
UNIT 19 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

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19.1 INTRODUCTION

The issue of development has been central in social sciences discourses for a long time. Its content, form and meaning had experienced sea changes particularly with the emergence and maturity of capitalism as the first Global System. The 33rd US President, Harry S. Truman through his Point Four Programme launched on 10th January 1949, assigned to it its present meaning. Before that it was used in a limited sense particularly with reference to species, to real estate and to moves in the game of chess. Hereafter, it was used to refer to people, to countries and to economic strategies. It was a paradigm shift in the true sense of the term. Today development is used in a wider context. It is used as a reason of the state, a legitimiser of regimes, a power relation and above all the philosophy and ideology of the state. Correspondingly, there came a spate of 'development theories', formation of 'development communities' and inauguration of 'development epochs or decades'. However, there was something more conspicuous than many other aspects of development. It was related to the use of development for peace and for establishing global hegemony. The developed countries mostly from the group of former colonisers also known as the 'North' succeeded in constructing and defining Development in a particular way within the limits of certain parameters and thereafter they tried to judge all the other countries and communities through a single yardstick. Countries and communities that failed to qualify in accordance to the norms outlined in the yardstick were subjected to various types of manipulations and manoeuvres. Most often these interventions were against the history, culture and popular will of the people. One such yardstick is the concept and idea of "Human Development".

19.2 APPROACHES TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Many scholars and thinkers tried to evolve various approaches to conceptualise and define human development at various times in the past. Some of the most debated ones are:

19.2.1 Income/GNP Approach

It is often said that “*virtue thy name is Gold*” or “*Sarve guna kanchan mashrayanti*”. Wealth or income of a person or of a nation is not only a good indicator of their range of choices they can exercise but also of the realm of freedom and possibilities. Wealth is not only an asset in the hands of a person but it is also the totality of his being in a system where 'having determines ones' being'. This is perhaps one of the simplest and once upon a time widely used approach for measuring human development. According to this approach the total (Gross/Net) produce of the country is converted into money value and divided by the total population of the country. A higher per capita income will indicate a higher level of human development. But, in recent times this approach has come under severe criticism for a variety of reasons:

- Income is only a means and not an end in itself. Higher income need not necessarily mean better quality of life. Well being of an individual and society mostly depends upon the use to which income is put and not on the level of income alone. Higher income of a drug addict, a sick person, and a country engaged in prolonged war and internal conflicts may not show better level of well-being.
- Income takes into account only the material aspects of the social assets and it does not take into account the non-material components. Well-being largely depends upon the opportunities and capabilities available with the individual in a particular society, which in turn is based on the nature of "social capital as a feature of social organisation, such as trust, norms and networks, that can improve the coordinated action of an individual in a society".
- Income of a country or an individual at a particular point of time is incapable of assessing the potentialities and growth prospects in future. Countries that have made good investments in human resource development such as in imparting education and skill may indicate low levels of income but higher potential in future than countries that have higher level of income at present but spend little on such investments.
- Higher income with higher disparities will indicate relatively lower levels of well-being than medium income with low level of disparities. The experiences of the countries show that high levels of human development at modest income levels and poor levels of human development at fairly high income levels.

To sum up, it can be safely stated that links between income and human development is neither direct nor automatic. Income and GNP are at best necessary but not sufficient conditions for human development.

19.2.2 Human Capital Formation Approach

Human Capital Formation is also known as Human Resource Development Approach. It primarily looks at human beings as means rather than as ends. These theories are mainly concerned with the supply side and consider human beings as instruments in extending the expended commodity reproductions. Once again, there is no denial of the fact that it is primarily human ability to produce that distinguishes them from rest of the species in the animal kingdom but this is a very narrow view of human productive potentials. Apart from commodity production human beings are also creators of their own history which is not only a unique but a most significant feat as far as realisation of human worth is concerned. One of the two principal contradictions of all the class societies was denial of this realisation to a majority of human beings, that they are important actors in the saga of human history. To be recognised as a distinct identity is quintessential to receiving any distributive justice, which in turn is intricately related to the quality of life and well-being. This is perhaps one message that has come clear and loud from the fall of former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Pretoria and Iraq etc. at the beginning of the twenty first century that, "every thing else is negotiable except the right to be recognised". Redistribution and recognition have become the inseparable components of human freedom in this century. Thus the concept of Human Resource Development captures only the smaller part of human creativity and misses the most important one.

