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Growth Performance of Aspirational District Programme in India

Sandra Surendran

Research Assistant & Scholar, The Gandhigram Rural Institute, Tamil Nadu

Pradeep Kumar Panda

Centre for Good Governance, Odisha Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Abstract

An attempt has been made to analyse the growth performance of aspirational district program in India. As indicated by the decline in employment flexibility and productivity during the past few years, India has had phenomenal GDP growth rates, considerably over the national average. In this paper, the growth and performance of ADP in terms of composite score (% improvement) at the national level from 2020 to 2023 were analysed. The final analysis calculated each aspirational district performance as a percentage and a year-by-year growth rate at the national level. The growth rates are both positive and negative in the study districts, but the changes are optimistic given the scheme's rural focus. In the coming years, unemployment and poverty can be eliminated. Slow and steady growth can result in long-term changes. The present study recommends.

Keywords- *Employment Generation, DDU-GKY, Skill Development, Aspirational District Program, NITI Aayog, India*

Introduction

In January 2018, the Government of India launched the Aspirational District Programme (ADP), which is a ground-breaking initiative to expedite development in the most impoverished districts of the nation. The program aimed to uplift 115 districts of the country that have been identified as aspirational due to their socio-economic challenges by concentrating on key sectors like health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development, and basic infrastructure. The main goal of the ADP is to quickly raise the standard of living and economic prosperity of the people living in these areas by utilising a "convergence, collaboration, and competition" strategy. The goal of this research paper is to present a thorough analysis of the growth performance of Aspirational District Programme on a national scale. The objective of the study is to examine the growth and performance of aspirational district programs in terms of composite score (% improvement) and growth rate at the national level from 2020 to 2023. The study relied on the secondary data taken from the website called champions of change. The examination spans the time from the launch of the program to the present and provides insights into areas that have progressed and those that still need work.

The motivation for this research stems from the critical need to assess large-scale policy interventions aimed at reducing disparities and promoting inclusive development. Replicating or improving comparable initiatives can benefit greatly from policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers having a thorough understanding of the growth trajectories of aspirational districts. This analysis highlights the success stories while also identifying bottlenecks that may impede the growth of these districts. This research is significant as it aligns with the broader national agenda of fostering inclusive

growth and addressing socio-economic disparities. By evaluating the composite score, this study endeavours to inform policy interventions and strategic interventions thereby contributing to the realisation of a more equitable and prosperous society in India.

Review of literature

The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) reports provide a comprehensive evaluation of this transformative initiative aimed at improving the socioeconomic status of India's most underdeveloped districts. The concepts of Convergence, Collaboration, and Competition are emphasised in the "Transformation of Aspirational Districts: Primer" and "Deep-Dive: Insights from Champions of Change" documents. The Champions of Change (CoC) Dashboard plays a crucial role in promoting data-driven, in-the-moment decision-making. The "Aspirational Districts Programme: An Appraisal" and "An Assessment of the Aspirational Districts Programme" reports use techniques like the Difference-in-Difference (DiD) analysis to substantiate these gains, highlighting notable improvements in important sectors like health, education, and agriculture. They also emphasise the importance of ongoing capacity development and propose tailored interventions through peer group formation among districts. By presenting case studies and success stories that highlight how specific initiatives have improved people's lives in measurable ways, "Stories of Change 2022" humanises the ADP and gives it a more grounded edge. Collectively, these reports validate the efficacy of the ADP, its strategic utilisation of data and collaboration, and its potential to serve as a replicable model for inclusive development in other regions confronting comparable challenges.

Several key factors influence the growth performance of the ADP in India. First and foremost, the ADP prioritises a data-driven governance system in order to accomplish developmental goals that are in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Chakrabarty and Konwar, 2024). Second, the implementation of irrigation facilities for farming has significantly increased agricultural productivity and commercial crop production in the districts, resulting in increased cultivation on agricultural lands (Roli, Misra, Kumar, Tewari, 2023). Also, districts have been designated by the National Health Mission (NHM) as the centre of health programs, highlighting the role of district officials and leadership in enhancing overall health (Bhatia, Rath., Kumar, Singh. 2018). The ADP can effectively promote growth and development in aspirational districts throughout India by concentrating on these elements, such as data-driven governance, district-level healthcare initiatives, and agricultural productivity.

Objectives

The main objective of the study is to examine the growth and performance of aspirational district programs in terms of composite score (% improvement) and growth rate at the national level from 2020 to 2023.

Methodology

Secondary data from the "Champions of Change" dashboard on the official website of NITI Aayog is used in this research. The analysis centres on the composite scores obtained over a three-year period, from 2020 to 2023, from all districts taking part in ADP. These composite scores show the incremental improvement each district has made in relation to 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that are divided into five major socioeconomic themes: education (30%), health and nutrition (30%), agriculture and water resources (20%), financial inclusion and skill development (10%), and infrastructure (10%). The annual growth rates of these composite scores were computed and examined at the state and district levels in order to perform a comprehensive evaluation. Based on the KPIs' annual improvements, the incremental progress was calculated and ranked. Following that, the data were sorted to make comparison analysis easier and to spot trends and patterns in the performance of various states and districts. The study aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the ADP and identify areas of significant progress as well as those requiring additional intervention by concentrating on these particular KPIs and themes. This methodological approach guarantees a thorough comprehension of the program's efficacy in promoting socio-economic development in India's most impoverished areas.

Data analysis and discussion

Table 1 gives the data of composite scores and growth rates for districts across various states in India under the ADP. These scores indicate the percentage improvement over a baseline period (t-3), reflecting the development progress of the districts. the following graphs were made upon differentiate state wise progress and for better insights.

