

Economic Survey-2021: Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development

January 30, 2021

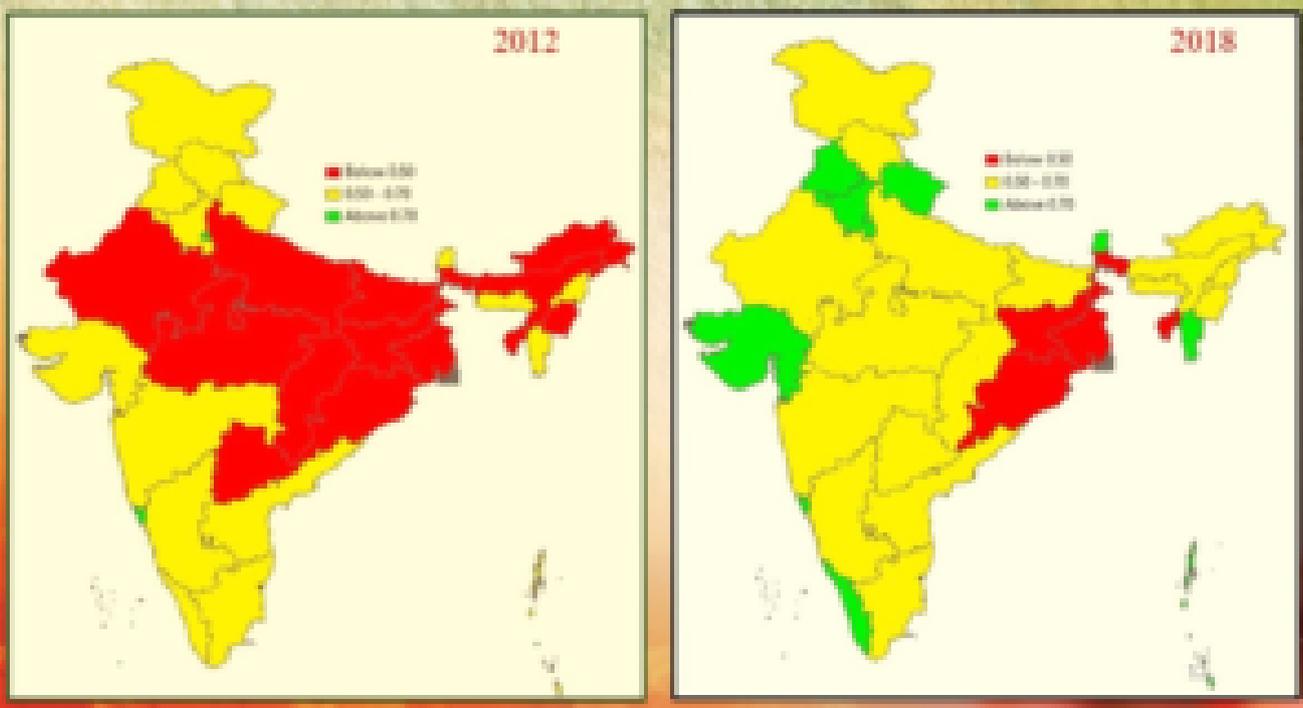
- The combined (Centre and States) **social sector expenditure** as % of GDP has increased in 2020-21 compared to last year.
- India's rank in HDI 2019 was recorded at 131, out of a total 189 countries:
 - India's **GNI per capita** (2017 PPP \$) has increased from US\$ 6,427 in 2018 to US\$ 6,681 in 2019
 - **Life expectancy at birth** improved from 69.4 years in 2018 to 69.7 years in 2019
- The access to data network, electronic devices such as computer, laptop, smartphone etc. gained importance due to **online learning** and **remote working** during the pandemic
- Major proportion of workforce engaged as regular wage/salaried in the urban sector during the period of January 2019-March 2020 (quarterly survey of PLFS)
- Government's incentive to boost employment through **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana** and rationalization and simplification of existing labour codes into 4 codes
- Low level of female LFPR in India:
 - Females spending disproportionately more time on unpaid domestic and caregiving services to household members as compared to their male counterparts (Time Use Survey, 2019)
 - Need to promote non-discriminatory practices at the workplace like pay and career progression, improve work incentives, including other medical and social security benefits for female workers
- Under **PMGKP** announced in March, 2020, **cash transfers of**

upto Rs.1000 to existing old aged, widowed and disabled beneficiaries under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

- An amount of Rs. 500 each was transferred for three months digitally into bank accounts of the women beneficiaries under **PM Jan Dhan Yojana**, totalling about **Rs. 20.64 crores**
- **Free distribution of gas cylinders** to about **8 crore** families for three months
- Limit of collateral free lending increased from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs for **63 lakh women SHGs** which would support 6.85 crore households
- **Wages under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA** increased by Rs.20 from Rs.182 to Rs.202 w.e.f. 1st April, 2020

Improved and Equitable access to 'the bare necessities' across States

ALL INDIA



- **Access to the 'bare necessities' has improved across all States in the country in 2018 as compared to 2012**

- It is highest in States such as Kerala, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat while lowest in Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tripura
- **Improvement in each of the five dimensions** viz., access to water, housing, sanitation, micro-environment and other facilities
- Inter-State disparities declined across rural and urban areas as the laggard states have gained relatively more between 2012 and 2018
- Improved disproportionately more for the poorest households when compared to the richest households across rural and urban areas
- Improved access to the 'bare necessities' has led to **improvements in health indicators** such as infant mortality and under-5 mortality rate and also **correlates with future improvements in education indicators**



Bare Necessities



Access to water, housing, sanitation, micro-environment and other facilities improved in 2018 compared to 2012



Improvement in access seen across all States in the country



Interstate disparities in access to "the bare necessities" declined



Access improved disproportionately more for poorest households compared to richest households across rural and urban areas



Improved access to "the bare necessities" led to improvements in health indicators



Improved access correlates with future improvements in education indicators

- Thrust should be given to reduce variation in the access to bare necessities across states, between rural and urban and between income groups
- The schemes such as **Jal Jeevan Mission, SBM-G, PMAY-G**, etc. may design appropriate strategy to reduce these

gaps

- A Bare Necessities Index (BNI) based on the large annual household survey data can be constructed using suitable indicators and methodology at district level for all/targeted districts to assess the progress on access to bare necessities.