19.2.3 Human Welfare Approach

This approach has gained popularity with the maturity of the modern welfare states. It looks at human beings more as the beneficiary of development rather than participants in the process. At a glance, this approach appears to be in the interest of general well-being and common good. But a critical insight into the structural logic reveals that various welfare measures carried out by the different states world over are prompted under the compulsion of gaining legitimacy and consent from the masses. It was primarily in the aftermath of the French Revolution when there occurred a paradigm shift in the nature of social power. It was followed by a shift in the source of legitimacy from the almighty to common man, which in turn was accompanied by a shift in the nature of class rule. Hereafter, class rule was replaced by hegemonic control, use of open violence by structural violence, and brutal power by capillary power relation. Consequently, naked exploitation gave way to hegemonised control and governmentality. Therefore, a most ideal welfare state represents one that uses structural violence and capillary forces to exercise hegemonic control over its people. Consequently, what may appear as welfare measures to many are quintessentially components of hegemonic control and aspects of governmentality. Educational and health facilities given by many states world over in the name of welfare measures are the best examples of exercising structural control and governmentality.

19.2.4 Basic Minimum Need Approach

This is one of the most important and also rigorously debated approaches. It was initially proposed by International Labour Organisation (ILO) as a measure of adequacy of a development process. ILO has identified six basic needs namely health, education, food, water supply, sanitation and housing. It basically concentrates on the bundle of goods, commodities and services that the deprived population groups needs rather than the issue of

human choices. It is because of such a crass existential approach toward such a sensitive and human issue like human development that this has been criticised by many. Some of the important issues raised by this approach are:

Who determines basic needs? Is it the people, government or the organ of the state? Is it possible for any one to lay down a basket of commodities that people should regard as basic? For example, the ILO considers employment a basic need; according to Sidney Webb it includes leisure; in China it is a decent funeral; and others may consider safety as a basic necessity.

- Is the concept of basic needs subjective or objective? How to resolve the differences that emerge due to the position one occupies in the market? Looking at it from the supply side it may be possible to suggest objectively specified quantities of goods, **commodities** and services such as food, clothing, shelter, water and sanitation that are essential to prevent ill health. But from the demand side there may be differences in the ordering of the items in the bundle along with the level of satisfaction each consumer derives **from** the items in the bundle.
- Do basic needs refer to conditions for a full, long and healthy life of a specific bundle of goods and **services** that are deemed to provide opportunity for these conditions? What is the basis to assume that basic needs expressed by the consumers has a **full** knowledge of and free access to market and they **are** not gullible to temptations created by misinformation through advertisement etc? Moreover, how can one **justify** that selection of the bundle of basic needs is a result of their **free** will and rational choice and these are not made under pressures, enticements, fears and cajolery etc?
- What is the purpose of participation? What form should it take? How does a right to participate (if it exists) relate to the political/administrative structures necessary for efficient implementation of the basic needs approach? Participation of people is seen as a major advancement towards their empowerment and well-being. But, the question is whether it is a means or **an** end? What is the purpose of participation? Is it for personal satisfaction, work enrichment, greater efficiency to improve results including cost **minimisation**, community development or promotion of solidarity etc? Similarly, what should be the nature and form of participation?
- What is the relationship between the redistribution approach to development and the basic needs approach? Does the basic needs approach require **fundamental** systematic change or it is palliative? Participation does not always mean empowerment and democratisation. The annals of history prove that autocrats and dictators too encouraged participation of workers, scholars, politicians, scientists and philosophers through highly undemocratic means. The findings of the **B.R.Mehta** Committee Report on the **functioning** of Panchayati Raj System in India also proved that devolution of powers at the lower levels have proved counter productive in the spread of democratic ethos in the country and this system of governance **further** consolidated the hegemony of the rural potentates with additional power at their disposal. Moreover, it is also a common experience of most of the elected democracies that leadership very seldom represents the masses. Most of the leaders who succeed in getting elected are manipulators and **power brokers** rather than grass root level mass workers. They emerge as leaders through manoeuvres instead of a real mass movement.

