

1. Details of Module and its structure

Module Detail	
Subject Name	Geography
Course Name	Geography 04 (Class XII, Semester - 2)
Module Name/Title	Human Development in India – Part 1
Module Id	legy_20301
Pre-requisites	Marginalization, social discrimination, regional disparity, basic amenities, environmental pollution, UNDP, Planning Commission of India, poverty.
Objectives	After reading this lesson, learners will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine the paradoxes of development.• Understand the symbols of development.• Know the meaning of development.• Differentiate between haves and have nots.• Analyse Human development in India.• Understand the Indicators of Economic Attainments.• Know the meaning of poverty.
Keywords	Development, marginalization, social discrimination, regional disparity, basic amenities, abject poverty, ecological crisis, Human development, social capabilities, environmental capabilities, personal capabilities, Human Development Report, HDI, Indicators of Economic Attainments, Gross National Product, Gross Domestic Product,

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Human Development

When you look around you will come across different kinds of people. They may be rich or poor, educated or uneducated, job holders or jobless, people with basic amenities or lacking it and many more. All these tells us about the well-being of the people and the society in a country. In this module – “Human development” - part 1, we are going to throw light on such aspects. In this module you will be able to examine such paradoxes and will know about the factors favouring and objecting the human development.



Whether development and underdevelopment coexist? Whether development help some segments of population more than the other? Does development create haves and have nots? Is development class biased? Is development for one is destructive for others? Does the meaning of development vary from one person to another?

Let us examine these paradoxes and try to understand the phenomena.

Of all the paradoxes of our times, development is the most significant one. Development of a few regions, individuals brought about in a short span of time leads to poverty and malnutrition for many along with large scale ecological degradation. Apparently, it is believed that “Development is freedom” which is often associated with modernization, leisure, comfort and affluence. In the present context, computerization, industrialisation, efficient transport and communication network, large education system, advanced and modern medical facilities, safety and security of individuals, etc. are considered as the symbols of development.

Introduction

Development means a qualitative change which is always value positive. This means that development cannot take place unless there is an increment or addition to the existing conditions. Development occurs when positive growth takes place. Yet, positive growth does not always lead to development.

Development occurs when there is a positive change in quality. For example, if the population of a city grows from one lakh to two lakhs over a period of time, we say the city has grown. However, if facilities like housing, provision of basic services and other characteristics remain the same, then this growth has not been accompanied by development.



Source: <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/business-plan-tree-growth-grow-2987962/>

For many decades, a country's level of development was measured only in terms of its economic growth. This meant that the bigger the economy of the country, the more developed it was considered, even though this growth did not really mean much change in the lives of most people. The idea that the quality of life people enjoy in a country, the opportunities they have and freedoms they enjoy, are important aspects of development, is not new.

These ideas were clearly spelt out for the first time in the late eighties and early nineties. The works of two South Asian economists, Mahbub-ul-Haq and Amartya Sen are important in this regard. The concept of human development was introduced by Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq. Dr. Haq has described human development as development that enlarges people's choices and improves their lives. People are central to all development under this concept.



Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq Prof. Amartya Sen

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahbub_ul_Haq#/media/File:Mahbub-ul-Haq.jpg
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amartya_Sen#/media/File:Amartya_Sen_NIH.jpg

These choices are not fixed but keep on changing. The basic goal of development is to create conditions where people can live meaningful lives. A meaningful life is not just a long one. It

must be a life with some purpose. This means that people must be healthy, be able to develop their talents, participate in society and be free to achieve their goals.

The process of development in different countries has been different throughout due to number of factors favouring and objecting the process. Every individual, community and government measures its performance or levels of development in relation to the availability and access to resources. But, this may be partial and one-sided view of development. It is often called the western or euro-centric view of development.

For a postcolonial country like India, the policies of the colonial government, high growth rate of population, marginalization, social discrimination and regional disparity, etc. show the other face of development. Thus, for India, development is a mixed bag of opportunities as well as neglect and deprivations.

There are a few areas like the metropolitan centres and other developed pockets that have all the modern facilities available to a small section of its population. At the other extreme of it, there are large rural areas and the slums in the urban areas that do not even have basic amenities like potable water, education and health infrastructure available to majority of this population. The situation is more alarming if one looks at the distribution of the development opportunities among different sections of our society. It is a well-established fact that majority of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, landless agricultural labourers, poor farmers and slums dwellers, etc. are the most marginalized lot.

