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A TEST OF GOVERNANCE: EDUCATION, HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING IN AREAS ANNEXED TO KARNATAKA, MAHARASHTRA AND ANDHRA PRADESH FROM HYDERABAD STATE

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Abstract

At the time of reorganization of states on the basis of the linguistic formula, the territory that belonged to erstwhile state of Hyderabad was broken down to three parts and annexed to Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. About one-third of the territory went to Maharashtra, one-sixth to Karnataka and remaining half was annexed to Andhra Pradesh. At the time of annexation, the three parts had more or less similar socio-economic characteristics, except for the mother tongue. The part that went to Andhra Pradesh was slightly more urban and higher population density, but depressed castes there formed higher percentage of the population. As the annexation brought the three parts under different political and administrative regimes, the progress made since then provides a ready testing ground for measuring the efficiency of governance in the three states.

Our analysis shows that on literacy, the Hyderabad-Maharashtra part (HM) has done significantly better than the Hydrabad-Andhra part (HA) or Hyderabad-Karnataka part (HK). From more or less similar levels in 1961, the literacy level in the population aged 7 years and over has increased by 48 percentage points in HM compared with 33 points in HK and 36 points in HA. Both male and female literacy show these differences. Even among the SC /ST population, the literacy level in HM is significantly higher than in HK and HA. The dropout rate after getting literate (i.e., who don't go on to complete middle school) is also the lowest in HM and highest in HK. However, the decrease in the dropout rate has been most impressive in HA, as it had higher levels of dropout rate before partition.

The probability of dying before age five is an important indicator of health. Data available from 1981 and 1991 Censuses show that under-5 mortality rate is lowest in HA. According to the estimates derived from the 1991 Census data, the under-5 mortality rate was 60 per 1,000 births in HA compared with 75 in HM and HK. The 1981 Census had shown this to be 118 in the HA, 141 in HK and 159 in HM. There is no hard data to ascertain whether these differences predated the formation of new states. It should however be noted that despite doing impressively in eradicating illiteracy, HM has lagged behind in reducing child mortality.

In reducing fertility too, HA has done better than HK and HM. The child-woman ratios derived from the 2001 Census show that compared to HA, fertility levels could be 24% higher in HK and 18% higher in HM. However, it is possible that HM had higher fertility than HA even before partition. The data on children-ever born from the 2001 Census show that completed family sizes of women aged 60 years and over was 25-30 percent larger in HM than in HA, but in more recent cohorts the difference is only of the order of 18 percent. However, similar data for HK show that difference in completed family size (relative to HA) has increased from about 12 percent to 25 percent. The data from the National Family Heath Survey conducted in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) show that 59 percent of married women aged 15-49 years in HM are using contraception compared with 55 percent in HM and only 42 percent in HK. Also according to this survey, the average number of children ever born to married women aged 15-49 is 2.9 in HA, 3.2 in HM and 3.5 in HK.

As the data from NFHS are available at the individual level, a multivariate analysis was carried out to check whether the state differences in children ever born and contraceptive use remain significant even after controlling for socio-economic characteristics of women. The variables used as controls were age of women, number of children dead, rural-urban residence, educational level, standard of living index, exposure to media and family planning messages, religion and caste, index of autonomy of women, work status, discussion of family planning and aspirations for children's education. Results of this analysis are presented in the attached table. As the table

shows, even after controlling for these variables, children ever born is significantly higher in HK and HM compared with HA. But with respect to contraceptive use, HA and HM are not significantly different, but HK has significantly lower use. The result that even though contraceptive use is not significantly lower in HM but its CEB is higher reinforces possibility that this part has higher levels of 'natural' fertility than HA.

To conclude, while MH has done significantly better in education, especially in eradicating illiteracy, HA has done better in health and family planning. HK has lagged behind in both fields. But what policy interventions led to these differences? In answering this, it should be noted that the evidence points to differences that emerged out of a long-time trend, rather than to changes that can be pin-down to a specific period. As per the data available from the 1991 Census, availability of schooling facilities in rural areas is not substantially different in the three parts. But it is possible that specific school-related programmes are being better managed in Maharashtra. Regarding health, there is evidence from the 1991 Census showing that availability of medical facilities in villages, especially registered medical practitioners, is better in HA than in either HK or HM. In implementation of family planning programme, Andhra Pradesh has also shown more commitment in recent years than either Karnataka or Maharashtra. These may have helped HA to forge ahead in health and population control.

