with good education, health and standard of living. These are the tools through which a person can live happily and add on to the country's progress.

Development, according to the UN, should have as its basic objective the creation of "an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy, and creative lives";

Programme 1990. "Human development" it was defined broadly as "a process of enlarging people's choices."

Though GDP is yet considered to be the measuring yard stick to know the development and quantitative growth of the nation, there are scholars who believe that health of a nation lies in the well-being of its human

mass. Dr Amartya Sen the noble laureate (1980) had expressed his view regarding human development through the “Capability Approach” as expressed in

David A Clark’s report, (Clark, 1980) , which explained that the well-being of an individual has focus upon the significance that an individual gives towards capability of achieving the kind of lives they have reason to value. This distinguishes it from more established approaches to ethical evaluation, such as utilitarianism or resources, which focus exclusively on subjective well-being or the availability of means to the good life, respectively. A person’s capability to live a good life is defined in terms of the set of valuable ‘beings and doings’ like being in good health or having loving relationships with others to which they have real access.

Human Development is about expanding the choices human beings have, to lead life that they value. Which are reflected through various capability sets and are expressed through their quality of living parameters. Different numerical value is given by different country which expresses the rank that the country occupies with respect to others. (Gaertner&Yonhsheng, 2008)

Gough et al (2006) defined this concept of Human Development through well-being and stated that as ‘What people are notionally able to do and to be, and what they have actually been able to do and to be’. According to (Eric, 2008), “ even the philosophical literature refers to the ‘simple notion’ of well-being (i.e. ‘a life going well’) in a variety of ways, including a person’s good, benefit, advantage, interest, prudential value, welfare, happiness, flourishing, eudemonia”

(Shin & Johnson, 1978) have defined well-being form of happiness as “a global assessment of a person’s quality of life according to his own chosen criteria” .

Subjective Well-Being (SWB) was defined by (Diener, 2009) as the general evaluation of one’s quality of life. The concept has been conceptualized as the three components: (1) a cognitive appraisal that one’s life was good (life satisfaction); (2) experiencing positive levels of pleasant emotions; (3) experiencing relatively low levels of negative moods.

Quality of life has also been defined “as the satisfaction of an individual’s values, goals and needs through the actualization of their abilities or lifestyle” (Emerson, 1985). This definition is consistent with the conceptualization that satisfaction and wellbeing stem from the degree of fit between an individual’s perception of their objective situation and their needs or aspirations. (Felce& Perry, 1995) In this research the author tried to correlate that.

The World Health Organization defines Quality of life as “an individual’s perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns. It is a broad ranging concept affected in a complex way by the person’s physical health, psychological state, personal beliefs, social relationships and their relationship to salient features of their environment” . (Oort F., 2005)

Quality of life is a broad concept that incorporates all aspects of life and has been used in a variety of disciplines such as: geography, philosophy, medical sciences, social sciences, health promotion, and advertising (Oort, Visser, &Sprangers, 2005) Rerrell, who has carried out a large research programme on pain and quality of life, defined quality of life as well-being covering four areas: quality of life in physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being. (Rerrell, 1995)

The new Socio Economic Class (SEC) was defined by MRSI in May 2011 for both, Urban and Rural area and were categorized under different SEC based on two variables.

i) The education of the Chief Wage Earner (CWE)

ii) The number of “Consumer Durables” owned or used by the family out of 11 items predefined, ranging from Electricity connection to owning of Agricultural land.

Thus 12 Grades have been identified from A1 to E3.

All the above mentioned items asked uniformly to every respondent as a standard list of items were used for both cities and villages. An item might appear irrelevant, or too ordinary to be asked but in order to maintain same parity of evaluating parameters all inputs were given equal weightage by this new classification.

The advantage of this new SEC was that it had more discrimination as compared with current systems and comprised of a single system for urban and rural India. The new classification became less subjective- as occupation of the CWE was no longer used. Thus it became simple -easy to answer, not very time consuming, hence easy to classify.

The challenge for this classification is that it needs to be better prepared to handle minor changes to the system, because “consumer durables” penetration will change faster than education or occupation. This will give a wider scope to the marketers in expanding their market share in various product category.