Table-1: Year Wise Composite Score (% improvement t-3) of ADP in India

State Name	District Name	2020	2021 (Growth rate)	2022 (Growth rate)	2023 (Growth rate)
Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam	16.55	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram	19.65	—	—	—
Andhra Pradesh	Y.S.R kadapa	13.91	16.46 (0.18)	18.11 (0.1)	19.05 (0.05)
Arunachal Pradesh	Namsai	29.88	32.9 (0.1)	35.4 (0.07)	37.03 (0.04)
Assam	Baksa	20.99	24.83 (0.18)	27.72 (0.11)	30.13 (0.08)
Assam	Barpeta	27.64	30.36 (0.09)	32.39 (0.06)	34.78 (0.07)
Assam	Darrang	34.33	37.77 (0.1)	39.93 (0.05)	41.58 (0.04)
Assam	Dhubri	20.48	24.26 (0.18)	26.71 (0.1)	27.99 (0.04)
Assam	Goalpara	27.83	32.54 (0.16)	35.39 (0.08)	37.64 (0.06)
Assam	Hailakandi	20.15	23.76 (0.17)	24.37 (0.02)	24.17 (0)
Assam	Udalguri	23.13	24.92 (0.07)	26.45 (0.06)	28.34 (0.07)
Bihar	Araria	33.26	36.6 (0.1)	38.37 (0.04)	40.52 (0.05)
Bihar	Aurangabad	22.02	23.05 (0.04)	23.09 (0)	23.14 (0)
Bihar	Banka	24.24	26.4 (0.08)	27.75 (0.05)	29.19 (0.05)
Bihar	Begusarai	30.1	31.91 (0.06)	31.73 (0)	31.76 (0)
Bihar	Gaya	20.39	21.78 (0.06)	20.99 (-0.03)	20.9 (0)
Bihar	Jamui	25.51	25.16 (-0.01)	24.58 (-0.02)	24.43 (0)
Bihar	Katihar	21.85	27.37 (0.25)	31.43 (0.14)	34.4 (0.09)
Bihar	Khagaria	24.69	26.69 (0.08)	27.24 (0.02)	27.89 (0.02)
Bihar	Muzaffarpur	16.04	17.76 (0.1)	19.88 (0.11)	21.71 (0.09)
Bihar	Nawada	18.29	20.26 (0.1)	22.48 (0.1)	24.21 (0.07)
Bihar	Purnia	23.28	27.02 (0.16)	31.96 (0.18)	36.19 (0.13)
Bihar	Sheikhpura	26.02	28.72 (0.1)	30.58 (0.06)	32.53 (0.06)
Bihar	Sitamarhi	15.79	19.01 (0.2)	22.14 (0.16)	24.65 (0.11)
Chhattisgarh	Bastar	18.14	19.46 (0.07)	19.87 (0.02)	20.72 (0.04)
Chhattisgarh	Bijapur	14.03	15.74 (0.12)	16.34 (0.03)	16.04 (-0.01)
Chhattisgarh	Dakshin Bastar Dantewada	20.63	21.41 (0.03)	21.31 (0)	21.26 (0)
Chhattisgarh	Kondagaon	19.86	20.21 (0.01)	19.38 (-0.04)	19.05 (-0.01)
Chhattisgarh	Korba	17.03	18.51 (0.08)	18.65 (0)	18.4 (-0.01)
Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund	19.31	20.96 (0.08)	21.51 (0.02)	21.12 (-0.01)
Chhattisgarh	Narayanpur	17.54	19.55 (0.11)	20.15 (0.03)	21.2 (0.05)
Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	18.42	19.03 (0.03)	19.64 (0.03)	20.38 (0.03)
Chhattisgarh	Sukma	25.4	31.43 (0.23)	34.83 (0.1)	36.78 (0.05)

Chhattisgarh	Uttar Bastar Kanker	23.98	24.5 (0.02)	25.21 (0.02)	25.96 (0.02)
Gujarat	Dohad	17.8	19.52 (0.09)	19.99 (0.02)	19.98 (0)
Gujarat	Narmada	22.98	24.36 (0.06)	24.19 (0)	24.31 (0)
Haryana	Mewat	25.85	26.53 (0.02)	27.07 (0.02)	28.06 (0.03)
Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	21.98	23.29 (0.05)	23.57 (0.01)	23.33 (-0.01)
Jammu & Kashmir	Baramula	14.7	15.79 (0.07)	16.45 (0.04)	17.27 (0.04)
Jammu & Kashmir	Kupwara	24.24	25.17 (0.03)	25.25 (0)	25.24 (0)
Jharkhand	Bokaro	14	14.85 (0.06)	15.45 (0.04)	15.97 (0.03)
Jharkhand	Chatra	13.32	13.44 (0)	14.16 (0.05)	13.92 (-0.01)
Jharkhand	Dumka	13.66	15.15 (0.1)	14.75 (-0.02)	13.36 (-0.09)
Jharkhand	Garhwa	17.83	20.32 (0.13)	20.8 (0.02)	20.58 (-0.01)
Jharkhand	Giridih	19.11	21.28 (0.11)	21.86 (0.02)	21.83 (0)
Jharkhand	Godda	22.41	22.73 (0.01)	23.64 (0.04)	23.93 (0.01)
Jharkhand	Gumla	16.7	18.57 (0.11)	19.81 (0.06)	20.64 (0.04)
Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	16.8	18 (0.07)	17.92 (0)	17.75 (0)
Jharkhand	Khunti	21.16	21.81 (0.03)	21.27 (-0.02)	20.51 (-0.03)
Jharkhand	Latehar	24.28	26.12 (0.07)	27.62 (0.05)	29.49 (0.06)
Jharkhand	Lohardaga	22.2	22.93 (0.03)	22.3 (-0.02)	22.34 (0)
Jharkhand	Pakur	16.64	18.03 (0.08)	18.48 (0.02)	18.68 (0.01)
Jharkhand	Palamu	25.66	26.89 (0.04)	26.44 (-0.01)	26.2 (0)
Jharkhand	Pashchimi Singhbhum	15.32	18.35 (0.19)	17.79 (-0.03)	16.94 (-0.04)
Jharkhand	Purbi Singhbhum	16.67	18.3 (0.09)	18.05 (-0.01)	17.82 (-0.01)
Jharkhand	Ramgarh	12.66	12.61 (0)	12.37 (-0.01)	12.3 (0)
Jharkhand	Ranchi	35.99	35.58 (-0.01)	35.43 (0)	35.75 (0)
Jharkhand	Sahibganj	24.7	26.1 (0.05)	26.95 (0.03)	28.43 (0.05)
Jharkhand	Simdega	34.54	36.42 (0.05)	38.18 (0.04)	39.19 (0.02)
Karnataka	Raichur	11.54	13.19 (0.14)	13.04 (-0.01)	12.88 (-0.01)
Karnataka	Yadgir	11.32	12.09 (0.06)	12.19 (0)	11.63 (-0.04)
Kerala	Wayanad	25.08	29.41 (0.17)	32.14 (0.09)	34.23 (0.06)
Madhya Pradesh	Barwani	27.28	30.42 (0.11)	33 (0.08)	35.35 (0.07)
Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur	14.46	16.45 (0.13)	16.95 (0.03)	17.39 (0.02)
Madhya Pradesh	Damoh	22.72	24.68 (0.08)	25.9 (0.04)	26.75 (0.03)
Madhya Pradesh	Guna	10.23	16.5 (0.61)	20.1 (0.21)	22.33 (0.11)
Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa (East Nimar)	18.71	20.58 (0.09)	20.47 (0)	20.06 (-0.02)

Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh	20.9	24.33 (0.16)	25.68 (0.05)	26.71 (0.04)
Madhya Pradesh	Singrauli	25.03	29.38 (0.17)	32.1 (0.09)	34.64 (0.07)
Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha	26.25	28.64 (0.09)	29.5 (0.03)	30.04 (0.01)
Maharashtra	Gadchiroli	14.89	15.64 (0.05)	14.74 (-0.05)	13.85 (-0.06)
Maharashtra	Nandurbar	20.56	23.8 (0.15)	24.92 (0.04)	25.97 (0.04)
Maharashtra	Osmanabad	15.63	16.43 (0.05)	16.03 (-0.02)	15.57 (-0.02)
Maharashtra	Washim	15.86	17.51 (0.1)	17.4 (0)	16.88 (-0.02)
Manipur	Chandel	32.43	34.7 (0.06)	36.69 (0.05)	37.16 (0.01)
Meghalaya	Ribhoi	15.92	17.55 (0.1)	17.92 (0.02)	18.32 (0.02)
Mizoram	Mamit	22.54	26.13 (0.15)	28.9 (0.1)	30.24 (0.04)
Nagaland	Kiphire	8	12 (0.5)	14.8 (0.23)	16.97 (0.14)
Odisha	Balangir	15.32	18.1 (0.18)	19.07 (0.05)	19.83 (0.03)
Odisha	Dhenkanal	22.2	25.97 (0.16)	27.12 (0.04)	27.79 (0.02)
Odisha	Gajapati	25.27	26.29 (0.04)	26.97 (0.02)	27.44 (0.01)
Odisha	Kalahandi	20.66	24.66 (0.19)	26.91 (0.09)	28.35 (0.05)
Odisha	Kandhamal	20.37	24.53 (0.2)	26.5 (0.08)	27.62 (0.04)
Odisha	Koraput	30.74	33.79 (0.09)	35.14 (0.03)	36.15 (0.02)
Odisha	Malkangiri	13.09	15.77 (0.2)	17.42 (0.1)	18.53 (0.06)
Odisha	Nabarangapur	11.91	16 (0.34)	18.85 (0.17)	20.98 (0.11)
Odisha	Nuapada	15.78	21.12 (0.33)	24.51 (0.16)	27.18 (0.1)
Odisha	Rayagada	26.39	29.28 (0.1)	30.07 (0.02)	30.48 (0.01)
Punjab	Firozpur	22.68	23.77 (0.04)	24.3 (0.02)	24.63 (0.01)
Punjab	Moga	20.71	24.93 (0.2)	26.87 (0.07)	27.77 (0.03)
Rajasthan	Baran	16.93	18.14 (0.07)	18.27 (0)	18.38 (0)
Rajasthan	Dhaulpur	10.82	11.95 (0.1)	11.96 (0)	12.19 (0.01)
Rajasthan	Jaisalmer	21.85	23.65 (0.08)	25.26 (0.06)	26.64 (0.05)
Rajasthan	Karauli	20.72	22.75 (0.09)	23.6 (0.03)	23.89 (0.01)
Rajasthan	Sirohi	19.71	22.18 (0.12)	23.44 (0.05)	24.66 (0.05)
Sikkim	West District	18.47	20.28 (0.09)	—	—
Tamil Nadu	Ramanathapuram	17.46	18 (0.03)	18.26 (0.01)	18.34 (0)
Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar	23.17	24.58 (0.06)	25.15 (0.02)	25.4 (0)
Telangana	Asifabad (Adilabad)	17.81	22.34 (0.25)	25.81 (0.15)	28.77 (0.11)
Telangana	Bhadradri-Kothagudem	17.46	22.19 (0.27)	26.37 (0.18)	28.78 (0.09)
Telangana	Bhoopalapalli (Warangal)	5	5 (0)	5 (0)	5 (0)

Tripura	Dhalai	21.05	21.68 (0.02)	21.83 (0)	22.31 (0.02)
Uttar Pradesh	Bahraich	28.06	32.83 (0.16)	35.87 (0.09)	38.03 (0.06)
Uttar Pradesh	Balrampur	49.03	55.67 (0.13)	60.36 (0.08)	64.09 (0.06)
Uttar Pradesh	Chandauli	31.79	35.88 (0.12)	38.64 (0.07)	40.54 (0.04)
Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot	28.81	33.87 (0.17)	36.05 (0.06)	36.29 (0)
Uttar Pradesh	Fatehpur	31.48	35.35 (0.12)	37.7 (0.06)	39.19 (0.03)
Uttar Pradesh	Shrawasti	30.08	33.01 (0.09)	35.13 (0.06)	36.68 (0.04)
Uttar Pradesh	Siddharthnagar	37.7	42.44 (0.12)	45.86 (0.08)	47.69 (0.03)
Uttar Pradesh	Sonbhadra	32.75	36.5 (0.11)	39.1 (0.07)	41.14 (0.05)
Uttarakhand	Hardwar	18.16	20.82 (0.14)	22.36 (0.07)	23.55 (0.05)
Uttarakhand	Udham Singh Nagar	15.69	17.34 (0.1)	19.03 (0.09)	20.66 (0.08)