A large segment of female population is the worst sufferers among all. It is also equally true that the relative as well as absolute conditions of the majority of these marginalized sections have worsened with the development happening over the years. Consequently, a vast majority of people are compelled to live under abject poverty and sub-human conditions.

So here it becomes important to understand that does economic growth of the country lead to human development automatically? One must think about this issue.

What is Human Development?

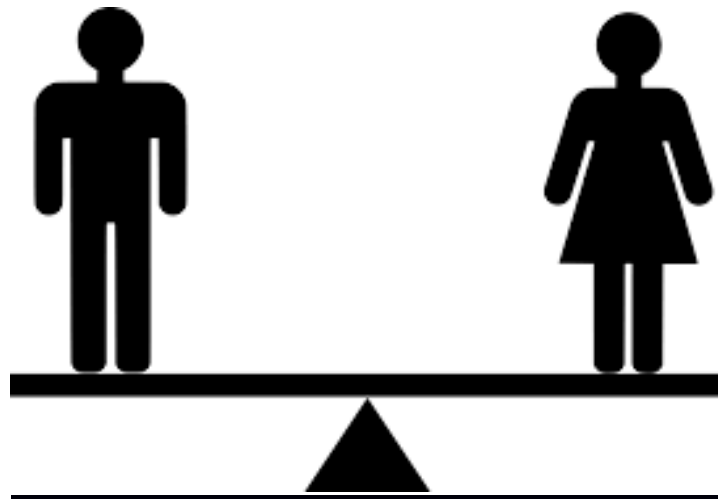
“Human development is a process of enlarging the range of people’s choices, increasing their opportunities for education, health care, income and empowerment and covering the full range of human choices from a sound physical environment to economic, social and political freedom.”

Thus, enlarging the range of people’s choices is the most significant aspect of human development. People’s choices may involve a host of other issues, but, living a long and healthy life, to have the opportunities to get educated and have access to resources needed for a decent standard of living including political freedom, guaranteed human rights and personal self-respect, etc. are considered some of the non-negotiable aspects of the human development.

The four pillars of human development

Just as any building is supported by pillars, the idea of human development is supported by the concepts of equity, sustainability, productivity and empowerment.

- a. **Equity** refers to making equal access to opportunities available to everybody. The opportunities available to people must be equal irrespective of their gender, race, income and in the Indian case, caste. Yet this is very often not the case and such unequal access to opportunities may be found in almost every society. For example, in any country, it is interesting to see among which group the most of the school dropouts belong to. This should then lead to an understanding of the reasons for such behaviour. In India, a large number of women and persons belonging to socially and economically backward groups drop out of school. This shows how the choices of these groups get limited by not having access to knowledge.



Source: <https://pixabay.com/vectors/equal-equality-equilibrium-gender-5366151/>

- b. **Sustainability** means continuity in the availability of opportunities. To have sustainable human development, each generation must have the same opportunities. All environmental, financial and human resources must be used keeping in mind the future. Misuse of any of these resources will lead to fewer opportunities for future generations. A good example is about the importance of sending girls to school. If a community does not stress the importance of sending its' girl children to school, many opportunities will be lost to these young women when they grow up. Their career choices will be severely curtailed and this would affect other aspects of their lives. So, each generation must ensure the availability of choices and opportunities to its future generations.



Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sustainability-diagram-v4.gif>

- c. **Productivity** here means human labour productivity or productivity in terms of human work. Such productivity must be constantly enriched by building capabilities in people. Ultimately, it is people who are the real wealth of nations. Therefore, efforts to increase their knowledge, or provide better health facilities ultimately leads to better work efficiency.



Source: <https://pixabay.com/illustrations/productivity-work-businessman-1995786/>

- d. **Empowerment** means to have the power to make choices. Such power comes from increasing freedom and capability. Good governance and people-oriented policies are required to empower people. The empowerment of socially and economically disadvantaged groups is of special importance in this context.



Source: <https://pixabay.com/vectors/female-woman-women-girl-power-3285623/>

Approaches to human development

There are many ways of looking at the problem of human development. Some of the important approaches are:

(a) Income Approach: This is one of the oldest approaches to human development. Human development is seen as being linked to income. The idea is that the level of income reflects the level of freedom an individual enjoys. Higher the level of income, the higher is the level of human development.

(b) Welfare Approach: This approach looks at human beings as beneficiaries or targets of all development activities. The approach argues for higher government expenditure on education, health, social secondary and amenities. People are not participants in development but only passive recipients. The government is responsible for increasing levels of human development by maximising expenditure on welfare.