Economic Development

Economic development aims toward a policy intervention endeavor for a nation which intends economic and social wellbeing of its people. Economic development is a sustained and concerted action of policy makers striving towards promotion of better living standard and economic health of the nation. The scope of it thus extends towards political economic and social well-being of its population. A. Sheffrin and S. M. Sheffrin (2003)

The European and Asian proponents have argued this to be, government contribution towards transportation, housing, education and health care. Thus the concern of Economic development was towards “expansion of people’s entitlements and their corresponding capabilities, morbidity, nourishment, literacy, education and other socio-economic indicators.” Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith (2011)

Since long the economic development was evaluated with the rising per capita GDP or GNP, which was considered to be the best index to measure the nation’s economic well-being. It was believed that the other basic needs like education and health care would be taken care as a by-product of GDP or GNP growth. But different studies of (Morris 1979, Ram 1982, Burket 1985) have changed this approach. Their studies stated that economic growth in national accounting terms cannot cover the broader picture of quality of human life. Better economic growth creates an environment in which people develop their full potential, to lead a creative and productive lives as per their needs and choice. With this human development enlarge’s choice of people, which enables them to expand the accessibility of opportunities to have a long and healthy life, avail a decent standard of living and lead a life which they value. Their perception towards betterment of financial status increases their consumerism and they feel happy to attain better and higher standard of living.

The QOL index as been developed by Carol Estwing Ferrans and Marjorie Powers in 1984 was also on the basis of satisfaction and importance of the various aspects of life. Which emphasized on five broad parameters, as the over-all satisfaction towards life as perceived by an individual, health and functioning domain, psychological/ spiritual domain, economic/social domain and that with family. So it can be said that every researcher feels that the satisfaction aspect of an individual towards their life acts as the yard stick to measure their perception towards QOL and not the economic worth alone.

HDI is thus a summary which measures and assessing the long-term progress in three basic dimensions of human development:

- A long and healthy life,
- Access to knowledge and
- A decent standard of living.

In this research I have tried to find an association of GDP and HDI, to observe type of correlation that exists between economic development measured through GDP (which indicated the material well-being) and HDI which takes human well-being. Apart from that the research included five components of life, like house them live-in, education facility they can avail, health care facility that can be availed by the sample population, transportation facility available to them and the access to means of recreation available to them. The expense budget of an average consumer are made towards house, health care, education, transportation and recreation once their basic needs are fulfilled, as they obtain better satisfaction with these consumption expenditure as been studied by (Deaton and Muellbauer 1980; Pollak and Wales 1978) (Phaneuf, Kling, and Herriges 2000), (Kockelman 2001). Blanciforti, Green and King (1982) Mann (1980). These increased consumption signifies movement towards higher needs and attainment of better standard of living, which happens to be the third parameter of HDI identification, influencing Quality of living of an individual. Similar correlation has been found in this study also.

3. Research Methodology-

In this study the researcher has focused on an exploratory research, based on convenience sampling technique. The objectives were framed based on reviewed literature of past researches across globe and the published data set provided by various bodies like NCAER, ICRIER, CII, KPMG, CRISIL, Mckinsey, Ernst & Young, and the data published on economic development and Human development Index, by Government of India, between 2000 and 2010. Thus hypothesis were formulated to have new interpretation of existing facts.

- (i) Mode of transportation for regular shopping.
- (ii) Has the financial condition of household changed within a year?
- (iii) Expectation of change of financial status of household within a year.
- (iv) Perception of QOL from perspective of housing, education, health care facility, transportation facility, access to recreation.
- (v) Perception of correlation of individual living condition with economic development.

(vi) Perception of association of economic growth with social welfare.

Hypothesis Framing

Relationship of Economic Development with Quality of Life i.e Human Happiness

- H0 : There is no relationship between economic development and quality of life

- Ha1 : There is positive correlation between economic development and quality of life.

- H0 : There is no relationship between economic development and human happiness

- Ha2 : There is positive relationship between economic development and human happiness.

4. Analysis and Findings

H0 : There is no relationship between economic development and quality of life

Ha1 : There is positive correlation between economic development and quality of life.

In order to prove the relationship between Economic development and Quality of life, First the secondary data obtained from GDP indicator for analyzing economic development is taken and its correlation is tested with HDI data which indicates QOL through three approaches, Health, Education and Standard of living.

Majority of the correlations are found significant (Except for GDP world bank and GDP Per Capita Current). Majority correlations are also showing strong positive correlations between variables. Hence it can be concluded that there is positive correlation between Economic Development and QOL.

		HDI_INDIA
MPCE	Pearson Correlation	.903(**)
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.007
	N	6
Food	Pearson Correlation	.779(*)
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.034
	N	6
Nonfood	Pearson Correlation	.962(**)
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.001
	N	6
GDP_GF	Pearson Correlation	-.671
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.072
	N	6
GDP_RBI	Pearson Correlation	.425
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.171
	N	7
GDP_WBank	Pearson Correlation	.172
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.356
	N	7
GDP_PC_Current	Pearson Correlation	.907(**)
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.002
	N	7
GDP_PC_2000	Pearson Correlation	.951(**)
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.000
	N	7
GDP_PC_PPP	Pearson Correlation	.955(**)
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.000
	N	7

Table 1: Correlation of GDP and HDI

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (1-tailed).

