

Globalization and the Rural-Urban Divide: An Inquiry on the Health, Education and Basic Amenities in India

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Rural-urban disparities have long remained as one of the major concerns in the development policymaking. The rural-urban divide in India however did not remain confined only within the income and earning differences, but also persisted in various non-economic dimensions. This paper examines the rural-urban disparity on the health, education and basic amenities dimension by developing an empirical framework for describing inequalities across different states in India. Our results indicate that there is a widening difference between the rural and urban areas in respect of health and basic amenities provision. It appears that the gap between rural and urban India is somewhat narrower in the educational dimension. While policy formulations are aiming at better targeting and delivery mechanisms, wide gaps between the rural and urban seems to have appeared in the provision of social infrastructures in many states of India.