Table: Results of multivariate analysis of children ever born and current use of contraception by married women residing in areas belonging to old Hyderabad state, NFHS-2

Explanatory variables	OLS regression Children ever born	Logistic regression Current use of contraception	Variable means HA	HM	HK	Total
Current age of woman	0.393***	0.637***	30.3	28.9	29.3	29.8
Age squared	-0.004***	-0.009***	995.1	916.4	940.6	966.3
Number of male children ever born	Na	0.702***	1.478	1.650	1.835	1.567
Number of female children ever born	Na	0.158**	1.395	1.544	1.650	1.466
Number of male children dead	0.908***	-0.828***	0.142	0.198	0.252	0.170
Number of female children dead	1.026***	-0.262*	0.153	0.193	0.203	0.170
Index of autonomy of women	-0.002	0.020	5.821	5.335	4.716	5.558
Educational level						
Husband and wife illiterate	R	R	0.419	0.259	0.483	0.380
Husband literate and wife illiterate	0.015	0.221	0.227	0.383	0.261	0.276
Wife literate/completed primary school	-0.126	0.551**	0.159	0.237	0.130	0.178
Wife completed middle school or higher	-0.380***	0.350	0.196	0.122	0.126	0.167
Type of residence						
Rural	R	R	0.704	0.712	0.857	0.724
Urban	-0.014	-0.084	0.296	0.288	0.143	0.276
Exposure to any media						
No	R	R	0.280	0.448	0.472	0.350
Yes	-0.044	0.347*	0.720	0.552	0.528	0.650
Exposure to family planning messages in media						
No	R	R	0.260	0.593	0.355	0.366
Yes	-0.165*	0.141	0.740	0.408	0.645	0.634
Standard of living index						
Low	R	R	0.283	0.437	0.454	0.346
Medium	0.077	0.063	0.471	0.446	0.443	0.460
High	-0.122	0.312	0.246	0.118	0.103	0.193
Work status of woman						
Not working	R	R	0.413	0.327	0.406	0.387
Working for wage	-0.099	0.318*	0.389	0.345	0.414	0.379
Working but not for wage	-0.162*	0.526***	0.199	0.328	0.180	0.234
Religion						
Hindu	R	R	0.879	0.748	0.764	0.829
Muslims	1.063***	-1.180***	0.103	0.142	0.224	0.127
Others	0.170	-0.401	0.018	0.111	0.013	0.044
Caste						
Forward caste	R	R	0.284	0.606	0.466	0.397

Scheduled caste	0.274**	-0.490**	0.152	0.138	0.206	0.154
Scheduled tribe	0.723***	-0.600**	0.077	0.093	0.100	0.084
Other backward castes	0.169*	0.056	0.487	0.163	0.228	0.365
Discussion of family planning with:						
None	R	R	0.692	0.718	0.643	0.694
Husband	0.140	-0.097	0.106	0.177	0.184	0.135
Friends/neighbours	0.224*	0.968***	0.118	0.055	0.068	0.095
Others	0.150	-0.125	0.084	0.051	0.105	0.076
Aspiration for son's education						
Less than higher secondary	R	R	0.164	0.212	0.093	0.170
Higher secondary or more	-0.181*	0.190	0.309	0.471	0.177	0.341
As much as he desires	-0.076	0.339	0.384	0.229	0.536	0.356
Depends/cannot say	-0.102	0.132	0.143	0.087	0.194	0.133
Aspiration for daughter's education						
Less than higher secondary	R	R	0.396	0.566	0.347	0.440
Higher secondary or more	-0.145	0.059	0.230	0.254	0.154	0.229
As much as she desires	-0.160	0.144	0.250	0.136	0.321	0.225
Depends/cannot say	-0.086	-0.255	0.124	0.044	0.178	0.107
State currently part of:						
Andhra Pradesh	R	R	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.600
Maharashtra	0.303***	0.053	0.000	1.000	0.000	0.288
Karnataka	0.429***	-0.745***	0.000	0.000	1.000	0.112
Constant	-4.790***	-12.193***				
Number of women	2483	2472				
Adjusted or pseudo R^2	0.597	0.456				

R - Reference category; Na- Not applicable; *** p< 0.001; ** p<0.01; * p<0.05.