HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: CONCEPT & APPROACH

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Human Development: Origin and Context
- Functionings and Capability
- Human Development and Related Approaches
- Human Development Principles
- Characteristics of HD Approach

ORIGIN OF THE HD APPROACH

- <u>Emerged</u> in response to demand for newer approaches to development

- <u>Context</u> the huge human costs of structural adjustment policies of 1980s

- <u>Process</u> concept discussed at 3 North-South Round Tables organised by Mahbub ul Haq in 1980s

- <u>Proposed</u> by UNDP with Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen as main architects – origins in writings of Aristotle and Immanuel Kant

- By 1990 when concept made official debut in Inaugural HDR, consensus on concept already built

DEFINING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- 1990 UNDP Report – 'the process of enlarging people's choices'

- Definition enriched over time to give importance to freedoms, equity and sustainability

- 2010 HDR definition 'Human development is the expansion of people's **freedoms** to live long, healthy and creative lives; to advance other goals they have **reason to value**; and to engage actively in shaping development equitably and sustainably on a shared planet. People are both the beneficiaries and drivers of human development, as individuals and in groups'.

- Philosophical foundations in the capability approach Functionings and Capability are key ideas
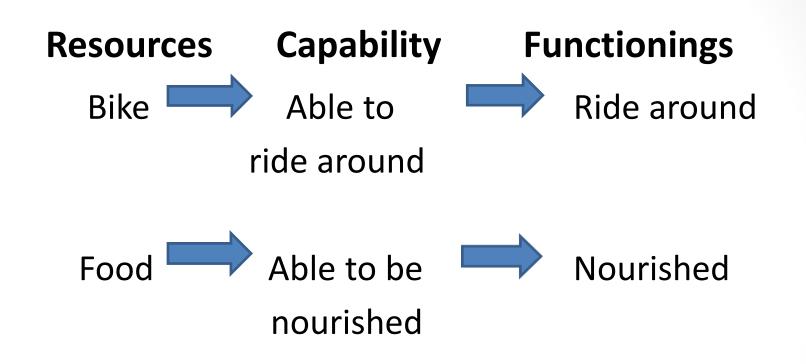
UNDERSTANDING FUNCTIONINGS

➢ Functionings – 'valuable beings and doings' of people

  ➢ 'Beings' such as being well nourished, being safe, being educated

  ➢ 'Doings' such as being able to visit loved ones, travelling, caring for a child

- Elementary functionings – being healthy and nourished, being safe, being educated

- Complex functionings – ability to contribute to community life achieving self respect, ability to 'appear in publik without shame'

UNDERSTANDING - CAPABILITY

- Capability is 'various combination of functionings that a person can achieve'

- Functioning relates to realized outcomes

- Capability is possibility and opportunity

- 3 understandings of the concept of capability

  - **P capability-** inborn potential

  - **S capability-** trained potential - skills, abilities

  - **O capability-** opportunity capability

CONVERSION FACTORS

Resources	**Capability**	**Functionings**
Bike ➡️	Able to ride around ➡️	Ride around
Food ➡️	Able to be nourished ➡️	Nourished

- Translation of capability into functionings influenced by personal characteristics, social and environmental factors

CHALLENGES

- No agreed list of capabilities
- Capability approach too individualistic
- Of the 3 different variants of individualism
  1. Ethical individualism
  2. Methodological individualism
  3. Ontological individualism
- Capability approach relies on ethical individualism
- Takes into account social relations, social structures and institutions in two ways:
  1. Recognising that there is a move from capability to functionings and
  2. Social and environmental factors influence conversion of capability to functionings

DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM

- Amartya Sen reinterpreted Development as Freedom

➤ People as 'Agents' – Agent is one 'who acts and brings about change'

Emphasised both **opportunity freedom and**

agency freedom

➤ Freedom '**from**' as important as freedom **'to'**

➤ Freedom has **intrinsic value -** valuable in itself

➤ Freedom has **instrumental value -** as a means to other things

DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM

- Emphasized 5 instrumental freedoms that are important for human development
  - political freedom
  - economic facilities
  - social opportunities
  - transparency guarantees
  - protective security

HD AND HUMAN RIGHTS

➢ Compatible and complementary

➢ <u>Emphasis in HD</u>

  ➢ Enlargement of choices & capabilities focus on duty bearers and public policies

➢ <u>Emphasis in HR</u>

  ➢ entitlements of claim holders emphasis on legal change, social movements to generate demand

➢ Human Rights initially viewed as political rights - now includes social, cultural and economic rights

➢ Both guarantee basic freedoms

HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN SECURITY

Human Security - **'Freedom from Want and Freedom from Fear' –** HDR 2000

Beyond concerns of national security to focus on 7 components at individual level

- Economic
- Food
- Health
- Environmental
- Personal
- Community
- Political

HD GOES BEYOND…….

Human Resource Development Approach

➤Evolved in 1960s Schultz and Gary Becker's concept of human capital

➤Powerful implications – human beings resources in production process – not ends in themselves

➤Education and health means of enhancing human capital

➤Rates of return important

Basic Needs Approach

➤Evolved in 1970s from ILO's focus on providing basic needs for poor – food, shelter, clothing, health care, water

➤Focus on provision of goods and services

➤Ignores choices and underplays freedom

➤Ignores 'agency' aspect of individuals – people treated more as beneficiaries

CHARACTERISTICS OF HD APPROACH

➢ Under Construction

➢ Multidimensional

➢ Inter-disciplinary

➢ Pragmatic

PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

4 Core principles of Human Development

- Equity: Equity refers to a concept of justice as fairness

- Efficiency: maximizing the use of material, human and community resources

- Participation and Empowerment: Foundational principle – people as agents

- Sustainability: not merely environmental but also economic, social and cultural

All four principles to be adhered to simultaneously

TO CONCLUDE…

- Human potential and achievements in multiple dimensions key indicators of progress - not merely per capita income
- Focus is on
  - what people are
  - what people can be or do and
  - the opportunity set available to people

THANK YOU!