The experiences of the western democracies too prove that labour aristocracy had detrimental impacts upon the working class movements in these countries. Apart from these the questions this approach need to answer are:

- Whether basic needs are an end in it self or they are instruments for developing human resources?
- In the age of globalisation, what will be the role of the forces of globalisation and international support in mobilising the basic needs? Finally,
- What is the relation between poverty eradication and reducing income inequalities?

A.K. Sen is one of the most articulate critics of the Basic Needs Approach. According to him the need, satisfaction, happiness and commodity based approaches present a one-sided view only. Human Development is a complex and multidimensional process and he conceptualises it in terms of 'Opportunities' and 'Capabilities'. Commodities are like text, open for multiple interpretations and appropriations. A given quantity and quality of food basket has different significance for different consumers. The uses and utilities taken from the given basket of food will depend upon the sex, age, health, rate of metabolism, state of the physical and mental health of the consumer (for example a pregnant woman and a lactating mother), nature of work, climate of the place, the level of knowledge about the nutritive value of various food items and rate of loss of nutrition through different cooking methods etc all will be determined by the capabilities of the consumer. Sen also argues that human development should not be judged from the degree of freedom one enjoys in having different options to select from which is the most important aspect of well-being. In support of his arguments he places the examples of a starving beggar, a fasting monk and Gandhi on hunger strike. According to him the last two i.e. the fasting monk and Gandhi on hunger strike have capabilities and they have the freedom to exercise their option. It is only the starving pauper who lacks capabilities and has low levels of human development.

It is evident from the above discussion that the basic needs approach has been severely criticised by scholars and many scholars have expressed their opinions in favour of a more comprehensive approach to define human development. Capability, options and freedom are the three non-negotiable minimum acceptable criteria laid down by many. But, in no way are these agreeable to all. Frances Stewart suggested that human development should be assessed in terms of more objective and observable achievements rather than in terms of subjective parameters like, happiness, freedom and choice etc.

In the backdrop of these debates, claims and counter claims, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) tried to define and conceptualise human development. It was in 1990 that the UNDP finally came up with its own definition and notion of human development.

19.3 DEFINING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

"As a process of enlarging the range of people's choices- increasing their opportunities for education, health care, income and employment and covering the full range of human choices from a sound physical environment to economic and political freedom".

For many it may appear a simple and an easy exercise to arrive at a consensus in evolving a definition of a concept like human development but as far as UNDP is concerned, this

was any thing but an easy and simple exercise. The first report on human development prepared by the UNDP made it explicit:

"This report is about people- and about how development enlarges their choices. It is about more than GNP growth, more than income and wealth and more than producing commodities and accumulating capital. A person's access to income may be one of the choice, but it is not the sum total of human behaviour."

"Human Development is a process of enlarging people's choices. The most critical of these wide-ranging choices are to live a long and healthy life, to be educated and to have access to resources needed for a decent standard of living. Additional choices include political freedom, guaranteed human rights and personal self-respect".

The other core issues of concern that find mention in the reports are:

- Development enables people to have these choices though no one can guarantee happiness to others.
- Development should aim at creating conducive environment for people, to develop their full potential and to have a reasonable chance of leading productive and creative lives in accord with their needs and interests.
- Development should concern more than the formation of human capabilities, such as improved health or knowledge and it should focus more on the realisation of these capabilities in every possible spheres of our social life.

Human freedom is vital for human development. People must be free to express their choices.

- Human development is not only the satisfaction of basic needs but also of human development as a participatory and dynamic process. It is applicable to both the developed and the developing countries.
- The other and most significant aspect of the report was the identification of certain key indicators of human development, their measurement and preparation of human development index for all the countries of the world.

19.4 INDICATORS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

At the world level, the United Nations' Development Programme was the apex body to prepare a Human Development Report for all the countries. It was felt that measuring the progress of various countries on the basis of single criterion i.e. GNP has too many limitations to be used as the basis of comparison. Many scholars looked for a more comprehensive socio-economic measure because they believed that:

“Human Development is about people – and about how development enlarges their choices. It is about more than GNP growth, more than income and wealth and more than producing commodities and accumulating capital. A person's access to income may be one of the choices, but it is not the sum total of human endeavour”.

The 1990 report was the first endeavour in this direction. This report identified three essential elements of human life: ***Longevity, knowledge and decent living standards.***

Longevity

Life expectancy at birth is the indicator for measuring longevity. The theoretical justification provided for selecting life expectancy lies in a common belief that human life is most precious and long life is priceless amongst all human achievements. It is both the means as well as the end. Long life is closely associated with adequate nutrition, good health and personal safety.