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed).

Thus it's proved that there is positive and strong association with economic development expressed through quantitative approach of GDP and the quality of life as estimated through HDI. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis accepted.

To identify if economic development has positive association with human happiness. -17, 18, 22, 24,

In order to study the relationship between Economic growth and Social welfare, the variables which measures the Economic growth are identified as Q17 (How is the financial situation of your household now, compared to what it was 12 months ago?) Q18 (How do you think the financial position of your household will change over the next 12 months?) Q 22 Upto what extent is the increase in your consumption directly proportional to the increase in your earnings? Q 24 ((Do you agree that quality of life with reference to living conditions has improved with the improvement in Indian Economy?) The Social Welfare is measured from Quality of life which is measured from five variables- with individual respondents perception towards their

own quality of life as the feel from the house they live in, education facility, health care facility available, transportation facility prevailing and the means to recreation available.

H₀₂ : There is no relationship between economic development and human happiness

H_{a2} : There is positive correlation between economic development and human happiness.

The correlation between Q 17 (How is the financial situation of your household now, compared to what it was 12 months ago?) and Q 18 (How do you think the financial position of your household will change over the next 12 months?) and (Quality of life shows positive correlation correlation. Hence as the financial situation of the household increases their quality of life also increases.

The Q 22 and Quality of life have negative correlations. It indicates that whenever the consumption pattern increases in direct proportions their quality of life also increases.

The Q 24 and Quality of life have positive correlations. It indicates that whenever the agreement on quality of life with reference to living conditions has improved with the improvement in Indian Economy increases from strongly agree to strongly disagree, the QOL increases from poor to good

			Quality of house you live in	Quality of Educational facility	Quality of available health care facility	Quality Of access to transportation facility	Quality of access to recreation
Spearman's rho	Q17	Correlation Coefficient	.079*	.031	.024	.066	.072*
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.022	.370	.476	.056	.035
	Q18	Correlation Coefficient	.069*	.051	.011	.000	.034
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.046	.139	.741	.988	.316
	Q 22	Correlation Coefficient	-.024	-.008	-.015	.030	-.060
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.490	.818	.669	.379	.082
	Q24	Correlation Coefficient	.138**	.133**	.154**	.142**	.236**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000

Table 2: Correlation of Economic Development and Quality Of Life

5. Discussion and Summery

"Economic development enormously helps in advancing living standards and in battling poverty. But there is little cause for taking the growth of GNP to be an end in itself, rather than seeing it as an important means for achieving things we value. While economic development is important for enhancing living conditions, its reach and impact depend greatly on what is done with the increased income. The relation between economic development and the advancement of living standards depends on many factors, including economic and social inequality and, no less importantly, on what the government does with the public revenue that is generated through economic development." Amartya Sen (1985) in this study as the research tried to evaluate the increased economic development which has positive correlation with the quality of life perceived and enjoyed by people. In this study five aspects of living was taken to understand perception of respondents towards availability and quality enjoyed by them. When the perception of the respondents was analyzed, observation showed that 54.9% of the sample respondents believed that their financial position had improved with a span of 12 months and 64.1% expressed that they expected yet more improvement in the next 12 months span. 74.6% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that their QOL had changed in 12 months spanning terms of their living standard as measured through their quality of house they lived in, 73.2% of population expressed it to be good and 26.1% sample felt it was moderate. 79.9% of respondents expressed that they had good education facility, 21.9% found it to be moderate. 71.6% of the respondents found their health care facility to be good, while 25.4 found it to be of moderate level. 61.4% of the population expressed transportation facility to be good, while 32.5% observed this facility of moderate standard. 40.4% of the respondents expressed access to recreation facility to be good, while 47.8% observed it to be of moderate quality. Consumerism is an outcome of increased income and observed in nations having healthy development. Almost 84% of the population sample also indicated that they consider consumption to be important to improve quality of life. It has been observed that consumption was more compared to increase in income, so

they were more disproportional in correlation to increase in income. 60.8% of the sample population expressed that their quality of life with reference to living standard has improved with the improvement in Indian Economy.

6. Further scope of Research

Based on the findings of the study, future research may replicate the same model using different data set of other metro and tier two cities to observe if any change occurs with the change of SEC (Socio Economic Class). It will be interesting to test the same model using data on other states.

Future research may also consider using different indicators like environment, observe impact due to access of Information technology, wealth, technological diffusion, and environmental quality in addition to other indicators to capture the human development construct.

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