Source: Author Computation

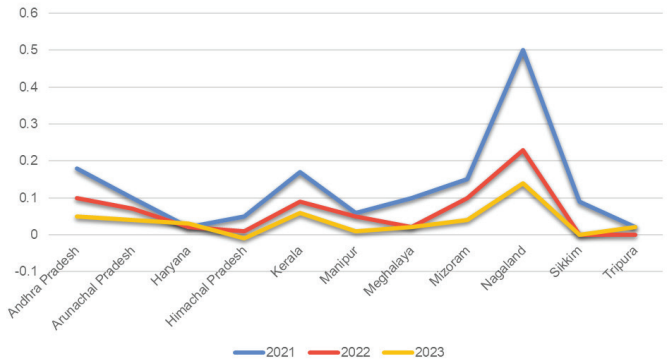

Figure 1: Composite Score Growth Rate for 11 States in India

Figure 1 presents annual growth rates for the composite scores of districts in different Indian states that are part of the ADP for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. The total growth rate for each district over the course of these years is represented by each bar, with segments coloured blue for 2021, red for 2022, and yellow for 2023. Kiphire district of Nagaland displays the highest cumulative growth, with 2021 and 2022 showing especially strong growth, indicating notable improvements in these years. Mamit district of Mizoram Similarly shows noteworthy growth, increasing steadily over the course of the three years. In Kerala Wayanad district Shows significant growth, especially in 2021, and continues to advance steadily in the years that follow. Both Andhra Pradesh (Y.S.R kadapa)and Arunachal Pradesh (Namsai) exhibit notable growth in 2021, with moderate growth in the years that follow.West District of Sikkim, Manipur (Chandel), and Tripura (Dhalai) Shows a moderate to high growth, with rates that vary annually. Haryana (Mewat) and Himachal Pradesh (Chamba) Show more moderate growth, suggesting comparatively slower progress in comparison to other states. Chamba district having negative growth in the year 2023.

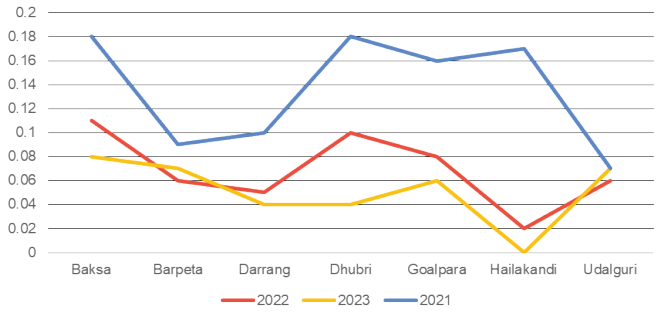

Figure 2: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Assam

Figure 2 depicts the composite score growth rates for districts in Assam covered by the ADP in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Baksa exhibits rapid growth in 2021, a sharp decline in 2022, and then a stabilisation of the rate in 2023. Barpeta has shown a declining trend over the years, with a higher growth rate in 2021 and a steady decline in 2022 and 2023. In Darrang, the growth rate peaks in 2021, declines in 2022, and then stabilises again in 2023, when it experiences the lowest growth rate out of the three years. In 2021, Dhubri exhibits a consistently high growth rate; however, in 2022 and 2023, this declines sharply. Goalpara grows rapidly in 2021, continues to grow steadily in 2022, and then experiences a minor decline in 2023. With a relatively high growth rate in 2021 and a sharp decline in 2022 and 2023, Hailakandi exhibits a declining growth trend. Udalguri's growth rate increases in 2021, decreases

in 2022, and recovers in 2023, culminating in a growth rate that is higher than in 2022. All things considered, the graph shows differing patterns in the growth rates in Assamese districts. Certain districts—like Baksa and Udalguri—show fluctuations in growth rates but show signs of recovery by 2023, while other districts—like Barpeta and Dhubri—show a persistent decline. This variability indicates varying levels of effectiveness and challenges in the implementation of the ADP in these districts, emphasising the need for further analysis of the specific factors contributing to these trends in order to provide insights into the program's success and areas for improvement.

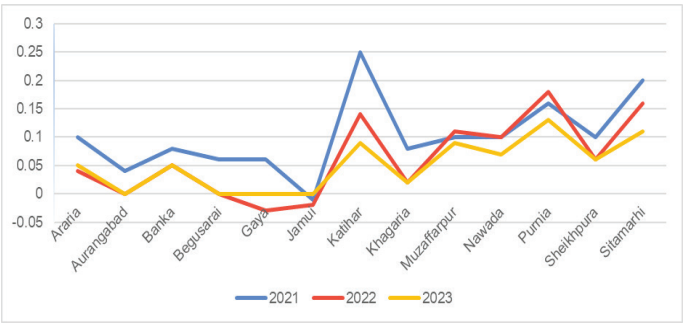

Figure 3: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Bihar

Figure 3 shows the composite score growth rates for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 for different districts in Bihar under the ADP. With a notable uptick in growth in 2021 and a subsequent decline in growth, but still positive, Katihar stands out as having made significant progress, especially in 2021. In 2022 and 2023, Sitamarhi continues to demonstrate steady progress, with slightly lower but consistent growth rates in those years. In contrast, districts such as Aurangabad and Begusarai show consistent, low growth rates over the course of the three years, indicating a gradual but steady progress. However, Gaya and Jamui show concerning trends with negative growth rates in some years, particularly Gaya, which shows a declining trend from 2021 to 2023, indicating potential challenges in maintaining development momentum. Purnia exhibits notable expansion, particularly in 2022 and 2023, after a robust 2021, indicating successful interventions in this district. Over the years, Khagaria and Muzaffarpur have shown moderate but steady improvement, indicating positive trends. The graph shows that the districts have different growth patterns overall, with some, like Sitamarhi and Katihar, showing strong growth and others, like Gaya and Jamui, facing difficulties.