Knowledge

“Knowledge is power” is an old saying. Literacy is a person's first step in learning and knowledge building. Therefore, a literate person has greater access to power than an illiterate. Moreover, the importance of literacy has been enhanced in the age of information technology because it is no more considered an achievement of an individual but the basis of one's existence.

Decent living standard

It is an accepted fact that command over resources is a must for a decent living but it is one of the most difficult to measure. The most readily available indicator is per capita income, but it has a wide national coverage and variations along with many other serious anomalies. Therefore, using purchasing power-adjusted real GDP per capita provides better approximation of the relative power to buy commodities and to gain command over resources for a decent living standard.

It is understood that the above-mentioned three indicators have serious limitations owing to the level of macro generalisations of averages it is based upon. At the same time these are also less sensitive to the regional, gender, historical and class differences that are most significant in the measurement of these indicators. Moreover, it has also been criticised for positioning human development against growth, its over emphasis on sectoral rather overall growth and leanings towards the poor countries whose primary goal is to satisfy their basic needs, minimises its applicability in case of the developed countries.

Though, the overall conceptualisation and definitions of human development remained unchanged for the next two years, yet, in the report of 1992, special attention was paid to link human development with some other important components. These were concept of sustained development, unleashing of the creative energies of all people through competitive and efficient markets and the adverse impacts of discriminatory trade policies particularly the immigration policy adopted by the developed countries which are largely responsible for the continuing disparities between the rich and poor countries and low level of human

development in the developing countries. The important highlights of this report were:

"One of the great lessons of recent decades is that competitive markets are best guarantees for human development, They open up opportunities for creative enterprises and they increase the access of people to a whole range of economic choices".

It also recognised the discriminatory and less responsive approaches followed by the rich countries. It is mentioned in the report that:

"It is irony that the public enterprises are opening up for privatisation, consumers' demands is replacing centralised planning but global market is restrictive. The developed countries are not opening their markets to the products of poor countries".

Thus, market reforms and human development were linked with each other in this report.

There was some sort of paradigm shift from the last three years report and the one published in 1993. People's participation and their security were the major issues in the Human Development Report of 1993. It also emphasised on progressive democratisation and increasing empowerment of people as minimum conditions for human development. The report indicated that: *'development must be woven around people, not people around development'*. It mentioned that the power of development lies in the development of people's empowerment. The report recognised greater constructive role of **'Civil Societies'** in bringing about peace and human development. According to the report, "A vibrant and vigilant civil society must stress on the security of the people rather than that of a nation". It should work for building up an opinion for reduction in the military expenditure, demobilisation of armed forces, transition from defence to production of basic goods and services and particularly disarmament and reduction in the nuclear warheads by the developed countries etc. In a nuclearised world, peace and well-being are major global concerns. So long as the threats of mass annihilation looms large over our head, insecurity and apprehensions will not allow peace, goodwill and compassion for fellow human beings to prevail in the world. It also acknowledged that dictatorship and military rulers are greatest threats to human development. As opposed to this, vibrant civil society insures relatively better opportunities for peace and human development.

The paradigm shift that was envisaged in the 1993 report was consolidated in the reports of 1994 and 1995. Sustainable Development was the new buzzword. It gave new meaning to life itself. The report mentioned; *"It does not value life because it produces material goods but because it values human life itself"*. It initiated positive steps to eliminate all kinds of discriminations. The most important aspect of the HDR of 1994 was methodological and conceptual changes in the construction of Human Development Index relating to variable.

"No child should be doomed to a short life or a miserable one merely because that child happens to be born in a wrong class or in a wrong country or to be of wrong sex". It also spelt out the details of security concerns that continue to threaten the life globally and suggested effective measures to each type of security such as economic, food, health,

environment, personal, community, and political security. Moreover, **international** terrorism was also recognised as an important threat to human well being and human development for the first time.

