

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Human Development is the study of how people develop on Physical, Intellectual and Social levels. It probes the different stages of life to better understand how people work. This concept of a broader human development was first laid out by Amartya Sen, a Nobel laureate in 1998. The work of Amartya Sen and others laid the foundations for a different approach and broader human development. The latter was defined as the process of enlarging people's choices and improving human capabilities (the range of things that they can do or be in life) and freedoms so they can live a long and healthy life, access to education and a decent standard of living, participate in their community and the decisions that affect their lives.

Keywords: HDR, HDI

I. INTRODUCTION

The *Human Development Report* (HDR) is an annual milestone publication by the *Human Development Report Office* of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The report was first launched in 1990, by the world renowned Pakistani Economist Mahbub-ul Haq and Indian Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. Its goal was to place people at the center of the development process in terms of economic debate, policy and advocacy. Development was characterized by the provision of choices and freedoms resulting in widespread outcomes.

There are six basic pillars of human development: Equity, Sustainability, Productivity, Empowerment, Cooperation and Security. Equity is the idea of fairness for every person, between men and women; we all have the right to an education and health care. Secondly, sustainability is the view that we all have the right to earn a living that can sustain our lives and have access to a more even distribution of goods. In addition, productivity states the full participation of people in the process of income generation. This also means that the

government needs more efficient social programs for its people. Empowerment is the freedom of the people to influence development and decisions that affect their lives. Cooperation stipulates participation and belonging to communities and groups as a means of mutual enrichment and a source of social meaning. Last but not least, Security offers people development opportunities freely and safely with confidence that they will not disappear suddenly in the future.

Challenges to Human Development

1. Land Rights and Women's Empowerment
2. Child Labor and Access to Education
3. Reform of Legal and Judicial Systems
4. The Economics of Social Rights.

II. WHAT IS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT?

Human development as an approach, deals with what I consider the basic development idea: namely, increasing the richness of human life rather than the wealth of the economy in which human beings live, which is only a part of life itself. "Amartya Sen, Nobel Prize for economics in 1998. The term human development was the result of criticism of the approach that was taken in early 1989 on development. At that time it was believed that there was a close link between a country's economic growth and expansion of individual choices of human beings.

The work of Amartya Sen and others laid the foundations for a different approach and broader human development. The latter was defined as the process of enlarging people's choices and improving human capabilities (the range of things that they can do or be in life) and freedoms so they can live a long and healthy life, access to education and a decent standard of living, participate in their community and the decisions that affect their lives. Drawing on this, it is undeniable that people are the real wealth of nations, so that human development involves expanding the opportunities and capacities to enable them to live a creative and productive life according to your needs and interests.

For this reason, development is focused on expanding the choices human beings have to have the life they value. In this sense, it is essential to work on building capacities for human development that is sustainable over time.

These core capacities for human development are:

1. Enjoying a long and healthy life
2. Being educated
3. Access to resources that enable people to live in dignity
4. Being able to participate in decisions that affect their community

If people are not offered the opportunity to develop the circumstances described above, many of the opportunities for obtaining a better quality of life are unavailable or simply do not exist for them. For it is said that human development is the development of the people for the people and the people.

Therefore, human development considers the six main factors integral:

1. **Equity:** Equal opportunities for all. Main focus is placed on equity of human development between men and women and various social groups.
2. **Empowerment:** Freedom of the people to influence, as the subjects of development, decisions that affect their lives. Everyone has the power to take any decision about his/her life.
3. **Cooperation:** Participation and belonging to communities and groups as a means of mutual cooperation and a source of social meaning.
4. **Sustainability:** Meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of satisfying the same by future generations.
5. **Security:** Exercise development opportunities freely and safely with confidence that they will not disappear suddenly in the future.
6. **Productivity:** Full participation of people in the process of income generation and gainful employment.

