

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Human development enhances the economic growth and due to economic growth human development is possible, thus economic growth and human development are depended on each other. Process of economic growth ends when human development is to stop. The main purpose of this exercise of development is to treat men, women and children present and future generations-as ends, to improve the human condition and to enlarge people's choices. Human development is a means of higher productivity, so well-sustain healthy, educated, skilled, labor force is required for productive asset. Present paper highlights the concept of HDI and its measurement. Paper examines trend of India's Human Development Index value in different year in past.

KEYWORDS: -Human development, Human Development Index, Life Expectancy, Education Level, Standard of Living.

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

The Human Development Index is the composite function or statistical measure of evaluating socio-economic development of the nation by United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Human Development Reports of United Nations Development Programme¹¹ explained that Human Development is about not only the economic development but also the development of human life. It is related to the socio-economic progress and life pattern of human beings. According to Human Development Reports of United Nations Development Programme¹², Human Development Index is a precise extent of average achievement in key dimensions of human development:

- 1) a long and healthy life,
- 2) being knowledgeable
- 3) A decent standard of living.

Basically, there are three dimensions of human development as follows

- 1) Health Dimension
- 2) Education Dimension
- 3) The standard of living dimension

The Human Development Index (HDI) is the summary composite of average achievement in key dimensions of human development. The health dimension of human development is measured through the life expectancy at birth. The education dimension of human development index is measured by average years of schooling (greater than or equal to 25 years). The standard of living dimension is measured through the gross national income per capita.

CONCEPT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

The concept of human development emerged in the late 1980s based on the conceptual foundation provided by Dr. Amartya Sen and Dr. Mahbubul Haq. Human development is the process of enlarging people's choices and opportunities and improving their well-being Dr. Haq published the first Human Development report, which was commissioned by the United National Development.

According to UNDP

Human development is about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accordance with their needs and interests. People are the real wealth of nations. So we should expand the choices of the people.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

1. To explain the concept of Human Development Index
2. To explain significance of Human Development Index
3. To analyze the Human Development Index of India in different years

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is entirely based on secondary data and data were obtained from the various reports of human resource development ministry, various Human Development Reports of United Nations Development Program (UDNP), Indian National Human Development Reports, state-level government statistical report, NSSO, different publications of Government of India, NSS Survey, various Economic Surveys and Internet.

Significance of Human Development Index

The Human Development Index is significant as follows

- 1) It is multidimensional in its nature as it counts literacy rate, life expectancy, per capita income, mean life of schooling etc.
- 2) It is the appropriate measure of development as it includes all aspects of development.
- 3) It differentiates and classifies different countries based on its index values.

Components of Human Development Index

United Nations Development Program classified the components of Human Development Index into Health index, Education index and Income Index in its " Human Development report. The health dimension of human development is measured through the life expectancy at birth. The education dimension of human development index is measured by average years of schooling. The standard of living dimension is measured through the gross national income per capita.

Human Development Index (HDI)

Since 1990, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been presenting the measurement of human development in terms of HDI in its annual HDI reports. The HDI provides a composite measure of three dimensions of human development:

- 1) Living a long and healthy life (measured by life expectancy)
- 2) Being educated (measured by adult literacy and enrolment at primary, secondary and tertiary level)
- 3) Having a decent standard of living (measured by the real PCI).

HDI: 0 to 0.550 HDI value is considered as low human development, the 0.550 to 0.699 HDI value is considered as medium human development and the HDI value between 0.700 to 0.799 is considered as high human development. The HDI value between 0.800 to 1.0 is considered a very high HDI value.

Human Development Index (HDI) in India

Year	Human Development Index Score	Human Development Classification
1990	0.429	Low Human Development
1995	0.461	Low Human Development
2000	0.495	Low Human Development
2005	0.536	Medium Human Development
2010	0.579	Medium Human Development
2015	0.624	Medium Human Development
2016	0.630	Medium Human Development
2017	0.640	Medium Human Development
2018	0.642	Medium Human Development
2019	0.645	Medium Human Development
2020	0.645	Medium Human Development
2021	0.633	Medium Human Development
2022	0.640	Medium Human Development
2023	0.644	Medium Human Development

The Human Development Index (HDI) measures achievements in three aspects of human development: health, education, and living standards. The measurement of HDI is expressed in the range 0 to 1, where 1 represents a higher level of development and 0 represents a lower level of development. India, with a global HDI value of 0.633, falls in the category of countries with 'Medium Human Development' and ranks 134 out of 193 countries according to the 2023 report. It is observed that India achieved a composite Human Development Index (HDI) score of 0.633 in 2021 as compared to its 1990s score of 0.429.

