Chapter-6

Summary and Conclusion
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In this concluding part, the major findings of the study have been summarized and suggestions made accordingly to improve the status of human development of the under privileged section of society.

While drawing lessons from Uttar Pradesh development experience, we may say that the development process had been hindered due to social failures on various fronts. It is a well-known fact that though it has not been examined in the present study that delivery failures on the part of the government as well as corruption is responsible for the sorry state of affairs present in Uttar Pradesh.

Persistence of widespread illiteracy in the younger age groups particularly among females is an issue of great importance on its own, both as an aspect of human deprivation and as a cause of other kinds of deprivation.

After six decades of independence, our economy has experienced expansion of unprecedented dimensions. Despite all its successes, deficiencies are present in various sectors of the economy. The rapid growth that was witnessed a few years back has failed to be ‘inclusive’, to take along with it different sections of people. Growth in terms of goods has occurred many-fold but poverty, inequality and inequity, unemployment etc. have also increased simultaneously. Therefore the philosophers on the subject have pondered over this paradoxical puzzle. They have redefined the concept of development under which whole paradigm has shifted from goods to the good of people. It emphasizes on enhancement of entitlements and capabilities to avail of health facilities, education, shelter and access to resources. If these choices are not available, then many other opportunities remain inaccessible. Development means eradication of poverty, education for all, and health care, provision of clothing, shelter and above all freedom. Amartya Sen is of the view that the ultimate aim of development is the development of human capabilities which endow individuals with freedom to live as they like and to be as they desire.
According to the UNDP (2010) Human Development Report, India which has an HDI of 0.512, is placed at 119th position among 192 countries, and is categorized among the countries having a medium human development index. The report recognizes that India is among the top 10 movers in gross domestic product growth. However, there are concerns that despite high growth rates, many people are being left out of India’s growth story and inequality is on the rise. There are wide disparities across the states. At one end of the spectrum, Kerala shines among the developed nations of the world. And at the other end, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and other BIMARU states are very backward and grouped with Ethiopia and Kenya. It proves that growth is not channelized to human development. ‘Trickle-down’ theory has failed to operate in the Indian perspective. Hence, to improve the status of human development at all India level, we have to focus on low rank states. Uttar Pradesh is among one of the poor performing states on this front. It is one of the most populous states in India and its rank in terms of population is fifth at global level after China, India, U.S.A and Indonesia.

Our study revealed that around 90 percent families of all the different wards in the city were of nuclear type and around 10 percent were joint families. It is as per Lewis’ view, a good sign of urbanization and economic development. But our experience during the course of survey was that underprivileged households who are prone to health hazards and other deprivations can face it more successfully in a joint family than in a nuclear one.

Our survey showed that, 16.2 percent of the selected population had no ration card and only 10 percent of the households had BPL card (“Less than 1 percent of the households in Aligarh had a BPL card and 20.4 percent of the population had no ration card”, MLE Baseline Survey Report 2011) which shows

1) That these people were not covered by the various forms of assistance provided to the poor by the government.
2) Apathy of government machinery in reaching out to the poor.
3) lack of awareness of the poor, and more importantly
4) Their lack of faith in government policies and programs for the poor.

The age-composition of the members showed that the highest number of persons were of adult age (21-60 years) at around 40 percent, 18.2 percent in the age group of 15-20 years, a total of 60 percent thus belonged to the working age group. However, not all of this population is educated and well-trained or in good health. India is really in the category of ‘demographic dividend’ country where working age population is more than dependent population. The survey also confirms the fact for underprivileged section. There is need to provide education and training and to create job opportunities for them. This would ensure the realization of human resources by transforming them into human capital. Our field investigation however confirms poor functioning of government schools.

*According to census 2011, “the sex ratio of Aligarh is lower than the state average. The sex ratio of Aligarh is 876 while that of Uttar Pradesh is 908”.*

The sex-composition showed that sex-ratio was skewed against women and this gap was of 8.9 percent, which probably is due to malpractices like female infanticide and feticide. Females are less cared for which causes higher morbidity and mortality among them. This malady must be addressed by empowering women in all aspects of life. So long as millions of women are not respected and get their due rights, India can never be a strong nation.

