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## HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Whenever, we think about development, we normally tend to think about the material and economic development. Materials may include house, landed property, motor vehicle, jewellery etc. Again all these material assets are converted in terms of money, whenever or wherever the need arises. Till today, the entire world is divided into two groups of countries - developed and developing. This classification is mostly based on level of economic development. Though this trend is still continuing but a change in thinking about development was introduced. There has been a change in emphasis on measurement of development from purely economic dimension to a composite socio-economic dimensions. From 1990 onwards, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), each year calculate Human Development Index (HDI) and publish as a report which is known as Human Development Report (HDR). This report, is published each year in which almost all the countries are placed under three categories, high, medium and low based on the defined parameters.

In this lesson, we will learn about the concept and process of measuring human development index. We will also find out India's position among the various countries in the world. Simultaneously, we will also analyse position of various states of India as far as human development index is concerned. At the end, we will suggest certain measures to improve human development in our country.



### OUTCOMES

After studying this lesson, the learner:

- defines the term human development and human development index;
- describes the regional patterns of human development; and
- highlights the need for improvement in inclusive human development.

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India**Notes****23.1 CONCEPT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Do you know who coined the term 'Human Development'? In 1990 economists Dr. Mehbub Al Haque introduced the concept of Human Development. This concept was used for the construction of Human Development Index. In the inaugural issue of Human Development Report - 1990 published by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the authors defined human development as "a process of widening people's choices as well as raising the level of well-being". Human development concept is based on the idea of "development as a freedom". It is about building human capabilities - the range of things they can do and what they can be. Individual freedoms and rights matter a great deal. But these freedoms and rights are restricted for some because they are poor, illiterate, discriminated against, threatened by violent conflict etc. To achieve this there is a need for re-orientation of our process of development. In other words, development must revolve around the people, not people around the development.

To know more detail about the concept, let us refer to the writing of MahbubulHaq whopropounded this concept. In his book titled "Reflections on Human Development" discussed about the four pillars of human development. These are equity, sustainability, productivity and empowerment. Let us discuss them briefly.

1. **Equity:** Can you be able to elaborate the meaning of equity. In simpler terms it refers to equal opportunity to everyone without any discrimination of gender, caste, income and social influence. Can you now distinguish between equity and equality?
2. **Sustainability:** The second pillar is sustainability. It means providing continuous access to and availability of resource by keeping in mind the future generation. In other words, all future generations should have access to minimum resources utilized by today. You will read in details about sustainability and sustainable development in the next module.
3. **Productivity:** The third pillar according to MahbubulHaq is productivity. It refers to constantly improving capabilities of human resources for delivery their work. Ultimately people are the real wealth for any nation, if they are more skilled their values certainly will go up.
4. **Empowerment:** The fourth and final pillars of human development is empowerment. Now a days you might be hearing about various schemes by state governments and government of India for socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged sections of the society. What does this mean? It refers to a type of power which generates choice of freedom in human beings. Good governance and people oriented policy are required to empower human developments.

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If you carefully read the definition of human development given in the beginning of this section you can find reflection of these four concepts in the statement.

After knowing the concept of human development and its four pillars, can you differentiate between the concept economic development and human development? The basic difference between economic development and human development is that economic development entirely focuses on the increase of income whereas the human development believes in expanding and widening of all aspects of human life be it economic, social, political, cultural, etc. In economic aspect human development is one of the essential elements. The basic idea behind this is that it is the use of income and not the income itself that decides the human choices. Since, the real wealth of a nation is its people, therefore, the goal of development should be the enrichment of human life.