Gender equality was the theme of the Human Development Report in 1995. Equal opportunity to all, particularly to females was the prime concern. It mentioned that, "**human development if not engendered is endangered**". The findings of the report are startling but true. Some of the important findings revealed in the report are:

- "**Poverty has a womanface**" —roughly 70 per cent women in the world live in poverty.
- Removing gender inequality has nothing to do with national income.
- While the doors of education and health opportunities have opened rapidly for women, the door to economic and political opportunities are barely ajar.
- Women receive disproportionately small share of credit from banking institutions. It is as low as 7-11 per cent in case of Latin America.
- Women receive much lower wages than men.
- All regions have higher rate of unemployment of women.

In developing countries women constitute only 1/7 of the administrative and management jobs.

- Women occupy only 10 per cent seats in parliament and 7 per cent as cabinet ministers.
- In 55 countries there are no or below 5 per cent women in parliament.
- A major index of neglect reveals that many economic contributions made by women are grossly under valued or not valued at all. The magnitude of this omission is to the tune of \$11 billion a year.
- Discrimination against women and their devaluation begins even before life begins. It starts early in life and continues through out. 1/3 of women in countries like Barbados, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and USA report sexual abuse during childhood. Over a million children in Asia and mostly girls, are forced into prostitution every year.
- Violence against women becomes part of marriage. In some countries 2/3 married women suffer domestic violence. Sometimes it is manifested in the form of rape too. In Canada, USA, New Zealand and UK, one out of every six women is raped in her lifetime. It may end in murder or in suicide.

However, the most important aspect of the HDR of 1995 was methodological **and** conceptual changes in the construction of Human Development Index relating to variable. **There were** two changes made in this report:

The first was related to level of knowledge and awareness. Till 1994 Mean Year of Schooling as an indicator for estimating the level of literacy was replaced by the combined, primary, secondary and tertiary level enrolment ratio.

The second change was related to the lowering of the minimum value of income from PPP\$200 to PPP\$100.

Finally the report concluded that if half of humanity faces such gender discriminations, then any talk about human development is not only worthless but is also violence against the gender. The report took full note of the gravity of the situation and initiated the processes of computing Gender Equity Sensitive Index or Gender Related Development Index (GDI) along with Human Development Index.

The report published in the subsequent year likened human development to economic growth. It recognised 'human development as the end and economic growth as the means'. But it also warned that there is no direct link between the two. In fact on the basis of the last 15 years performance the report concluded that some countries have made spectacular economic advancement but some have registered unprecedented decline. As a result, the disparities have increased. Consequently there emerged two diametrically opposite worlds in an otherwise uni-polar world. It also revealed that of the \$23 Trillion Global GDP in 1993, \$18 trillion was in the developed countries and only \$5 trillion was in the developing countries, though the latter had 80 per cent of world's population. It warned that short-term advancements in human development are possible but they will not be sustainable without further growth. Conversely, economic growth is not sustainable without human development.

The 1997 report considered poverty eradication as the necessary step for human development. Its focus was not just on poverty but poverty from the human development perspective. Apart from broadly agreeing with the definition of poverty stated in the 1990 human development report, this report included additional choices of 'political freedom, human rights and self respect' including what Adam Smith called "the ability to mix with other without being ashamed to appear in public" as elements of human development. It critically looked at all the three perspectives on poverty:

- Income perspective,
- Basic needs perspective, and
- Capacity perspective.

The most significant aspect of this report was outlining the criteria of ill-being which is so very important to assess capacity building and measurement of well-being. These include:

Being disabled (blind, crippled, mentally impaired and chronically sick),
Lacking land, live stock, farm equipments, grinding mill etc,
Being unable to bury their dead ones,
Being unable to send their children to school,
Having more mouths to feed and fewer hands to help,
Lacking able bodied family members who can feed their families in crises,
Having bad housing,
Suffering from the effects destructive behaviours (drugs, alcoholism etc.)
Being "poor in people" lacking social support,

Having to put children in employment,

Being single parents,

Having to accept demeaning low status work,

Having food security for only a few months in a year, and

Being dependent on common property resources.

An important feature of this report was preparing Human Poverty Index (HPI-1) and (HPI-2) for the developed and the developing countries respectively. It concentrated on deprivation in three elements of human life already reflected in the HDI i.e. longevity, knowledge and a decent standard of living. The deprivation related to these indicators were:

- Deprivation related to survival—vulnerability to death at a relatively early age.
- Relating to knowledge—being excluded from the world of reading and communication, and;
- Relating to decent living people below poverty line.