Out of the married people, more than 50 percent females in the city got married before their legal age of marriage (i.e. 18 years). *According to Aligarh, MLE Baseline Survey Report 2011, “31.5 percent of the females got married before 18 years and another 44 percent got married between 18-21 years”*. This is significant and points to low age of marriage among the poor section of the society. The next highest marriageable age-group for females is 18-21 years.
Their percentage figure was 35.7 percent in our study. Marriage in early age is harmful for the women’s health as their body and mind are not mature enough to discharge the responsibilities of family life. Popularising higher education for girls is one of the many measures that can be taken to address this problem. Law must be also enforced strictly. The story is almost the same for males also as more than 50 percent males got married before 21 years of age.

According to Poverty and Social Monitoring Survey (PSMS-IV): 2009-10, “only 19.8 percent of the adults (above 18 years) in Aligarh had studied only up to primary level, where as 24 percent and 15.6 percent had studied up to middle and secondary level respectively”.

The study found that around 69 percent (above 7 years) of the total population is illiterate. While 17 percent of the total population had received education up to primary level, which is a disappointing figure considering the goal of universalisation of elementary education, only 5.3 percent of the population had completed the upper primary level of education, and around 5 percent of the population had completed the secondary and senior secondary level. There are various social and economic constraints in reducing adult literacy. A strong basic education system is pre-condition to enhancing the efficiency of the Indian economy.

According to Poverty and Social Monitoring Survey (PSMS-IV): 2009-10, “in Aligarh among children who have never enrolled in school, 44 percent of them ‘cannot afford’ the education expenditure and another 30 percent consider ‘education not useful’”.

The study revealed some shocking results regarding the number of children enrolled at various levels of school education. Of the total households surveyed, 57 percent families did not have any child enrolled at any stage of school education.
The sex-ratio of school going children is skewed against the female child. The gap between male and female school going children was 14.6 percent. It showed that the female child got lesser chance to acquire education as compared to the male child. This behavior reflects the characteristic feature of backward communities and low levels of living.

According to Poverty and Social Monitoring Survey (PSMS-IV): 2009-10, “enrolment in private schools in Aligarh increased from 38 to 77 percent in the age group of 6-10 years and from 45 to 72 percent in the age group of 11-13 years”.

The survey result showed that the condition of government schools was deplorable and these schools did not attract students of even underprivileged sections of society. Majority of the school going children (around 60 percent) were getting education in private schools and remaining 40 percent children were attending government schools. It itself reflects the poor condition of public schools in terms of their physical and human infrastructure. Parents are forced to send their wards to private schools which are better equipped with amenities. It has been seen that public school teachers are comparatively more qualified than teachers of private schools but were not sincere enough, absenteeism being common. There is need to monitor and inspect them at regular intervals to improve their performance. Owing to linkage of various welfare schemes (mid-day meal, education, health, nutrition etc.) with public schools, it is imperative to improve the condition of these schools to make the scheme more effective. Deficiencies that need to be tackled include wide-spread teacher vacancies, teacher absenteeism, high drop-out rates, poor infrastructure, inadequate teaching and learning materials, etc.

According to Poverty and Social Monitoring Survey (PSMS-IV): 2009-10, “Aligarh district has a pupil teacher ratio of 63.13”.
Pupil-teacher ratio is one of the most important aspects of teaching learning efficiency in the education system. Our study also revealed that quite often in government schools, two different classes had been taken by the same teacher in the same classroom at the same time.

Percentage of school dropouts shows that male dropout is almost double that of female dropout primarily to take up odd jobs to support their families. Besides this they have to look after their siblings and perform various household chores. Moreover, the environment of schools is not conducive to attract and retain them. They do not perceive linkage between education and earning capacities. Owing to these only 15 percent children reached up to 12th standard after which they dropped out. Highest figure of dropout children was at middle level at around 45 percent followed by the primary level at 39 percent. For 67.8 percent of students at all levels, the main cause of this high dropout was ‘fee’ which they could not afford to pay.

Another aspect covered by the study related to various dimensions of health. The study revealed that around 36 percent of the families did not follow two-child norm emphasized in national population policy. The sex-ratio of the children up to 10 years was skewed against girl child. Percentage figure for girl-child was recorded less than 9.2 to the boy-child. The study gives significant results regarding the age of the mother at the time of first delivery, as 19 percent of the women had become first time mother even before reaching their teen age of 17 years. Another serious problem is the circumstances in which the delivery took place. As 68 percent delivery took place at home in the absence of a registered and qualified doctor, obviously in unhygienic conditions at the supervision of local dai, also there is absence of post natal care for the newborn and the mother. According to Aligarh, MLE Baseline Survey Report 2011, “64.2 percent of the women who had delivered the baby perceived that it was not necessary to give birth at health facilities”. Around 13 percent of the deliveries took place at government hospital and only 6.2 percent deliveries took place at private hospital.
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The gap between births is very crucial factor for mother’s health as well as for child care and nourishment. However, our finding shows that around 23.4 percent of the total births took place with a gap of only one year as against policy of a 3 year gap between two deliveries.

