

Highlights of Rajasthan HDR (2002)

Achievements

- Overall poverty rates in the State have been consistently lower than the national average since 1972/73. Further the rate of decline has been faster than that for the country as a whole. Thus, the State is well-placed to meet the global norm of reducing income poverty by 50 per cent by 2015.
- Women play a major role in the State's economy. In 1981-91 the number of female workers increased by 79 per cent, three times that of men in the same category.
- Overall unemployment figures for Rajasthan are low. In 1993-94 chronic unemployment was estimated to be 0.4 per cent in rural areas and 1.8 per cent in urban areas, much lower than that for the country as a whole (1.8 in rural areas and 5.2 in urban areas).
- Largest livestock population in India accounting for 40 per cent of wool and 10 per cent of milk produced in the country.
- The quality of cattle stock has improved in the 1990s, with an increase of 82 per cent in cross-bred cows between 1992-97.
- Forest cover has increased since 1989 (being 518 sq. kms. in 1997-99) thanks to people's participation.
- Highest growth in literacy rate in India recorded between 1991-2001 moving from 38.6 per cent to 61.03 per cent. In particular, male literacy rose from 54.99 per cent to 76.46 per cent and female literacy increased from 20.44 per cent to 44.34 per cent.

Challenges

- Agriculture the largest employer of the workforce faced sluggish growth rates, while the service sector accounted for a small percentage of overall employment.
- High population growth rate that outpaces employment generation.
- Deceleration of growth rates in 1990s combined with susceptibility to drought.
- In 1995-96 only 32.3 per cent of the cultivated area was under irrigation and nearly 70 per cent of cropped areas was heavily dependent on rainfall.
- Low levels of technology and poor credit and marketing facilities.
- High unit cost of basic services as more than 60 per cent of the total area is desert with sparse population distribution.
- Lack of potable water for human and livestock consumption.
- Literacy levels, especially for girls, among the lowest in the country.
- Health indicators are among the poorest in the country. The total fertility rate was as high as 3.73 in 1998-99, recording a decline of only 4.8 per centage points between 1989-91 and 1994-96, whereas nationally it declined by 7.6 per centage points.
- Expectation of life in the State is among the lowest (in 1991-95 it was 59.1 years; 58.3 for men and 59.4 for women) in the country (at all-India in 1991-95 it was 60.3 years; 59.7 for men and 60.9 for women) despite the improvements recorded since 1961.
- Rajasthan continues to have a lower sex ratio than that of India, although the gap between the two has reduced over the years.
- Till 1997, 1835 cases of HIV positive have been found in the state.

Key recommendations

- Action strategies required for further drought –proofing and risk reduction in the agricultural economy, such as investments in rainwater harvesting, water conservation, and horticulture, creation of a farmers participatory extension services, increase in institutional credit etc.
- Secondary and tertiary sectors need special attention to reduce strain on agriculture.
- An employment strategy should place gender at the forefront and women's work should be better reflected in the national and state accounting schemes.

- Improving the skill levels of the working population and direct investment towards the upgradation of human capital and social infrastructure.
- Decentralization and greater people's participation are a must for the success of education interventions. Education system should be relevant to the livelihood needs of the people.
- Greater involvement of Panchayats as also community involvement in the management of the public health.
- Control of communicable diseases, immunization of mother and child along with better antenatal care, nutrition and post delivery care are crucial areas of intervention.
- Increased focus of investments in primary rural health care, levying of user charges for urban health services and a system of health insurance for the poor.
- Greater rationality in resource allocations based upon disaggregated outcome data at the district level and below with greater priority to mainstreaming of gender in the health databases.

Human Development Index for Rajasthan

District	Human Development Index (HDI)		Gender-Related Development Index (GDI)	
	(Value)	(Rank)	(Value)	(Rank)
Ganganagar	0.656	1	0.596	1
Hanumangarh	0.644	2	0.590	2
Kota	0.613	3	0.570	3
Jaipur	0.607	4	0.547	4
Alwar	0.592	5	0.546	5
Bikaner	0.592	6	0.525	9
Jhunjhunu	0.589	7	0.529	7
Karauli	0.584	8	0.503	11
Sawai Madhopur	0.583	9	0.503	11
Ajmer	0.581	10	0.532	6
Baran	0.578	11	0.525	8
Dausa	0.574	12	0.487	15
Jodhpur	0.567	13	0.500	13
Sikar	0.561	14	0.478	19
Bharatpur	0.561	15	0.484	17
Bundi	0.547	16	0.504	10
Nagaur	0.544	17	0.483	18
Churu	0.537	18	0.476	20
Pali	0.531	19	0.471	22

Tonk	0.531	20	0.475	21
Chittorgarh	0.527	21	0.497	14
Rajsamand	0.526	22	0.486	16
Sirohi	0.520	23	0.460	26
Jaisalmer	0.517	24	0.430	29
Bhilwara	0.517	25	0.471	23
Jhalawar	0.511	26	0.470	24
Udaipur	0.503	27	0.465	25
Dholpur	0.503	28	0.269	32
Jalaur	0.500	29	0.430	28
Banswara	0.472	30	0.439	27
Barmer	0.461	31	0.402	31
Dungarpur	0.456	32	0.420	30

Source: Government Of Rajasthan (2002) *Rajasthan Human Development Report 2002*, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur, pp. 154-155.