The report in 1998 was different from the previous reports in more than one sense. The major concern of all the previous reports was centred around increasing consumptions and meeting basic needs. This report blamed spurious consumption patterns by some countries responsible for low levels of well-being world over. Therefore, it emphasised on changing today's consumption pattern for tomorrow's human development. The report highlights that world consumption has expanded at an unprecedented pace over 20th century, it touched \$ 24 trillion mark in 1998 which was \$12 trillion in 1975, \$ 4 trillion in 1960 and \$1.5 trillion in 1900. Consumption is an essential means for human development but the relationship is not automatic. The present trends of global consumption reveals that it has enlarged in the developed countries which has adversely affected the level of well-being in the developing countries mainly in the following ways:

- Overt and spurious consumption by the rich have created the conditions of induced scarcity in the commodity market which has artificially pushed up the prices of commodities and making these beyond the reach of commons.
- It does not only create scarcity at present but is likely to be more acute for the future generations.
- Present consumption patterns have become inimical to human development as it is undermining the environmental reserve base. Therefore, it is jeopardising the prospects of future generations.
- It has resulted in exacerbating inequalities over space and generations.
- There exists a dynamic nexus among consumption-poverty-inequality-environmental degradation.
- Environmental Pollution, ecological crises have become the natural allies of consumption.
- Sustainable development should be based on a change in the production technology.

To enforce change in consumption patterns, a reduction in the subsidies provided by the developed countries to their producers is a must.

- Change in the mind set is imperative for sustainable development. "Thinking globally **and** acting locally" holds the key to human development in the 21st century.

The culmination of the 20th century witnessed consolidation of globalisation as an inevitable process. Therefore, the best way to come into terms with this was to emphasise on the human dimension of it. Though globalisation was not a new phenomenon yet, the recent phase has distinct features. The collapse of Berlin wall and fall of iron curtains did not only bring an end to the large part of the former Socialist World, but there was also a shrinking of space, time and disappearance of boundaries. It appeared as if the world has collapsed into a small global village linking people's life more intensely, more deeply and immediately than ever before. Globalisation offers new opportunities for human advancements but its advantages can be availed only by those who have strong governance: i.e. those equipped with new market, new tools and techniques, new actors, new rule and ultimately new people. This is the age of globalisation where only the powerful have the right to exist. Fierce and relentless pressure of global competition is squeezing out the invisible heart of human development. Thus, it has serious repercussions on the overall security environment. Therefore, the report reflected the needs of providing a human face to human development.

The report of 2000 started with a strong and uncompromising commitment to human rights, freedom and solidarity in order to bring in the human touch to globalisation. It stated that human rights and human development share a common vision and common purpose to secure freedom, well-being and dignity of all people everywhere. It talked of

Freedom from discrimination—by gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, origin and religion

- Freedom from fear of threat to personal security, from torture, arbitrary arrest, and other violent acts
- Freedom to develop and realise ones human potentialities
- Freedom from injustice and violation of the rule of law
- Freedom of thought and speech and to participate in decision making and forming associations and
- Freedom for decent work without exploitation.

This report also made attempts to evolve an encompassing definition of human development. Human development means:

"To have access to the resources for a decent standard of living. But, the realm of human development extends further in to other areas of choice highly valued by people including participation, security, sustainability, guaranteed human rights all needed for being creative and productive and for enjoying self respect, empowerment and a sense of belonging to a community".

And finally to define human development in one sentence it is **"development of the people, for the people and by the people"**.

The 2001 human development report tried to link human development to technology. It acknowledged that technology networks are transforming the traditional map of development. It is expanding people's horizons and creating the potentials to realise a decade's progress in a week's time that required generations in the past. But technology is a double-edged sword or to put it differently it is a good servant and bad master. It is primarily the use and control over technology by some powerful countries of the world that has subjugated large number of other countries to positions of permanent subjugation amounting servitude of a nation. Countries, communities and individuals that are slow and at the receiving end of technological innovation are constantly haunted by the fear of obsolescence and redundancy and ultimately being a permanent misfit to a fast changing world. This gravely affects the well-being and sense of self respect among the individual.

The 2002 report adds a new dimension to human development. It is a report about politics and human development. It is about how political power and institutions—formal and informal, national and international—shape human progress. It shows concerns about deepening democracies in a fragmented world. According to this report democracy that empowers people must be built on the confidence and resources of the people and it cannot be imported. It is against one model of democracy to all over the country. And respect for difference is the heart of democracy and development.