(c) Basic Needs Approach: This approach was initially proposed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Six basic needs i.e.: health, education, food, water supply, sanitation, and housing were identified. The question of human choices is ignored in this approach and the emphasis here is on providing basic needs of defined sections.

(d) Capability Approach: This approach is associated with the capability approach propounded by Prof. Amartya Sen. Building human capabilities in the areas of health, education and access to resources is the key to increasing human development.

Inter-related aspect of development

There is yet another inter-related aspect of development that has direct bearings on the deteriorating human conditions. It pertains to the environmental pollution leading to ecological crisis. Air, soil, water and noise pollutions have not only led to the 'tragedy of commons' but these have also threatened the existence of our society.

Tragedy of commons

It is a situation in a shared-resource system where individual users, act independently according to their own self-interest, behave contrary to the common good of all users by depleting or spoiling the shared resource through their collective action.

The concept originate in an essay written in 1833 by the British economist William Forster Lloyd, who used a hypothetical example of the effects of unregulated grazing on common land (also known as a "common") in Great Britain and Ireland. The concept became widely known as the "tragedy of the commons" over a century later after an article written by Garrett Hardin in 1968.

In 1833, the English economist William Forster Lloyd published a pamphlet which included a hypothetical example of over-use of a common resource. This was the situation of cattle

herders sharing a common parcel of land on which they were each entitled to let their cows graze, as was the custom in English villages. He postulated that if a herder put more than his allotted number of cattle on the common, overgrazing could result. For each additional animal, a herder could receive additional benefits, while the whole group shared the resulting damage to the commons. If all herders made this individually rational economic decision, the common could be depleted or even destroyed, to the detriment of all.

In a modern economic context, "commons" is taken to mean any shared and unregulated resource such as the atmosphere, oceans, rivers, ocean fish stocks, or even an office refrigerator.

The term is used also in environmental science. The "tragedy of the commons" is often cited in connection with sustainable development, meshing economic growth and environmental protection, as well as in the debate over global warming.

(Wikipedia

Source:https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tragedy_of_the_commons#:~:text=The%20tragedy%20of%20the%20commons,resource%20through%20their%20collective%20action.)

Consequently, the poor are being subjected to three inter-related processes of declining capabilities; i.e.

- (1) **Social capabilities** – due to displacement and weakening social ties (social capital),
- (2) **Environmental capabilities** – due to pollution and,
- (3) **Personal capabilities** – due to increasing incidence of diseases and accidents. This, in turn, has adverse effects on their quality of life and human development.

Based on the above experiences, it can be said that the present development has not been able to address the issues of social injustice, regional imbalances and environmental degradation. On the contrary, it is being widely considered as the prime cause of the social distributive injustices, deterioration in the quality of life and human development, ecological crisis and social unrest. Does development create, reinforce and perpetuate these crises?

Thus, it was thought to take up human development as a separate issue against the prevalent western views of development which considers development as the remedy to all the ills including human development, regional disparities and environmental crisis.

Role of UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)

Concerted efforts were made to look at development critically at various times in the past. But, most systematic effort towards this was the publication of the First Human Development Report by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1990. Since then, this organisation has been bringing out World Human Development Report every year.



Pic: The first session of United Nations Development Programme governing council

Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/unitednationsdevelopmentprogramme/23406799019>

This report does not only define human development, make amendments and changes its indicators but also ranks all the countries of the world based on the calculated scores. According to the Human Development Report 1993, “progressive democratisation and increasing empowerment of people are seen as the minimum conditions for human development”. Moreover, it also mentions that “development must be woven around people, not the people around development” as was the case previously.

You have already studied the concepts, indicators and approaches to human development and methods of calculating the index in your book, “Fundamentals of Human Geography.” In this chapter, let us try to understand the applicability of these concepts and indicators to India.

Human Development in India

India with a population of over 1.20 billion is ranked 129 among 188 countries of the world in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI). With the composite HDI value of 0.647 India finds herself grouped with countries showing medium human development (UNDP 2018).

Table: Human Development Index Values of India and some other Countries

(source: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>)

Country	HDI value	Rank
Norway	0.954	1
Germany	0.939	4
USA	0.920	15
UK	0.920	15
Russian Fed.	0.824	49
Malaysia	0.804	61
Sri Lanka	0.780	71
Brazil	0.761	79
China	0.758	85

Egypt	0.700	116
Indonesia	0.707	111
South Africa	0.705	113
India	0.647	129
Bangladesh	0.614	135
Pakistan	0.560	152

Factors determining the nature of human development

Low scores in the HDI is a matter of serious concern but, some reservations have been expressed about the approach as well as indicators selected to calculate the index values and ranking of the states/countries.