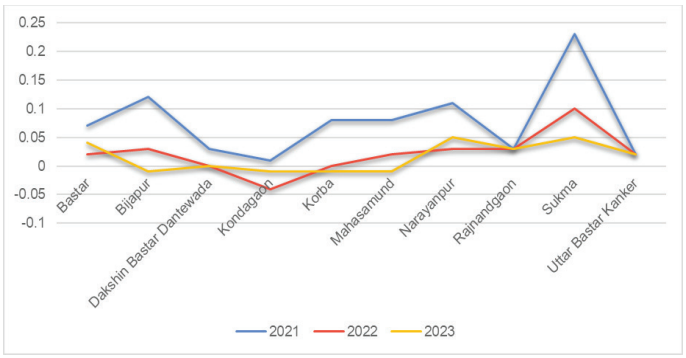

Figure 4: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Chhattisgarh

Figure 4 shows the composite score growth rates for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 for different districts in Chhattisgarh under the ADP. Sukma stands out in particular with a notable growth rate spike in 2021, a slight but steady decline in 2022, and a sharp decline in 2023. This district has the biggest improvement in 2021, but then experiences a downturn. Some districts, like Bastar and Bijapur, show moderate growth in 2021, but then gradually contract in the years that follow, suggesting a slowdown in momentum. On the other hand, districts such as Kondagaon and Korba exhibit a declining pattern, exhibiting negative growth rates in certain years, especially in 2021 and 2023, indicating possible difficulties in these regions. during all three years, Mahasamund, Narayanpur, and Rajnandgaon show low but consistent growth rates, indicating slow but steady progress. The Uttar Bastar Kanker exhibits only slight variations, growing at a relatively slow rate each year. Overall, the graph shows that, while Sukma experienced remarkable growth at first, many districts either struggled with negative growth or showed only modest improvements, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to sustain and enhance development in these areas.

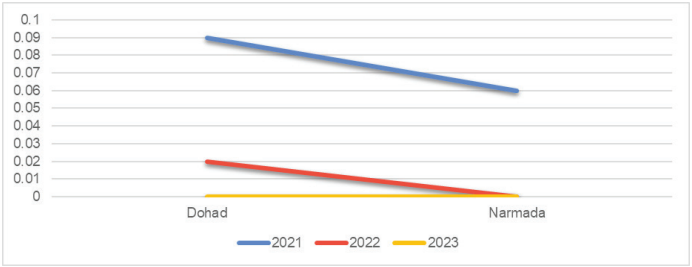

Figure 5: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Gujarat

Figure 5 displays the composite score growth rates for the ADP in Gujarat for the districts of Dohad and Narmada for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. The growth rates over these years show a downward trend in both

districts. Dohad exhibits a consistent decline in 2022 and 2023 after beginning 2021 with a relatively higher growth rate. Comparably, Narmada exhibits a declining trend, even though its overall growth rates are lower than those of Dohad. It is clear that progress has slowed significantly because by 2023 both districts have reached near-zero or minimal growth.

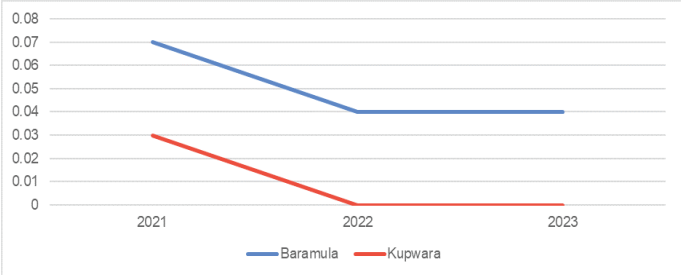

Figure 6: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Jammu & Kashmir

The ADP composite score growth rates for the districts of Baramula and Kupwara in Jammu & Kashmir for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 are displayed in the graph. The growth rates over these years clearly indicate a downward trend in both districts. Baramula's growth rate is relatively higher in 2021, but by 2022 it has dropped sharply, and by 2023 it is stagnant. In a similar vein, Kupwara shows a steady decline in growth rate between 2021 and 2022, finally reaching zero growth in 2023. This pattern points to possible difficulties or inefficiencies in maintaining progress and indicates a considerable loss of momentum in these districts' development efforts.

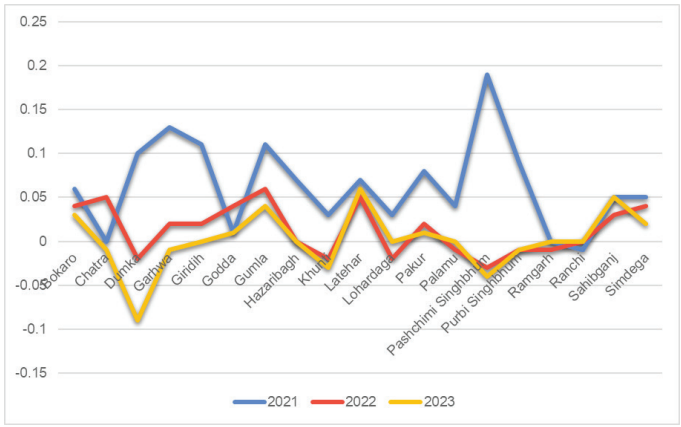

Figure 7: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Jharkhand

Figure 7 shows notable performance variability, displays the composite score growth rates for different districts in Jharkhand under the ADP for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. Significant growth rate spikes were observed in districts such as Garhwa and Giridih in 2021; these were followed by a decline in 2022 and a further reduction or stabilisation in 2023, suggesting that the initial progress made was not maintained in subsequent years. After experiencing moderate growth in 2021 and 2022, Dumka exhibits a sharp decline in 2023, with its growth rate going negative, which reflects difficulties in maintaining development momentum. Chatra shows comparable oscillations as well, with different rates of growth over time. The growth rates of Latehar, Khunti, and Palamu are negative or almost nonexistent, indicating ongoing difficulties in sustaining advancement. Conversely, districts such as Godda, Gumla, and Simdega show comparatively low growth over the course of the three years, indicating slow but steady progress. After experiencing inconsistent growth in the preceding years, Sahibganj and Simdega exhibit a minor rebound or stabilisation by 2023. The graph, taken as a whole, highlights the uneven performance of Jharkhand's districts, with some going through notable ups and downs and others exhibiting more steady but modest improvements. This underscores the need for tailored strategies to address the unique issues that each district faces.