The third aspect of our study is related to earnings and workforce in the family. Earning capacity of most families fell into the category of ₹ 2000-3000 per month under the study. Around 16.3 percent families were earning above ₹ 4000 per month, even this income is too low to meet the day to day requirements of families for food and medicines. Results show that around 92 percent males were bread winners for families in the study. However, there were only 8 percent working women. According to Aligarh, MLE Baseline Survey Report 2011, “14 percent of the females are working whereas 98 percent of the males are working”.

It is apparent that over half of the households (56 percent) families had per head monthly income of less than ₹ 600. This works out to ₹ 15-20 per head daily income earned by 56 percent of the households under the study. So, it can be concluded that majority of the households surveyed fall into BPL category, but officially they are not poor. However 25 percent families are earning in between ₹ 600 to ₹ 900. Another 19 percent families had a per head family income of more than ₹ 900. It was found that 66.8 percent households’ earning source was casual in nature.

Families had to spend a substantial amount of their low income on basic necessities like, house rent, fare, education and health facilities. So, real purchasing power is not higher and living standard is not better.

Data of workforce in the families show that majority of the bread earners were male and share of women in the workforce was limited to only 12 percent. Around 3 percent of households were fully dependent on children’s earning and another 1.5 percent families were supported by them. This was the figure
derived on the basis of very small sample of 400 families. It indicates prevalence of high child labour in this section of Indian society.

Housing is another important parameter of human development and thus was included in the study. The study revealed that 43 percent of the total households are huts or kuchcha houses made by bamboo and soil. According to MLE Baseline Survey Report 2011, “14.5 percent of the total household surveyed in Aligarh are Kachcha and Semi Pucca type”.

The next aspect in our study is related to housing conditions. Basic facilities in homes like water supply, electricity and toilet availability presented a very grim picture, as 45 percent households had no electricity connection. There were around one-third (29.8 percent) households getting 10-15 hours per day electricity supply. Electricity is the need of the day; it is not a luxury of city life. There are so many petty professions whose operation is dependent on the regular supply of electricity which will contribute to enhance the level of income of this marginal section. So, its supply must be ensured on a regular basis.

Also, 63 percent of households in the study used wood/dung choolah in their one-room set up, as there is no separate kitchen. However, “43.3 percent households had no separate kitchen”, Aligarh, MLE Baseline Survey Report 2011. Of the total sample, 38 percent households were dependent on the hand pump outside their house and another 22.2 percent were using the tapped water supplied by municipality. Barely 7.2 percent had access to regular water supply from a separate tap. According to Aligarh, MLE Base line survey Report 2011, “20.7 percent of the households use public hand pump 7.4 percent had piped water in their premises”. Though the quality of water is not discussed here, on that parameter they may stand very poor. It is a widely known fact that more than one-third diseases are caused by polluted water especially among infants and children which account for higher morbidity and mortality. It is also evident from the survey that in availing better drainage facilities the
performance is shocking, only 1 percent of the population had better drainage facilities.

The study found that, around one-third households had no toilet facility at all and people are forced to defecate in open. This is highly undesirable both for people residing in the surroundings as well as for the environment.

Garbage disposal situation is very poor in all the different localities under the study. Around 60 percent households disposed of garbage in the open that could be found scattered or in the form of heaps in the surroundings. This poor management was responsible for all forms of pollution namely land pollution, water pollution, air pollution, etc.

The next aspect in our study is related to women and decision making. The status of women of the households, the pivot of society was also discussed in various ways. It is widely criticized that the GDI prepared on the basis of literacy levels, longevity and employment participation of women does not provide a complete reflection of the social status of women. This is because there are several other factors such as the participation of women in social life and ownership of assets that have also to be taken into consideration to assess the social status of women.

Around 78 percent women were limited to taking decisions only in kitchen and cooking matters. Financial matters and matters related to education and health of their children and of their own were mainly decided by male members of the family. Women’s involvement in decision making in financial matters was limited to an average of 5 percent of households under the study. Regarding educational and health related matters only 1.5 percent of the women had decision making authority, while in matters relating to reproduction and family planning 6 percent of the women has their say, 62 percent women are limited to have right only on daily expenses. Control over jewellery was held by only 2
percent of the women. However, bank account and permanent assets held by only a meager of 1.5 percent women.