**Need for Human Development:** After knowing the concept of human development, you might be thinking that the need for creating another concept to measure the progress in development. Paul Streeten, a development economist identified six reasons in favour of the human development. The reasons are as follows:

1. The ultimate purpose of the entire exercise of development is to improve the human conditions and to enlarge people's choice.
2. Human development is a means to higher productivity. A well-nourished, healthy, educated, skilled alert labour force is the most productive asset. Therefore investments in these sectors are justified on ground of productivity.
3. It helps in reducing the rate of growth of population.
4. Human development is friendly to the physical environment also. Deforestation, desertification and soil erosion decline when poverty declines.
5. Improved living conditions and reduced poverty contribute to a healthy civil society and greater social stability.
6. Human development also helps in reducing civil disturbance in the society and in increasing political stability.

After studying the concept of human development, let us understand the measurement of human development in section 23.2.

### 23.2 MEASUREMENT OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

To measure the levels of human development, a set of indicators were proposed under three dimensions. Therefore, Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development. These basic dimensions are a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. The above mentioned dimensions are measured by the following indicators.

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1. A long and healthy life is measured by life expectancy at birth
2. Knowledge is measured by mean year of schooling and expected year of schooling
3. A decent standard of living is measured by GDP per capita (Adjusted do purchasing power parity in US dollar)

But we should know that the purpose of its construction is not to give a complete picture of human development rather to provide a measure which goes beyond the traditional measurement of development i.e. income. Therefore, HDI is a barometer for changes in human wellbeing and for comparing progress in different regions.

Apart from Human Development Index (HDI), the other four indicators of human development have been selected which were used by the Human Development Report for the last three decades. These are:

- (i) Human Poverty Index for developing countries (HPI-1)
- (ii) Human Poverty Index for selected OECD Countries (HPI-2)
- (iii) Gender - related Development Index (GDI)
- (iv) Gender Empowered Measurement (GEM)

Gender - related Development Index (GDI), together with the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), was introduced in the year 1995 whereas the Human Poverty Index (HPI) was introduced in the year 1997. There are two indices namely the HPI - 1, which measures poverty in developing countries, and the HPI-2, which measures poverty in OCED developed economies. From the above discussion it must be clear that India is assessed under HPI-1.

Out of these above mentioned five indices, HDI, HPI-1 and GDI are calculated by three common dimensions namely. a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. But some of the indicators are different within these dimensions. Let us know their similarities and differences from the table 23.1 given below.

Table 23.1: A comparative analysis of Dimensions used in HDI, HPI-1 and GDI

Sr. No.	Indices	HDI	HPI-1	GDI
1	A long and healthy life	● Life expectancy at birth	● Probability at birth of nots wimming to the age of 40	● Female and male life expectancy at birth

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2	Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mean year of schooling</li> <li>● Expected year of schooling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adult literacy rate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Female and male mean years of schooling for adults ages 25 years and older</li> <li>● Female and male expected years of schooling for children</li> </ul>
3	A Decent Standard of Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GDP per capita (Adjusted do purchasing power parity in US dollar)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The percentage of the population not using an improved water source</li> <li>● The percentage of children under -weight for their age.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Female and male estimated earned income.</li> </ul>

Till now you might have understood the importance of human development and about indicators used by UNDP to measure HDI, GDI and HPI-1. Let us now have a closer look at India's position at international level as far as human development is concerned. We will also try to find out the reasons for low levels of human development in India.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 23.1**

1. What is Human Development Index?
2. Differentiate between human development and economic development
3. Name the three dimensions and their respective indicator used for measuring HDI.
  - (i)
  - (ii)
  - (iii)

**23.3 INDIA: TRENDS OF HDI**

According to Human Development Report 2021-2022 India's rank was 133 out of 191 countries of the world. All the 191 countries are grouped under four categories. These are

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very high, high, medium and low. The countries which had value 0.800 and above are grouped under very high whereas the countries which had values ranges 0.700 to 0.799 were ranked as high human development. The countries which had value between 0.550 to 0.699 were ranked under medium categories and countries which had value less than 0.550 were ranked as low human development countries.