The report of 2003 makes a bold beginning by setting "Millennium Development Goals: a compact among nations to end human poverty". According to the declaration made by the heads of the states, it is binding on every state to 'attack inadequate income, widespread hunger, gender inequality, environmental deterioration and lack of education, health care and clean water. They also include actions to reduce debt and increase aid, trade and technology transfer to poorer countries". Some of the important Millennium Development Goals and Targets outlined in the report are:

Goals	Targets
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Reduce the number of people by 50 per cent between 1990 and 2015 whose income is less than \$1.
	Reduce the number of people by similar percentage who are suffering from hunger.
Achieve universal primary education.	Ensure that all children will be able to complete primary schooling by 2015
Promote gender equality and empower women	Eliminate gender inequality in primary and secondary education by 2005 and in all levels by 2015
Reduce child mortality	Reduce child mortality below 5 year by two-third, between 1990-2015

Improve maternal health	Reduce maternal mortality ratio by three fourths by 1990-2015
Combat HIV/AIDS malaria and other diseases	Halted by 2015 in case of HIV/AIDS
	Halt incidence of malaria and other disease by 2015
Ensure environmental sustainability	Make environmental policies as the basis of national planning and reverse the process of environmental degradation.
	Reduce the ratio of people by 50 per cent that do not have sustainable access to safe drinking water.
	Improve the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.
Develop a global partnership for development	Develop an open, rural based non-discriminatory trading system
	Address the needs of least developed countries.
	Address the needs of landlocked countries, small island states
	Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries.
	Collaboration with the developed countries for productive employment of youth
	Provision for cheap and essential drugs to the poorer countries
	Partnership between the private sector for the diffusion of new production and information technology.

It is evident from the brief survey and discussions of the human development reports presented by the UNDP that attempts have been made to include all the possible aspects in the report that concern human well-being and development world over. The reports have also tried to interrogate the new challenges that threatened human well-being, peace, security and freedom world over. But it is surprising to notice that only three indicators were selected in computing the Final Human Development Index.

It was mentioned earlier that the UNDP was well aware of the importance of taking more and relevant indicators for measuring a multidimensional phenomenon such as human development. It

has made various attempts to make it as relevant as possible. However, it had to stick to three indicators only. The justification provided for the same in the UNDP states:

"The ideal would be to reflect all aspects of human experience. The lack of data imposes some limits on this, and more indicators could perhaps be added as the information becomes available. But more indicators would not necessarily be better, some might overlap with existing indicators: infant mortality for example, is already reflected in life expectancy. And adding more variables could confuse the picture and detract from the main trends".

After the selection of the indicators, the most crucial aspect is to prepare a Human Development Index to measure the performance of each country in terms of the level of human well-being. For this purpose preparing a human development index is the most significant and crucial aspect.

19.5 COMPUTING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

As mentioned earlier some changes were made in the selection of indicators for the measurement Human Development in the report of 1995. Till 1994 Mean Year of Schooling was taken as an indicator for estimating the level of literacy. In the report of 1995 this indicator was replaced by the combined, primary, secondary and tertiary level enrolment ratio. The justification provided in the report. was the difficulties in getting authentic data along with lack of compatibility among the data supplied by different countries. The second change that was incorporated was related to lowering down the minimum value of GDP (income) per capita from PPP\$200 to PPP\$100.

Once again the justification provided in the report was to include those countries that have PPP below \$200. It was noticed in the previous reports that a large number of countries mostly forming a group of former colonies have PPP below \$200 but these have large variations among them.

According to the report published in 2002, HDI is a summary of Human Development. It measures the average achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of Human Development:

A long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth.

Knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-third weight) and combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (with one-third weight).

• A decent standard of living, as measured by GDP per capita (PPP US\$),

It is also felt that "Before the HDI is calculated, an index need to be created for each of these dimensions". Therefore, it **was** also felt that minimum and maximum values (also termed as the Goal Post) be chosen for each indicator.

