
Abstract

The coastline of India plays a significant role in Nation’s economy by virtue of its resources. Many economic sectors and major urban areas are located within the coastal zone hence, the demand from the coastal resources are high. In India, nine states and four Union Territories (UTs) are falling under coastal areas of India. The progress of socio-economic development among the coastal major states and UTs are not uniform in terms of per capita income, poverty, infrastructure and socio-economic development. The above disparities can be attributed to three different types of factors they are; natural differences, socio-cultural conditions and policy decisions. Coastal social institutions can have a decisive impact on economic performance of the coastal areas. The law is particularly important in shaping the institutional framework for economic activities. Legal rules can be viewed as socio-technological devices used to help individuals to solve the coordination problems and conflicts that arise in an environment of scarce resources. Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, issued in 1991 and 2011 under Environment (Protection) Act., 1986 is the most significant and specialized legislation regulating developmental activities along the coastal areas of India for sustainable development. Research on the relationship between social change and law, the roots of which go back to the theories of Durkheim and Weber, belongs to one of the oldest traditions of sociology of law. In the present study, coastal related litigations in India and its linkages with the various socio-economic factors of the coastal states and UTs have been studied. In total, one hundred and twenty two litigations have been filed in various high courts of India during between 1950 and 2010 which are falling under 9 mainland coastal states of India. The Union Territories (UTs) of India does not have any litigation in its high court. The numbers of litigations in the states to the various socio-economic factors mentioned above are positively correlated. The above result is supporting the social functional theory of Durkheim