

## **A Study of Rural and Urban Differential in Economic Wealth Index in the States of Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar and Jharkhand**

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### Abstract

*Census gives data on percentage of population owning different assets like radio transistor, television, telephone, bicycle, scooter, motor cycle, moped, car-jeep-van, quality of housing and shelter namely, living space or the number of rooms available to a household and the quality of construction of the residence i.e. whether a household resides in a pucca or a kutchha construction. The Census also presents data on quality of houses based on the material used for construction of walls and roof separately. There are also large inter-State variations in the availability of electricity, access to toilet facilities and safe drinking water at the household level, both in urban and in rural areas. The Economic Well-Being Index (EWI) using Principal Component Method (PCA) is constructed in this study based on such nineteen amenities data given by Census 2001. The SPSS factor analysis procedure is used in this study. Based on Economic Wealth Index the districts are classified as district with low economic condition (Code 0), moderate economic condition (Code 1), good economic condition (Code 2) and excellent economic condition (Code 3).*

*It is found in the study that the economic wealth index is better in urban areas as compared to rural areas. It is also observed in the study that no district in urban areas have low economic wealth index. Among the selected States in rural areas the State of Kerala has the best economic wealth index and Jharkhand has the worst. It is noticed that no district in the urban areas of the States of Maharashtra, Kerala and Jharkhand has low or moderate economic condition. The study is based on Census 2001 data as amenities data for Census 2011 is not available.*

**Keywords:** PCA, Census, Amenities

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