The Goal Posts fixed for the year 2002 are as follows:

Indicator	Maximum value	Minimum value
Life expectancy at birth (years)	85 (for a country)	25 (for a country)
Adult literacy rate (percentage)	100	0
Combined gross enrolment ratio (percentage)	100	0
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	40,000	100

To illustrate each of the indicators in case of Ivory Coast for the year 2000:

Life expectancy at birth in years: 47.80

Adult literacy rate : 46.80

Gross enrolment rate : 38.00

GDP per capita in PPP US \$: 1630

Calculating life expectancy Index: $= 47.8 - 25 / 85 - 25 = 0.380$

Calculating Adult literacy Index $= 46.8 - 0 / 100 - 00 = 0.468^*$

Calculating Gross enrolment Index $= 38 - 0 / 100 - 00 = 0.380^{**}$

Calculating the GDP index $= \log(1630) - \log(100) / \log(40000) - \log 100 = 0.466$

Calculating the Human Development $= 1/3$ (value of life expectancy index) $+ 1/3$ (value of education index) $+ 1/3$ (value of GDP Index)

OR

$1/3 (0.380) + 1/3 (0.439) + 1/3 (0.466) = 0.428$

19.6 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

India, unlike many developing countries, has a well-developed statistical system. Thanks to the colonial governmentality, in our countries there are a lot of agencies that have been collecting information and data on various aspects of our economy, polity, environment and resources etc over a long time period. Among the most prominent agencies are: National Population Census, National Family and Health Survey, Sample Registration System, National Sample Survey etc. It was however, realised that though these agencies are contributing significantly in obtaining information on different aspects, the information lacks coordination and is not directly related to each other as far as data generation is concerned. To quote Abusaleh Shariff of NCAER:

“The population census provides detailed information on demographic characteristics and other variables. It has no information on income, asset, ownership, consumption pattern and other variables. It was felt that a unified survey covering different facets of Human Development, level of living, employment and

wages, literacy and education, morbidity, disability and nutrition, effectiveness of public services such as the PDS, education and healthcare etc, and Demographic characteristics would be useful. Such a unified survey would enable researchers to draw interrelationships between these different variables and thereby better understanding”.

As result today we have human development report at the national level published every year. The exercise has become so popular among the planners and scholars that some of the major states like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh etc have also prepared human development reports for the respective states. It is interesting to note that the unit of analysis in this case are the districts. An important aspect of these reports is that they tried to incorporate India and state specific indicators for preparing the Report. For example the Maharashtra State Report has taken following indicators:

- Infant mortality and child mortality rate.
- Nutrition (below 2 years of Age).
- HDI and per capita district domestic production (at current prices).
- Literacy rate, mean year of schooling and dropout rate.
- Achievement and improvement indices for literacy 1991-2001.
- Achievement and improvement indices for IMR 1981-1991.
- District wise classification of village amenities.
- Percentage distribution of census houses by Kuchcha, Semi-Pucca, Pucca and houses having facilities available.

The information obtained is used to classify different districts on the basis of the HDI, which in turn, is used to guide various policy options of the state and central government.

19.7 SUMMARY

Human development is one of the indicators of the overall development of countries. It can be measured in terms of the wealth of a country, the human resource a country possesses, the health facilities and welfare measures that a country offers to its people or fulfillment of the six basic needs internationally identified as health, education, food, water supply, sanitation and housing. Human development should be the ultimate aim of each and every activity of the state, the objective of all scientific investigations and above all interaction between two individuals and trading partners. But, unfortunately this particular aspect remained most neglected so far. There has been resurgence in the interest on human development in recent years. Many scholars and leaders at the world level have claimed to work towards improving the quality of life without discrimination, The United Nations Development Programme attempted to define the notion of human development for the first time in 1990. It has also tried to work out broadly agreeable indicators of human development and preparation of human development index. And it continues to improvise these concepts with every new challenge it faces. But, it is unfortunate that for want of adequate data and information it relies an indirect methods of estimation. Moreover, it has come to notice that the global hegemonic powers are using human development index for intervening into the internal

'affairs of sovereign states. Therefore, human development is a noble concept and preparation of HDI is a noble exercise but in an unequal world it is also used for justifying ulterior motives.

19.8 EXERCISES

- 1) What do you understand by human development? What are the various approaches to the study of human development?
- 2) What is the Basic Minimum Needs approach towards human development? Why is this approach criticised?
- 3) Identify the indicators of human development. What are the other concepts and dimensions that have been linked by the Human Development Reports to the concept of human development?
- 4) Write a short note on human development in India.