To enhance these factors, countries or regions should guide their development strategies towards the gradual creation of an economic, social, political and cultural environment which enhance individual and social capabilities. One of the major contributions that UNDP

(United Nation Development Program) does in this area is the mainstreaming of human development at work, putting people at the center of development processes as part of its advocacy, policies and economic debate.

III. THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Belize congratulates the UNDP Human Development Report Office on the 20th anniversary since the launch of the first Human Development Report in 1990 “ with the goal of putting people at the center of development, going beyond income to assess people’s long-term well-being”. “The *Human Development Human Development Report* is an independent publication commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)...Contributors to the Report includes leading development scholars and practitioners... The Reports’ messages — and the tools to implement them — have been embraced by people around the world...*Report* is translated into more than a dozen languages and launched in more than 100 countries annually.”

The Regional, National and Sub-National Reports

Human Development Reports at the regional, national and sub-national levels take the human development approach to the regional or country level and are prepared and owned by regional and national teams. They both feed into and draw upon the data and analysis of the global Report. Over 600 regional, national and sub-national reports have been produced so far in over 140 countries.

National reports place human development at the forefront of the national political agenda. They are tools for policy analysis reflecting people's priorities, strengthening national capacities, engaging national partners, identifying inequities and measuring progress. As instruments for measuring human progress and triggering action for change, regional reports promote regional partnerships for influencing change, and addressing region-specific human development approaches to human rights, poverty, education, economic reform, HIV/AIDS, and globalization.

As policy advocacy documents, they have introduced the human development concept into national policy dialogues — not only through human development indicators and policy recommendations, but also through

the country-led and country-owned process of consultation, research and report writing.

As advocacy tools designed to appeal to a wide audience, the reports can spur public debates and mobilize support for action and change. They have helped to articulate people's perceptions and priorities, and have served as a source of alternate policy opinion for development planning across varied themes.

Human Development Reports are divided into 3 parts which are as follows:-

1. National Development Report

Belize Human Development Reports

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1998 – Placing People at the Centre of our Development "The 1998 Belize HDR...discusses the origin and concept of human development, the Human Development Index (HDI), the Human Poverty Index (HPI), as well as other indexes and expenditure ratios..."

2. Regional Development Report

Latin America and the Caribbean Human Development Reports "*Human Development Reports* at the regional, national and sub-national levels take the human development approach to the regional or country level and are prepared and owned by regional and national teams. They both feed into and draw upon the data and analysis of the global Report. Over 600 regional, national and sub-national reports have been produced so far in over 140 countries...As instruments for measuring human progress and triggering action for change, regional reports promote regional partnerships for influencing change, and addressing region-specific human development approaches to human rights, poverty, education, economic reform, HIV/AIDS, and globalization.

2012 - Human Development and the Shift to Better Citizen Security

"The Caribbean Human Development Report reviews the current state of crime as well as national and regional policies and programmes to address the problem in seven English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago..."

2010 - Acting on the future: Breaking the intergenerational transmission of inequality

"The Regional Human Development Report for Latin America and the Caribbean 2010 champions a new approach to understanding and tackling the prevailing inequality in terms of human development plaguing Latin American and Caribbean countries. The report is divided into six chapters, which explore the factors underpinning the persistence of inequality..."

2002 – Central America and Panama: The State of the Region

"The Report focuses on Sustainable Human Development in Central America. It gives a record of Central American countries' efforts to become a more united and integrated region, and increase its capacity to promote human development..."

3. Global Development Report

"People are the real wealth of a nation" stated the first *Human Development Report* in 1990."By backing up this assertion with an abundance of empirical data and a new way of thinking about and measuring development, the *Human Development Report* has had a profound impact on development policies around the world. This 20th anniversary edition features introductory reflections by the Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen, who worked with series founder Mahbub ul Haq on the conception of the first *Human Development Report* and contributed to and inspired many successive volumes."