Lack of sensitivity to the historical factors like colonisation, imperialism and neo-imperialism, socio-cultural factors like human rights violation, social discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender and caste, social problems like crimes, terrorism, and war and political factors like nature of the state, forms of the government (democracy or dictatorship) level of empowerment are some factors that are very crucial in determining the nature of human development. These aspects have special significance in case of India and many other developing countries.

Human development report by the planning commission of India

Using the indicators selected by the UNDP, the Planning Commission of India also prepared the Human Development Report for India. It used states and the Union Territories as the units of analysis. Subsequently, each state government also started preparing the state level Human Development Reports, using districts as the units of analysis.

Although, the final HDI by the Planning Commission of India has been calculated by taking the three indicators as discussed in the book entitled, “Fundamentals of Human Geography”, yet, this report also discussed other indicators like economic attainment, social empowerment, social distributive justice, accessibility, hygiene and various welfare measures undertaken by the state. Some of the important indicators have been discussed in the following pages.

Indicators of Economic Attainments

Rich resource base and access to these resources by all, particularly the poor, down trodden and the marginalized is the key to productivity, well-being and human development. Gross National Product (GNP) and its per capita availability are taken as measures to assess the resource base/ endowment of any country.

Economic attainment and the well-being of individuals depend on economic growth, employment opportunities and access to assets. Over the years the per capita income and consumption expenditure in India has increased. As a result there has been a consistent decline in the proportion of population living below the poverty line.

It is very difficult to evolve a consensus around the poverty statistics because the poverty ratio varies depending on the parameters used for classifying the poor and non-poor. The following is the data released by the Oxford University based Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) – called Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI). It is a more holistic approach as it uses the parameters like health, education and standard of living. The results for India are based on the findings of the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS).

Table: Poverty in India, 2015-16	
Andhra Pradesh	15.8
Arunachal Pradesh	24.0
Assam	35.8
Bihar	52.2
Chhattisgarh	36.3
Delhi	3.8
Goa	5.6
Gujarat	21.4
Haryana	11.0
Himachal Pradesh	8.2
Jammu & Kashmir	15.2
Jharkhand	45.8
Karnataka	17.1
Kerala	1.1
Madhya Pradesh	40.6
Maharashtra	16.8
Manipur	20.7
Meghalaya	32.7
Mizoram	9.7
Nagaland	23.3
Odisha	35.5
Punjab	6.0
Rajasthan	31.6
Sikkim	4.9

Tamilnadu	7.4
Tripura	20.1
Uttarakhand	17.1
Uttar Pradesh	40.4
West Bengal	26.0

The above data of poverty for the states show that there are States like Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh which have recorded more than 30 per cent of their population living below the poverty line.

“Poverty is a state of deprivation. In absolute terms it reflects the inability of an individual to satisfy certain basic needs for a sustained, healthy and reasonably productive living.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country does not fully reflect the quality of life of a country. There are other factors like housing, access to public transport, air, quality and access to drinking water which also determine the standard of living. Jobless growth and rampant unemployment are some of the important reasons for higher incidences of poverty in India.

Inter-State Disparity in terms of poverty in India

Poverty in India also has another aspect or dimension. The proportion of poor people is not the same in every state. Although state level poverty has witnessed a secular decline from the levels of early seventies, the success rate of reducing poverty varies from state to state. Recent estimates show while the all India Head Count Ratio (HCR) was 21.9 per cent in 2011-12 states like Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha had above all India poverty level.



Source: https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Poverty_in_india.jpg

Bihar and Odisha continue to be the two poorest states with poverty ratios of 33.7 and 32.6 per cent respectively. Along with rural poverty, urban poverty is also high in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. In comparison, there has been a significant decline in poverty in Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and West Bengal.

States like Punjab and Haryana have traditionally succeeded in reducing poverty with the help of high agricultural growth rates. Kerala has focused more on human resource development. In

West Bengal, land reform measures have helped in reducing poverty. In Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu public distribution of food grains could have been responsible for the improvement.

Conclusion

In the end of this module it can be concluded that Human development is a process of enlarging the range of people's choices, increasing their opportunities for education, health care, income and empowerment and covering the full range of human choices from a sound physical environment to economic, social and political freedom. The level of human development in the country and the world is different due to different factors responsible for it in that particular region. Equity, sustainability, productivity and empowerment being the four pillars support human development. The role of the Indian government in the human development is remarkable but still a lot has to be done.