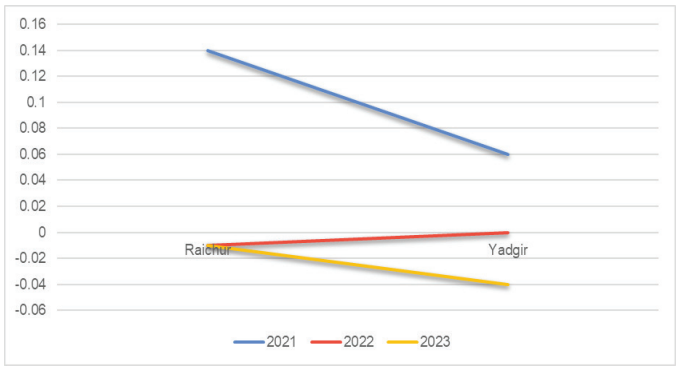

Figure 8: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Karnataka

In Karnataka, the districts of Raichur and Yadgir are represented on the graph by their composite score growth rates for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 under the ADP. Raichur shows a comparatively high growth rate in 2021, but over the next few years, this rate gradually drops, suggesting a major loss of momentum. The growth rate of Raichur has significantly slowed by 2023. In contrast, Yadgir experiences a slightly negative growth rate in 2021 and further declines in 2022 and 2023. This pattern indicates that Yadgir may continue to face difficulties in attaining favourable development results. Overall, the growth rates in both districts are trending downward, with Raichur seeing a significant decline and Yadgir dealing with continuous negative growth.

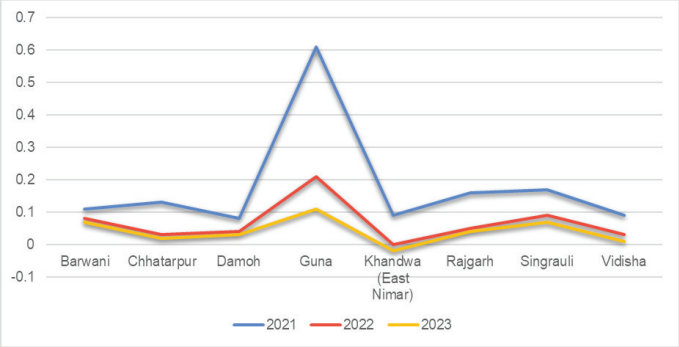

Figure 9: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Madhya Pradesh

Figure 9 shows the Madhya Pradesh composite score growth rates for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 under the ADP. In 2021, the Guna district displays an impressive growth rate spike that is noticeably higher than that of the other districts, suggesting a notable improvement during that year. But in 2022 and 2023, this growth rate drops significantly, indicating that the initial momentum was not maintained. With only slight variations, the growth in other districts like Barwani, Chhatarpur, and Damoh is comparatively steady over the course of the three years. Their modest but positive growth rates show that they are making steady but slow progress. The growth rates of Khandwa (East Nimar), Rajgarh, Singrauli, and Vidisha are moderate in 2021 and gradually decline in the following years. There are no notable ups or downs in these districts, indicating steady but modest development efforts.Overall, the graph shows that Guna is an anomaly due to its remarkable growth in 2021, while the other districts show more consistent, if less dramatic, growth trends. This implies that although Guna saw a significant uptick in development, maintaining such growth may be difficult, and other districts are developing more slowly.

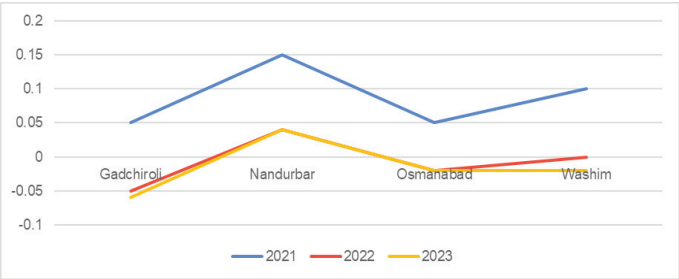

Figure 10: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Maharashtra

Figure 10 displays the composite score growth rates for the districts of Gadchiroli, Nandurbar, Osmanabad, and Washim in Maharashtra under the ADP for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. Gadchiroli exhibits a negative growth rate in 2021, which persists in 2022 before exhibiting a slight improvement in 2023, though it remains negative overall, indicating persistent challenges in attaining positive development outcomes in the district. Nandurbar, on the other hand, shows a notable spike in growth rate in 2021, reaching 0.15; however, this rate drops to 0.04 in 2022 before slightly recovering to 0.05 in 2023. Despite these fluctuations, Nandurbar continues to show a positive growth rate over the three years. But Osmanabad continuously displays a negative or zero growth rate, and in 2022 and 2023, it dropped slightly to -0.02, signifying a lack of advancement and stagnation.Washim shows very little growth as well, increasing to 0.02 in 2023 from zero in 2022, indicating a slight improvement but generally slow progress. The graph, taken as a whole, shows how differently these districts perform. Though it has trouble keeping up its initial momentum, Nandurbar stands out for its notable improvement. In contrary, Gadchiroli and Osmanabad face persistent challenges with negative or negligible growth, and Washim shows only limited progress.

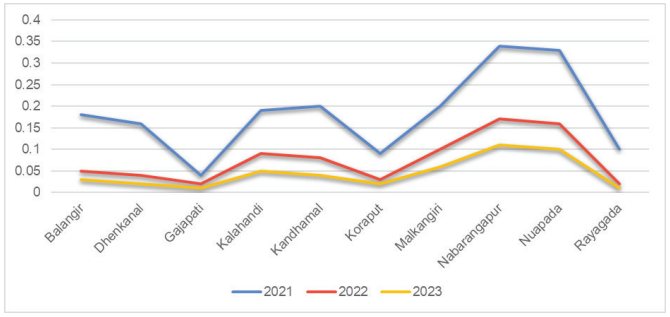

Figure 11: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Maharashtra

Figure 11 shows the composite score growth rates for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 for a number of Odisha districts being in the ADP. Nuapada exhibits a notable pattern of growth, peaking in 2021 and then declining in 2022 and 2023, despite continuing to grow positively throughout this time frame. This suggests that although Nuapada saw significant improvement at first, maintaining that momentum has proven difficult. In all three years, the growth rates of Kalahandi and Kandhamal are steady; Kalahandi reaches a notable peak in 2021 and then stabilises at lower but consistent levels in 2022 and 2023. Similar to this, Kandhamal's growth rate has been largely steady, with a small decline in 2023. Koraput and Malkangiri exhibit more volatile patterns, with Koraput experiencing a sharp drop in growth in 2021, followed by a recovery in 2022 before declining again in 2023. Malkangiri, on the other hand, exhibits a consistent downward trend, with growth declining year after year.Districts such as Balangir, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, and Rayagada experience modest growth, with some fluctuations, particularly in 2021, but their growth rates remain relatively low and consistent over

time. The graph demonstrates significant variability in the performance of Odisha's districts under the ADP. Nuapada experienced a notable initial growth spurt, but maintaining this progress will be difficult.