2011 - Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All

"The 2011 HDR addresses a central challenge of the twenty-first century: achieving equity and environmental sustainability by treating them not as independent issues, but as goals which are inextricably linked to continued human development progress. This perspective can

inform debate on sustainable development as the world prepares for the Rio+20 Summit, and will help guide our thinking toward the post-2015 framework for development goals.”

2010 - The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development

“The 2010 Report continues the tradition of pushing the frontiers of development thinking. For the first time since 1990, the Report looks back rigorously at the past several decades and identifies often surprising trends and patterns with important lessons for the future. These varied pathways to human development show that there is no single formula for sustainable progress and that impressive long-term gains can and have been achieved even without consistent economic growth.”

2009 - Overcoming barriers – Human mobility and development

“Migration, both within and beyond borders, is a prominent theme in domestic and international debates, and is the topic of the 2009 HDR. The starting point is that the global distribution of capabilities is extraordinarily unequal, and that this is a major driver for movement of people.”

2007, 2008 - Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world

“Climate change is the greatest challenge facing humanity at the start of the 21st Century. Failure to meet that challenge raises the spectre of unprecedented reversals in human development. The world’s poorest countries and poorest people will bear the brunt. This year’s Human Development Report explains why we have less than a decade to change course and start living within our global carbon budget. It explains how climate change will create long-run low human development traps, pushing vulnerable people into a downward spiral of deprivation.”

IV. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite statistic used to rank countries by level of "human development", taken as a synonym of the older terms "standard of living" and/or "quality of life", and distinguishing "very high human development", "high human development", "medium human development", and "low human development" countries. HDI was devised and launched by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul

Haq, followed by Indian economist Amartya Sen in 1990. The HDI is a comparative measure of life expectancy, literacy, education, and standards of living of a country. It is a standard means of measuring well-being, especially child welfare. It is also used to distinguish whether the country is a developed, a developing or an underdeveloped country, and also to measure the impact of economic policies on quality of life. There are also HDI for states, cities, villages, etc. by local organizations or companies which have interest in the matter. The HDI formula result is a number from 0 to 1, (1 is the best outcome possible).

V. ORIGINS

Origins of the HDI are found in the annual Human Development Reports of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). These were devised and launched by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq in 1990 and had the explicit purpose "to shift the focus of development economics from national income accounting to people centered policies". To produce the Human Development Reports, Mahbub ul Haq brought together a group of well-known development economists including: Paul Streeten, Frances Stewart, Gustav Ranis, Keith Griffin, Sudhir Anand and Meghnad Desai. But it was Nobel laureate Amartya Sen’s work on capabilities and functionings that provided the underlying conceptual framework. Haq was sure that a simple composite measure of human development was needed in order to convince the public, academics, and policy-makers that they can and should evaluate development not only by economic advances but also improvements in human well-being. Sen initially opposed this idea, but he went on to help Haq develop the Index. Sen was worried that it was difficult to capture the full complexity of human capabilities in a single index but Haq persuaded him that only a single number would shift the attention of policy-makers from concentration on economic to human well-being.

Dimensions and calculation

Published on 4 November 2010 (and updated on 10 June 2011), starting with the 2011 Human Development Report the HDI combines three dimensions:

- A long and healthy life: Life expectancy at birth
- Education index: Mean years of schooling and Expected years of schooling
- A decent standard of living: GNI per capita (PPP US\$)

The HDI combined three dimensions up until its 2011 report:

- Life expectancy at birth, as an index of population health and longevity
- Knowledge and education, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weighting) and the combined primary, secondary, and tertiary gross enrollment ratio (with one-third weighting).
- Standard of living, as indicated by the natural logarithm of gross domestic product per capital at purchasing power parity.

