Identifying differential vulnerabilities of rural communities in semi-arid region of Maharashtra through a Wellbeing approach.

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“Happiness is an allegory, unhappiness a story”- Leo Tolstoy

The Causes of Difference in Vulnerability within a society

- Different historical and social trajectories of different sub-categories in a society, like castes, gender etc.
- Different endowments of natural and material resources.
- Difference in the ability to process these resources.
- Different Functioning.
- Different Needs and Wants to be able to come up to the same level as the rest of the society.

The Wellbeing Methodology

- The study area consist of 8 villages in the semi-arid belt of Maharashtra, India.
- 22 Life constituents have been identified for the study area for an Indian rural context using research and field inputs.
- Respondents were asked to assign their degree of need and satisfaction for these 22 life constituents.
- The response was analysed on the basis of various social categories (e.g., Forward Caste, Scheduled Caste etc.) and Gender and age categories like Young Adults, Adults and Elderly.
- Ranks for each of the life constituents, derived on their relative importance to the sub-sections were assigned, ranking their Needs and Satisfaction.
- The difference between the ranks of Needs and Satisfaction showed how much importance a certain factor holds and how much the need has been satisfied.
- This Gap shows the vulnerability of each category for each life constituents by analysing and comparing their needs and their satisfaction for the same.

Overall Social Ranking of the Needs and corresponding Satisfaction levels of each Life Constituents.

Importance of the Study and the major Takeaway.

- **Identify Backlogs**: Studying difference in vulnerabilities help us identify the specific areas where a certain sub-section of the community are lagging.
- **Singular Policies not the Solution**: This indicates that one policy cannot create a blanket solution for all categories of people.
- **Targeting Development**: In order to achieve an egalitarian result and universal effect, the policies needs targeting for individual backlogs.

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