According to Human Development Report 2021-2022, India ranks 132 out of 191 countries of the world. India was placed almost at the bottom of the table in the medium level category. Our neighbouring countries like China (78), Sri Lanka (73), Maldives (90), and Bhutan (127) remained well above the India's position. Other neighbouring countries like Myanmar (149), Pakistan (161) and Nepal (143) were placed below India. If we compare at global level, the countries which lies below India were mostly from Africa and rest few countries were from Asia.

Analysis of all the four parameters provide us a better picture about the current status. Out of four, India has declined on three parameters and improved on one. Firstly, in health, life expectancy has fallen down from 69.7 to 67.2 years. As far as education is concerned out of two indicators, there is a drop in expected years of schooling, but mean years of schooling have seen an increase. This drop is because of the school closure during the Corona pandemic. Lastly, the standard of living; this is where the Gross National Income (GNI) per capita comes in and for India, it has fallen from \$6,681 to \$6,590.

If we look at India's situation over the time we can definitely say that it has improved a lot over the years. During the last 31 years (1990 - 2021), it has been observed that India has continuously improved its human development score till 2019. In fact, the decline started after 2019 (0.645). There has been a decline in the year 2021 in comparison to 2020 (Table 23.2). This was mainly due to Corona pandemic. This has not only happened with India but also with most of the developed countries those are already in the very high and high category.

Table 23.2: INDIA: Human Development Index Trends in India 1990 - 2021

Years	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2021
India	0.434	0.438	0.491	0.534	0.575	0.629	0.642	0.634

This improvement is not sufficient enough. There are many small countries of Asia and Africa like Fiji, Mongolia, Tunisia, etc. are well above India. India has to work very hard to be placed among the top countries in the medium human development category (0.550 - 0.699). If the present trend continues it needs minimum 30 years to enter the high human development category. And for this, a rigorous effort particularly in the social sector like education, health and economic sector particularly reduction of poverty are required.

The following are some of the reasons to keep India at the bottom of human development (a)



rapid increase in population (b) large number of adult illiterates and low gross enrolment ratio (c) high dropout rates (d) inadequate government expenditure on education and health, (e) large proportion of underweight children as well as under nourished people (f) very poor sanitation facilities and low access to essential lifesaving medicines.

Apart from HDI, the performance of India is also not very encouraging as far as Gender Development Index (GDI) and Human Poverty Index (HPI) are concerned. According to Human Development Report, 2021-2022, India's GDI stands at 0.849 which is significantly behind the world average. As mentioned in the table 23.1 GDI measures disparities in the HDI by gender.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 23.2

1. What is India's position in Human Development Index according to Human Development Report-2021-2022?
2. What was India's GDI stands as per Human Development Report, 2021-2022?

### 28.3 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX - A STATE LEVEL ANALYSIS

Till now we have studied concept, measurement and status human development all over the world including India. But there are variations within India. Certain states are performing well and certain states are still lagging behind. In accordance with UNDP Human Development Report an attempt was made to rank various states of India in to different categories. Global Data Centre of UNDP has analysed the data at sub-national level also. In the below given HDI values of all the twenty eight states are given for the year 1990 and 2021.

Table 23.3: India : Human Development Index of States, 1990 and 2021

Sr. No.	States	1990	2021
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.427	0.630
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.442	0.665
3	Assam	0.412	0.597
4	Bihar	0.379	0.571
5	Goa	0.557	0.605
6	Gujarat	0.474	0.638
7	Haryana	0.471	0.691

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8	Himachal Pradesh	0.484	0.703
9	Jammu & Kashmir	0.498	0.699
10	Jharkhand	0.562	0.589
11	Karnataka	0.447	0.667
12	Kerala	0.550	0.752
13	MadhyaPradesh	0.407	0.596
14	Maharashtra	0.498	0.688
15	Manipur	0.499	0.678
16	Meghalaya	0.461	0.643
17	Mizoram	0.531	0.688
18	Nagaland	0.539	0.670
19	Odisha	0.402	0.597
20	Punjab	0.501	0.694
21	Rajasthan	0.406	0.638
22	Sikkim	0.546	0.702
23	TamilNadu	0.475	0.686
24	Telangana	0.624	0.647
25	Tripura	0.449	0.629
26	UttarPradesh	0.398	0.592
27	Uttarakhand	0.627	0.672
28	WestBengal	0.443	0.624
29	India	0.434	0.633