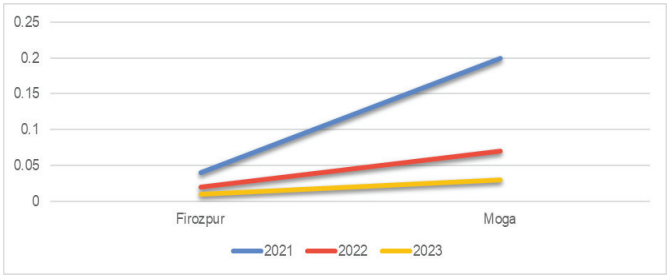

Figure 12: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Punjab

Figure 12 shows the composite score growth rates for Firozpur and Moga districts of Punjab under the ADP in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The growth rates in both districts have been steadily rising over the past few years. Firozpur shows a steady increase, beginning with a modest growth rate in 2021 and increasing in 2022 and 2023, with the highest growth rate in 2023. This indicates that Firozpur's development progress has been continuous and possibly accelerating over the last three years. Similarly, Moga shows an upward trend, albeit from a slightly lower starting point than Firozpur. The growth rate steadily rises each year, with the rate in 2023 higher than in previous years, indicating sustained and improving development outcomes. Both Firozpur and Moga show positive growth trends, with Firozpur showing a more noticeable increase.

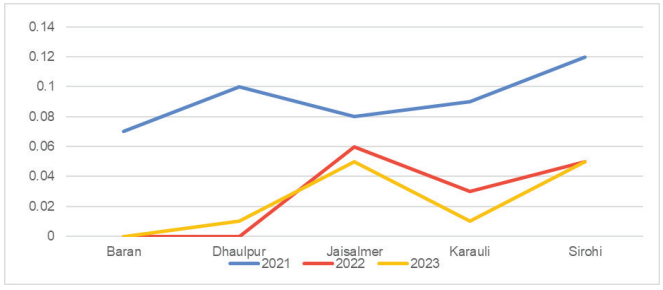

Figure 13: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Rajasthan

The districts of Baran, Dhaulpur, Jaisalmer, Karauli, and Sirohi in Rajasthan are shown on the graph along with their composite score growth rates for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 under the ADP. Baran exhibits a growth rate that is increasing steadily over the course of three years, with a particularly noticeable upward trend in 2023. Dhaulpur likewise exhibits an upward trajectory, with growth rates rising over time, especially in 2023, indicating a slow but steady improvement. A distinct pattern can be seen in Jaisalmer, where there is a notable growth rate spike in 2022 and a subsequent decline in 2023. This suggests that although there was a significant push for development in 2022, it was difficult to maintain that momentum in 2023. Karauli exhibits a cyclical pattern, peaking in 2022 and then declining until marginally rebounding in 2023, suggesting some volatility in growth performance over time. Over the course of the three years, Sirohi's growth rates have increased gradually and consistently; 2023 has the highest growth rate, indicating steady progress.

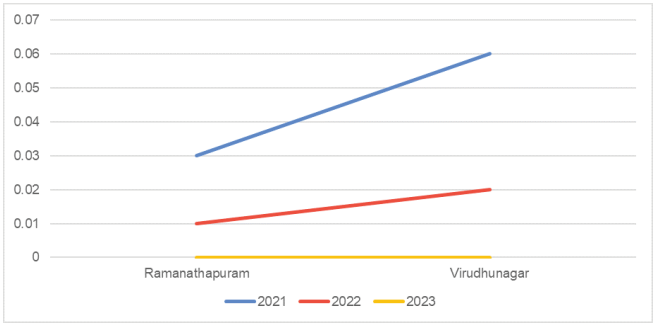

Figure 14: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Tamil Nadu

Figure 14 depicts the composite score growth rates for the ADP districts of Virudhunagar and Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. With a growth rate that increased steadily from 2021 to 2023, Ramanathapuram exhibits a distinct upward trend. The district has shown consistent and improving development efforts over the three years, as evidenced by the most notable growth in 2023. Conversely, Virudhunagar exhibits very little growth over the course of the time. In comparison with Ramanathapuram, the growth rate is relatively modest overall in 2021–2022, with a slight increase in 2023.

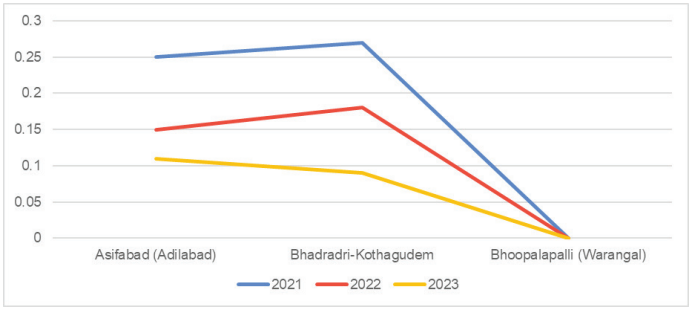

Figure 15: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Telangana

The districts of Asifabad (Adilabad), Bhoopalapalli (Warangal), and Bhadradri-Kothagudem in Telangana under the ADP for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 are represented in figure 15 by their composite score growth

rates. Asifabad, also known as Adilabad, exhibits a notable growth rate in 2021, followed by a sharp decline in 2022 and a continued decline in 2023. This suggests a vigorous early push for development that was not maintained in the ensuing years. Similar trends can be seen in Bhadradri-Kothagudem, where growth rate peaks in 2021 and then declines in 2022 and 2023. Although the decline is less steep than in Asifabad, it still demonstrates the difficulty in maintaining consistent growth. In 2021, Bhoopalapalli (Warangal) experiences positive growth; however, by 2023, this growth rate has dropped to zero. This shows that by 2023, the district had stagnated because it was unable to maintain any growth progress.