Human Development in India

When we discuss the Indian experience we find out that India is moving in a positive direction. Its speed is slow and it also suffers from regional imbalances. At the same time it is difficult to get representative averages because diversity is too much in India. In spite of all this, India has attained a middle level rank in the twenty first century. Population explosion and so many other pressing problems created hurdles, but even then human development statistics give us an optimistic picture. India has moved from low human development index to medium human development index in the recent past.

However, India is engulfed by so many problems. Our old but still very pressing problems are population, poverty and illiteracy. Besides them other equally important problems are corruption, orthodoxy, separatist tendencies, deforestation, terrorism ethnic violence, fundamentalism, faulty urbanization, pollution etc. Amidst so many problems, India is progressing in the social sector slowly and fighting against all the above mentioned problems.

Dimensions and Determinants of Human Development

There is no fixed list of Dimensions and Determinants of Human Development. Major Determinants and Dimensions of Human Development are underlined in UNDP_HDRs since 1990 that clearly shade light on Scope and Limitations of Human Development across the globe. Major Determinants and Dimensions of Human Development include:

1. **Healthy Life-** it include access to All Health Services to All at affordable cost without any discrimination and Security of Hygienic Life to Everyone.
2. **Education-** it includes access to Qualitative, Life –Building, Productive, Functional, and Affordable Education to All without any Discrimination.
3. **Decent Standard of Life-** it includes guaranteed Livelihood to everyone and Deprivation of No-one in any society, access to productive resources to everyone, access hygienic Productive Employment to every Eligible Person as per his / her ability and Knowledge without Discrimination.
4. **Active Work participation of Females and promotion to Industry and Services Sector oriented Occupational Structure**
5. **Guaranteed Human Rights-** it include Seven Fundamental Human Rights • Freedom from discrimination- by gender, race, ethnicity, national origin or religion. • Freedom from want- to enjoy a decent standard of living. • Freedom to develop and realize one’s human potential. • Freedom from fear- of threats to personal security, from torture, arbitrary arrest and other violent acts. • Freedom from injustice and violations of the rule of law. • Freedom of thought and speech and to participate in decision-making and form associations. • Freedom for decent work- without exploitation.
6. **Protection of Indigenous Culture(Protecting Cultural Diversity)-** it include empowering Indigenous Culture and Cultural Liberty and promotion of High Cultured Life rather than High Standard Life
7. **Sustainable Environment-**it include protection and promotion of Environment Bio-diversity.
8. **Sustainable Technology-** it include development and access of Advanced Technology to Everyone without adverse impact on Environment and Human Life.
9. **Developed Support Infrastructure-** it include Housing Facilities, Transport and Communication Facilities, Sanitation and Drainage management, Clean and Safe Drinking Water to All, Law and Order, Recreation Facilities.
10. **Democratic Good Governance and Institutions at All Level-**it includes Accountable and Reliable Good Governance and Public Institutions by the People, for the People and with the People promoting Democratic Way of Life.
11. Development of Value Based, Science Based, Knowledge Based and Culture Based Societies and Families Across the world.

Obstacles and Limitations to Construct Human Development Index

Selim Jahan in his Lecture at First Human Development Course at Oxford University¹³ illustrated the limits of the HDI:

- 1) The HDI does not provide a compressive picture of human development in any situation as it is just a summary measure.

2) The HDI does not take into account every aspect of human development and focuses on three dimensions of basic capabilities; but undermines the aspects of human life like participation, political freedom, and human security.

3) The HDI is not a perfect index that fully captures the concept of human Development: there is no pretension that HDI fully and perfectly captures the whole of human development.

4) UNDP_HDR 1990 enlisted deficiencies in social statistics including: Inadequate, Non-comparable, Unreliable and Lack of timeliness of data for many indicators and subjects.¹⁴

Other Limitations to construct HDI include:

5) Inter-state and Inter-regional uniform data is not available in India and Data collection system needs reforms.

6) Extensive and intensive use of Human Development Indicators for advocacy, policy dialogues and social debates are still to be popular at Local and Regional level.

7) There are certain aspects of Human Life like Human Rights, Culture, Political Freedom, Environment, Sustainability, Governance, Quality of Education that need qualitative and continuous assessments at various level.

CONCLUSION

The Human Development Index gives an overall Picture of economic development. There are certain differences among different states development conditions so there must be equal opportunities for development for all. Human development approach is different from traditional approaches of human well-being. GNP or GDP is the traditional approach of well-being, but it is not sufficient for human development. Many experiences have proved it. Human capital formation and human resource development approach consider human being as instrument for commodity production, but human beings are more than capital goods. They are also the ultimate ends and beneficiaries of this process. Human welfare approaches consider human being as the beneficiaries of the development process and ignore the participation in it. The basic need approaches put the people on charity. It focuses on the provision of goods and services rather than individuals capability to earn income. Thus, the human development approach covers almost all aspects of human well-being. Human Development is important for any country because it increases the pace of economic growth by enhancing the quality life in terms of health, education and skill development of people.

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