If we analyse the patterns given in the above Table, it can be observed that there has been significant improvements in all the states of India over the last thirty years (1990-2021). However, as mentioned above the progress is varied. The below given table categorized all the twenty eight states in to four categories as suggested by Human Development Report.



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Table 23.4: Levels of Human Development Index among States of India, 2021

S. No.	Levels of HDI	Range	Name of the State
1	Very High	Above 0.800	Nil
2	High	0.700 - 0.799	Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim
3	Medium	0.550 - 0.699	Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telengana, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal
4	Low	Less than 0.550	Nil

If you analyse the above mentioned table, you will find that not a single state of the country is in the very high category (0.800 and above). There are only three states namely Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are in the category of high human development. Rest of the twenty five states are in the medium category of human development. On the other hand, not a single state is there in the category of low human development (Less than 0.550). This has been due to constant efforts by the Government of India and State governments. If we compare the situation in relation to national average there are ten states which are below the national average. Identify these states from the above given tables. Try to find out the reasons responsible for this situation.

**INTEXT QUESTIONS 23.3**

1. Name any five states of India which are below national average in HDI.
2. Name the three states of India which are in the high category of HDI..

**WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT**

The concept of Human Development Index (HDI) was propounded by Prof. Mehabub Al Haque. From 1990 onwards Human Development Report is published by UNDP annually

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which reflects the status of human development in almost all the countries across the world. HDI is a composite index that measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development. They are long and healthy life, knowledge and decent standards of living. The basic difference between economic development and human development is that economic development entirely focuses on the increase of income where as the human development stresses in expanding and widening of all aspects of human life. In HDI, economic condition is one of the essential elements. Apart from HDI, various types of indices are constructed and published by UNDP. Some of the important indices are Human Poverty Index, Gender Development Index, Gender Empowered Measurement index, etc.

According to Human Development Report- 2021, India's rank is 132 almost at the bottom of the table in the medium level category. The reasons which keep India at the bottom of human development are rapid increase in population, large number of adult illiterates, low Gross Enrollment Ratio, inadequate government expenditure on education and health, large proportion of under-weight children as well as undernourished people, very poor sanitation facilities and low access to essential life saving medicines etc. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve in health situation, educational attainment and increased standard of living and reduction of poverty level.

**TERMINAL QUESTIONS**

1. Differentiate among Human Development Index, Human Poverty Index and Gender Development Index.
2. Explain any four reasons in favour of the human development.
3. Write any four factors responsible for keeping India almost at the bottom of human development index table.

**ANSWERS TO INTEXT QUESTIONS****23.1**

1. The Human Development Index is a composite index that measures the average achievements of a country in three basic dimensions of human development such as long and healthy life, knowledge and decent standard of living.
2. Economic development entirely focuses on the increase of income. The human development stresses in expanding and widening of all aspects of human life.



3. (i) Long and healthy life measured by life expectancy at birth.
- (ii) Knowledge is measured by the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio.
- (iii) A decent standard of living is measured by DGP per capita purchasing power parity in US Dollar.

### 23.2

1. 132 out of 191 countries.
2. 0.849

### 23.3

1. (i) Haryana, (ii) Himachal Pradesh, (iii) Karnataka (iv) Kerala, any other (Any three)
2. (i) Bihar (ii) Madhya Pradesh (iii) Uttar Pradesh (iv) Rajasthan, any other (Any three)

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## **MODULE -10**

### **Contemporary Issues and Challenges**

24. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
25. Environment, Health and Sanitation