The survey shows that around 52 percent of the families were incurring 80-90 percent of their income on food items with some families spending more than 90 percent. On education 4 percent households spent 10-20 percent of their income which was very low. In fact, some families were incurring more expenditure on tobacco than on education and medicine. Share on food was too high but on expected line as per their low level of income and in view of inflationary scenario prevalent in the economy.

Savings depend both on the ‘will to save’ and the ‘ability to save’. As the income of this section is very low it is expected that they cannot save a sizeable amount. Of the households surveyed it was found that 97 percent households do not save anything from their meagre incomes. Though, their ‘ability to save’ is too low yet they can save more than what they are doing, but they lack the ‘will to save’. It is observed that very few people have the habit of saving. If they get any windfall gain they will expend it extravagantly on making merry.

The objectives of the study outlined in the beginning have by and large been achieved in the present study, one of the objective was to study the condition of Uttar Pradesh with respects to different indicators of education, health and other social aspects of development vis-à-vis other states.

Our study based on relevant secondary data on the performance of Uttar Pradesh shows that it is lagging behind all the major states in terms of important social indicators. Though improvements have been made during the last two decades it still has to go a long way to be at par with states like Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Gujarat and Haryana in terms of PCNSDP, literacy rate life expectancy, infant mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, under five mortality rate. The only area where Uttar
Pradesh has managed to perform better is in terms of educational indicators. It had managed to increase its enrolment ratios and bring down its drop-out rate at school level during the last couple of years.

Another objective was to undertake a study of the underprivileged section of society from Aligarh city with reference to certain parameters of development. The findings of the study prove that majority of the families face multiple deprivation. Conditions of the housing and sanitation are deplorable, most of the children in the younger age group are illiterate. Majority of the families don’t have any fixed source of income and there earnings are too low to have a decent standard of living.

**Recommendations**

1) There is a need to focus on key areas such as education, health care and power sector to improve the income, employment and living conditions of the urban poor.

2) Taking into consideration all the problems in the education system, along with provision of physical and human infrastructure, we have to take more effective steps from modification of curriculum to change in methodology of teaching. While inculcating aesthetic values in the students, the entire education system must be directly linked to livelihood also. Education system must be based on the philosophy of pragmatism rather than solely on idealism especially for this section. Focus should be on job oriented education so that greater job availability is ensured. They should also be suitably trained to fit in emerging sectors of the economy. This will create confidence among parents as well as in students. In this way we can expect more enrolment and retention at all levels. There must also be proper and adequate system of funding at the time of need.
3) It is suggested that children should be awarded scholarship and parents provided with sums of money that would compensate for the loss of earnings of their children. So, their parents can willingly send them to schools where they can learn various types of skills and knowledge which can enable them to earn later in life. Every parent and child wants to lead a life of dignity and prosperity. We should help them to realize their goals and make them able to contribute with their full potential to the nation.

4) The findings of the study show that the underprivileged section of the people is lagging behind in terms of economic and social development with other sections of the society. So there is a need for specific group target oriented development approach.

5) Sector specific policy intervention may be more effective in urban areas, for e.g. as a large proportion of the work force is linked directly or indirectly with the lock industry of Aligarh.

6) Access to safe drinking water, sanitation and clean cooking fuels is vital not only for improving the quality of life but also for achieving higher level of human development and gender development. Sincere efforts are required towards making these facilities accessible and affordable to the poor people. Urban planning related to civic amenities, shelter, education and health, specially for slum dwellers, must be given top priority.

7) The study found that there is absence of participation of people in various local level institutions. There is need to strengthen the local institutions such as cooperatives, self-help groups, youth and women organizations. Poor households should be organized so that they may have their collective voice and have their stakes in the functioning of
local government. Social capital which is largely lying latent needs to be mobilized in this context.

8) They should be encouraged to save and facilities like banks and financial institutions should also be provided at their doorsteps.

**Future Direction for Research**

During the process of investigation many areas especially housing conditions, sanitation, health conditions have emerged of such gravity that they need to be extensively explored. It is difficult for an individual researcher having financial and human constraint to conduct in-depth study. With more resources, financial and others, the problem can be studied in greater depth to make it more meaningful on a large sample.