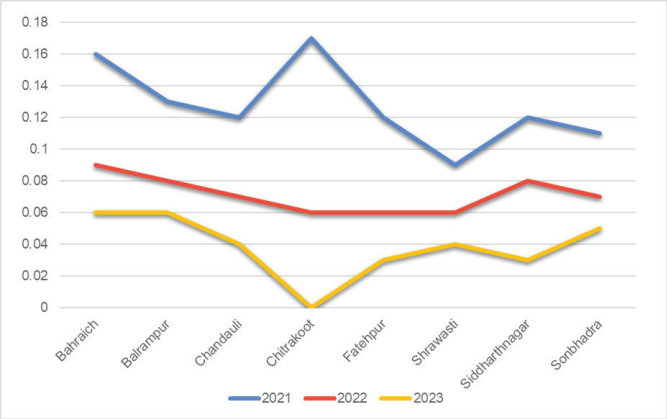

Figure 16: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Uttar Pradesh

Figure 16 shows the composite score growth rates under the ADP for the districts of Bharati, Balrampur, Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Fatehpur, Shrawasti, Siddharthnagar, and Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. The growth rates of Bahraich, Balrampur, and Chitrakoot exhibit notable oscillations, with each region recording a peak in 2021, a decline in 2022, and varying degrees of recovery in 2023. In particular, Chitrakoot is notable for having a notable spike in 2021, followed by a fall in the years that followed, suggesting that the initial momentum was difficult to sustain. The trends of Chandauli and Fatehpur are more consistent, with less noticeable fluctuations in their growth rates. Over the course of three years, the moderate growth rates in both districts remain relatively stable, indicating consistent, if not particularly remarkable, progress. More sluggish growth trajectories are seen in Shrawasti, Siddharthnagar, and Sonbhadra, with the latter exhibiting a minor uptick in 2023 following a period of decline. These districts appear to be growing more slowly over time, with little increases in growth rates.

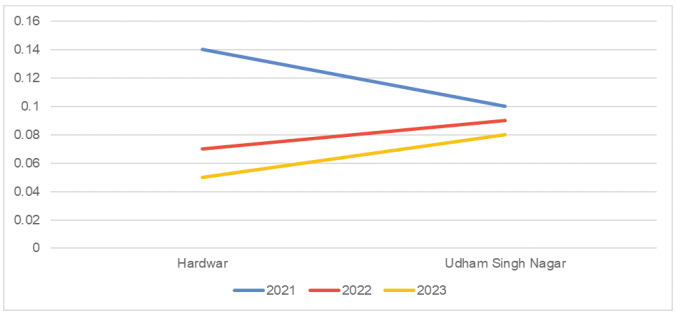

Figure 17: Composite Score Growth Rate for District of Uttarakhand

Figure 17 displays the composite score growth rates for the ADP in the districts of Hardwar and Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand, for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023. In Hardwar, the growth rate exhibits a relatively high beginning in 2021, but subsequently displays a declining trend, continuing to decline steadily into 2022 and 2023. This shows that even though there was a lot of early progress, it was not maintained. Udham Singh Nagar, on the other hand, shows a steady upward trend in growth rates during that same time frame. Beginning with a lower growth rate in 2021, the district's growth rate gradually increases each year, peaking in 2023. This shows consistent improvement over the course of the three years.

Conclusion

The Aspirational District Programme in India is the subject of a comprehensive analysis in this study, with a particular emphasis on the growth rates and composite scores of individual districts between 2020 and 2023. The analysis demonstrates how growth trajectories vary amongst districts, with some demonstrating notable improvements and others facing stagnation or difficulty sustaining momentum. In some of the poorest areas, the program has effectively sparked development; districts such as Nuapada in Odisha and Asifabad in Telangana have shown significant growth in certain years. The overall findings, however, show that maintaining this momentum has proven difficult, especially in districts where growth rates have either plateaued or decreased, such as Bhoopalapalli in Telangana and Gaya in Bihar. The study emphasizes the importance of continuous monitoring and tailored interventions to address the unique challenges that each district faces.

Suggestions

Targeted Interventions: Future efforts should concentrate on more specialized interventions that address the unique needs and difficulties of each district, as there is variation in growth performance amongst districts. This strategy can support and expand on early successes.

sustaining Momentum: It's important to pinpoint the causes of the loss of momentum in districts like Guna in Madhya Pradesh and Sukma in Chhattisgarh that demonstrated early success but afterwards saw a drop in growth rates. It will be essential to address these problems by putting more emphasis on vital areas like infrastructure, education, and health.

Data-Driven Governance: The Champions of Change dashboard is a key tool in advancing data-driven governance, as the study emphasizes. More precise, real-time data can be provided by expanding and improving this tool, which will improve decision-making and enable more flexible and responsive interventions.

Building Capacity: To guarantee that local administrations can successfully carry out and maintain the ADP's initiatives, district-level capacity building must continue. This covers instruction in resource mobilization, program implementation, and data management.

Peer Learning and Knowledge Sharing: Districts with notable advancements can act as role models for other districts. Creating forums for knowledge exchange and peer learning can aid in the district-wide dissemination of creative solutions and best practices.

Future Scope: Longitudinal studies that monitor the effects of the ADP after its initial years of implementation may be the main focus of future research. This would shed light on the development interventions' long-term viability as well as their effects on eradicating poverty and creating jobs. It's still vitally important to make sure that everyone in society, especially the most marginalized members, benefits from the ADP. In order to evaluate the program's inclusivity, future research could examine how it affects various demographic groups within the aspirational districts.

In conclusion, even though the ADP has started development in some of India's poorest districts, maintaining and growing these successes will need consistent, focused work, data-driven decision-making, and an emphasis on inclusive growth. The program's capacity to adjust to the particular requirements of each district and to draw lessons from past mistakes and achievements will determine how successful it is in the long run.

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