New method for 2011 data onwards

In its 2010 Human Development Report, the UNDP began using a new method of calculating the HDI. The following three indices are used:

$$1. \text{ Life Expectancy Index (LEI)} = \frac{\text{LE} - 20}{83.4 - 20}$$

$$2. \text{ Education Index (EI)} = \frac{\sqrt{\text{MYSI} \cdot \text{EYSI}}}{0.951}$$

$$2.1 \text{ Mean Years of Schooling Index (MYSI)} = \frac{\text{MYS}}{13.2}$$

$$2.2 \text{ Expected Years of Schooling Index (EYSI)} = \frac{\text{EYS}}{20.6}$$

$$3. \text{ Income Index (II)} = \frac{\ln(\text{GNIPc}) - \ln(100)}{\ln(107,721) - \ln(100)}$$

$$\text{HDI} = \sqrt[3]{\text{LEI} \cdot \text{EI} \cdot \text{II}}$$

Finally, the HDI is the geometric mean of the previous three normalized indices:

LE: Life expectancy at birth

MYS: Mean years of schooling (Years that a 25-year-old person or older has spent in schools)

EYS: Expected years of schooling

GNIPc: Gross national income at purchasing power parity per capital.

VI. ADVANTAGES OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The human development index is calculated each year by the U.N. Development Program as a summary indicator of "Human Development," combining data on life expectancy at birth, adult literacy, educational enrollment, and average income also measured by G.D.P. per capita. Both the HDI and GDP (per capita)

have similarities for example On GDP Norway have the second largest GDP per capita for 2008 as well as the 2 highest HDI for 2008 as well as Ireland being 6th in the world for GDP and HDI for 2008 There is a correlation between HDI and GDP when ever GDP goes up HDI goes up meaning that HDI can be see as an alternative according to **Francisco Rodriguez**.

Countries are ranked according to GDP however this is not necessarily the best way to think about differences in living standards across countries. For example, GDP per capita is influenced by how much spending and output is created in that country however this does no mean that standard of living or resources are used to there full potential as huge output could be focused on army or other good/services not necessarily improving the country. GDP cannot tell you much about key issues such as human development literature rates and life expectancy, unlike HDI, which covers a wide range of factors that help to make a country.

VII. CONCLUSION

The political leadership of modern states has a primary objective of improving the quality of life of their people. This they attempt to realize through putting in place economic and social programs that will address the needs of their people. For developing economies, the objective is usually to improve living standards and have as many of their people as possible above and beyond the poverty line. For already developed economies, the political leadership endeavors to sustain the level of development already attained while striving to improve in those areas in which the Human Development Index (HDI) indicates a need for improvement. The issue of human development, therefore, is of critical concern since it can be perceived as a measure of how well the ship of state is steered in identifying and meeting the needs of its people. It is also an indication of the level of participation of the people in governance in terms of articulating their needs and in developing policies and programs for improved living standards.

Human Development and Human Development Index (HDI)

Human development is the process of enhancing the human capabilities to expand choices and opportunities such that each person can lead a life of respect and value. The choices are in the areas of:

- (a) Leading a long and healthy life
- (b) Acquisition of knowledge
- (c) Access to the resources needed for a decent living standard

These three variables make up the composite HDI (Human Development Index). HDI is a measure of the average achievement of a country in these three basic dimensions, which are simple, objective, and quantifiable as follows:

- (a) Standard of Living is measured by the purchasing power of the people based on GDP per capita adjusted to reflect the local cost of living and usually expressed in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP)
- (b) Knowledge is a measure of a combination of adult literacy and combined primary, secondary and tertiary enrollment

(c) Longevity is life expectancy at birth
The Human Development Index is the average of these three basic dimensions of Human development. Living Standard and the Concept of Human Poverty
One of the key elements of human development as already observed is the living standard of a people. One key objective of every political system has always been how to uplift and improve the living standard of its people. This cannot be fully appreciated without examining the concept of human poverty (not economic poverty per se) and strategies for alleviating it in order to achieve the objective of improving living standards. It is worthy of note that poverty is much more than lacking what is necessary for material well being. Although the HDI emphasizes the economic factor of GDP per capita in the measure of this parameter it also includes a lot more.

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