



Human Development in India- Concept and Process

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Abstract:

The concept of Development was born after Second World War, as a discipline of social sciences. In the beginning there were comparative studies among developed and developing countries. The western countries were considered as developed and third world countries were considered as developing countries. So we can say in the beginning development was comparative concept. Now the concept of development has been completely changed. All countries have agreed that economic growth, research and development in the field of science and technology, exploration of space all are means rather than ends. Human dignity, well-being of people, holistic development of human being is an end. The world has paid attention to human development during last few years. Human development must be the main goal of any country. Development must be rapid, inclusive and sustainable. Development must have human face. It is also equally true that any country should be developed without scarifying environment.

Keywords: *Development, Human Development, Sustainable Development*

1. Introduction:

The global concept, definition and understanding of development have changed over the years. According to business dictionary Development means “The process of economic and social transformation that is based on complex cultural and environmental factors and their interactions”. Few years ago development was defined as economic development. Industrialization and economic growth were major ideas. Human development is a comparatively new area of inquiry. All countries have accepted that economic growth is a means rather than an end. Extreme concentration on economic growth, industrialization, science and technology is defective vision. So whole focus has given on human development. Our former Present of India A P J Abdul Kalam writes in his very famous book “India 2020 A Vision for the New Millennium “-“There are many indicators regarding the wealth of a nation: the gross national product (GNP), the gross domestic product (GDP), the balance of payments, foreign exchange reserves, rate of economic growth, per capita income, etc. In addition, the volume of trade, the share in international trade (both imports and exports) and rate of growth in both of these also provides an idea about the strength of economy and its ability to sustain the wealth created and to create more. Economic indicators are important, but they provide only a part of the picture, The numbers, impressive though they may appear, can veil considerable human misery, especially that of the common people.” In the beginning maximum utilization of natural resources and great progress in the field of science and technology were the indicators of development. But during last one and half decade all countries have agreed on sustainable development. All countries have agreed that growth and development must be progressed without sacrificing natural environment. All forms of exploitation of natural resources are harmful to human society. It is also accepted unanimously that economic development and human development must go together. Much more needs to be done as far as human development is concerned in India.

2. What is Human Development?

Human development theory has been emerged last few years. It focuses on well-being of the people. It is against uneconomic growth and development that comes at the expense of human health and environment. Amartya Sen is one of the most notable proponents of human development theory.

Human development means nothing else but in a simple language we can say basic needs for happy, healthy and qualitative life of the people must be fulfilled and it must be improved day to day .India has remained very behind to fulfill basic requirements and expectations of the citizens. Right to life and personal liberty is given as fundamental right in article 21 of the Indian Constitution. But right to life means right to better life. People should have a long and healthy life and a decent standard of life. Without satisfying minimum requirements like nutrition food, pure drinking water, primary education, primary health and employment, how can we live better life? It is said that after the introduction of New Economic Policy in 1991 India has made significant progress in Economic development. There is no doubt per capita income and Gross National Product has been increased in India but what about inflation? Middle and poor class have become helpless before Hike and fluctuations in food prices. There is no correlation betwinn economic development and human development in India. The overall economic development scenario during past few years has shown continuous growth. But little has been made in the direction of human development. A third of the world's poor are living in India! What a great misery it is! The fruits of economic development must reach to the poor. The Government has to make a provision of basic social services to enhance resilience. The systematic use of scientific and technical knowledge as well as natural resources to meet requirements of human development is need of the time. Dr. Kalam has rightly said-“Many parameters are utilized to indicate how well people are fed; their overall nutritional status; the availability of good nutrition during various phases of their growth and lives; the average life expectancy; the infant mortality rate; the availability of sanitation; the availability of drinking water and its quality; the quantum of living space ;broad categories of human habitat; the incidence of various diseases, dysfunctions, disorders or disabilities; the access to medical facilities; literacy; the availability of schools and educational facilities; Various levels of skills to cope with fast changing economic and social demands; and soon.” Today, poverty and unemployment remain the central challenge for our nation. Since the independence, India has tried to achieve steady economic growth by Industrialization, but the Government has failed to manage to reduce poverty. India has made significant progress in economic growth but the prosperity has not been evenly spread throughout the country. Many people are still deprived of food, health and education. Some people go to bed hungry in our country. The fruits of economic development have not reached to weaker section of the society.

According to some experts, In order to achieve inclusive and sustainable development, agriculture not industry can be the primary driver in fighting poverty and ensuring food security. In recent times, the concept of development is based on two main pillars: the first one is about creating positive conditions for human well-being, improving standard of living and the second emphasizes on protecting the environment. Economic growth, social equity and environmental safeguards must go together simultaneously. This is called inclusive and sustainable development.

The latest report on Human Development titled “Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience” has released by the United Nations Development Programme on July 24, 2014. So far as human development is concerned India has made very little progress. The report has ranked India at 135 among 187 countries. Norway is at the first and Niger is at the bottom in a list of 187 Countries. India's position in human development is the same as it was in the last year. India was ranked at 136 in last year report of U.N.D.P. India like other developing countries is facing some challenges such as financial crises, fluctuations in food prices, natural disasters.



HDI rank	Human Development Index (HDI) Value 2013
1. Norway	0.944
135. India	0.586
187. Niger	0.337

Source: Table 1: Human Development Index and its components

U.N.D.P. has set the Millennium goals for all countries. As far as human development is concerned all countries will have to pay attention to achieve these Development Goals.

The Millennium Development Goals*⁴

Eight Goals for 2015

1. Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

According to U.N.D.P. report 2014 Poverty rate is 37.2 % in India. There are an estimated 2.24 million people live with HIV in India. The Government will have to work hard to eradicate poverty. Unemployment is also one of the major problems. Some experts believe that the Government should more focus on manufacturing sector to solve the problem of unemployment. Right to education has given as fundamental right in Indian Constitution. The Government of India has tried to provide primary education to all children (6-14 years) by enacting RTE Act, 2009. It is really high time to implement all the programmes and policies properly to meet all economic and social challenges in India. We will have to toil and moil from dawn to dusk to achieve millennium development goals.

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