

Chapter - I

Introduction

Searching for New Development Strategies are the prime tasks before the modern economists and social scientists. There is a wide gulf between the growth and development and consequently Traditional per Capita Gross Domestic Production or Gross National Production which is considered to be as the most popular indicator of Economic Development has failed to explain the unequal distribution of the products of technical and economic progress. It is observed that the increase in per capita Gross Domestic Production or Gross National Income always may not raise the real standard of living of the masses. It is due to the distributional disparity, enormous increase in defence expenditure, increasing saving habit of the people & regional heterogeneity and the political establishment which are incapable to reach the fruits of development to the masses. Development is not merely an economic phenomenon, it is also closely associated with human endowments, social attitudes, political conditions and historical factors. So the Development perspective is revised which is passing through a constant “trial and error” method.

Development perspective is made more realistic when it stresses on the social, cultural, political, religious and psychological requirements with adequate emphasis on the qualitative upliftment of the human resource aiming at the need of long term benefit from it. Consequently, the concept of development has been revised to evolve a balanced development with a view to maintaining a harmony among man, nature and environment, equity and for future generations of mankind. In this context, the strategy of development of the hilly region does not differ much. But due to their geographical limitations cultural background and historical

identity, they are taking some practical problems, in implementing the developmental programmes.

To reach the fruits of development to every section of the society and to enhance the capabilities of the masses, the concept of Human Development was evolved. Human Development is a process of enlarging people's choices. The choices are infinite but at all levels of development we should consider the three essential for the people to lead a long and healthy life, to acquire knowledge and to have access to resources needed for a decent standard of living. (HDR - 1990) and the United National Development programme, under the supervision of a team of eminent economists and development professionals like A.K.Sen, Mahbub Ul Haq, Paul Streeten and M.Desia, ad, etc. has formulated a composite human development index ranging the values between Zero to one.¹

The United Nations sponsored world summit for Social Development, in copenhagen in March 1995 has touched three points or its agenda. The struggle against poverty, social integration and the creation of productive jobs and they also recognised the UNDP's Human Development Index as better method analysing the development process.

II. Research Agenda and Identification of the Problem:

Most of the poorer countries and states are characterised by internal inequalities; between individuals, classes and regions and in many of them the inequalities are still growing. Developed countries are making rapid progress due to social consciousness and regulated population growth. The Human Development Report of 1990, '91, '92, '93 classified all countries into three broad categories i.e., more than 0.80 is regarded as high, ranging 0.50 to 0.799 is counted as medium and below 0.50 is regarded as low human development.² But the comparison is made without considering the stages of development, its historical, cultural trends and inherent nature. It is evident that different countries pass through different stages of development at a particular time period due to their historical, geographical, technological or other facts. There are also heterogeneous stages of

development within a country or region or ethnic groups.

The UNDP (1993) Report suggested the following measures for further development of the Human development concept.

(1) The construction of supplementary indices for specific groups of countries with low, medium and high human development.

(2) The HDR (1993) had also proposed the inclusion of new dimensions beyond the three dimension which might enrich the HDI.

(3) The HDR (1992) had tried to formulate a gender-sensitive HDI. It is evident that gender specific inequality is dominant in our society. So the essence of gender-specific HDI construction is a prime need.

(4) The UNDP (1993) Report has suggested the desegregation of HDI within the country and the desegregation is to be in the following headings :

(a) on the basis of regions (i.e., geographical location)

(b) among sub-regions

(c) Urban-Rural consideration

(d) on the basis of sex composition

(e) among the ethnic groups

(f) among the different religious groups

(g) on the basis of language spoken.³

Statement of the problem :-

Our study mainly concentrates on Sikkim. Sikkim is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-linguistic state. She also occupies a special geographical location. Rural-Urban disparity is prominent. It was practically a backward hilly state and urbanisation is a recent phenomenon. Hinduism and Buddhism are co-existing in Sikkim and the co-existence resulted in a social amalgamation of Buddhist and Hindu practices in social life.

Sikkim lies between 27° and 28° N latitude and 88° and 89° E longitude. To its North lies the Tibetan plateau; to the west, the kingdom of Nepal; to the east the kingdom of Bhutan and the Chumbi Valley of Tibet and to the south the Darjeeling district of West Bengal. Sikkim occupies an area of 7299 square km. Sikkim has experienced a great changes in its political structure, social structure, economic life and cultural values during the last hundred years. Planned development process was launched in 1954-61 seven years plans with the full financial assistance from Government of India. She merger with India in 26th April, 1975. But the development process of Sikkim possesses a peculiarity. The religious, cultural and social life are strongly influenced by Tibet but its political and economic life are mostly guided and influenced by India. The HDI of Sikkim may provide a better insight into the human development process. The prime consideration of human development in Sikkim is influenced by the following factors. These are

- (i) geographical location
- (ii) historical events
- (iii) ethnic composition
- (iv) religious influences
- (v) natural isolation
- (vi) political development.

Its spatial distribution is influenced by a host of environmental, historical, socio-cultural, economic, demographic and developmental factors. It is sparsely populated state with adverse sex ratio. In Sikkim 23.3% of houses have separate bathrooms 38.9% have separate latrines. The Hindus are in a better off condition than the Buddhists.⁴ Among socio-cultural factors, education is observed as the most influential factor in differentiating people's social and demographic behaviour. In accordance with 1981 census, the population in the young age structure is very high. This is an indication of high fertility. The economy of Sikkim is mainly rural and agricultural. In this context we shall try to examine and measure the human

development condition and index. We also target to analyse various component of HDI at the macro and micro level and try to make a factor analysis of it.

III. Objective of the Present Study:

The major objective of the present study is to evaluate the present condition of human development in Sikkim. Our main hypothesis that is sought to be tested by this investigation is that Human development as a form of Economic development has improved in Sikkim since the merger with India in 1975.

Its stresses on

- (a) the assessment of broad components of HDI;
- (b) the evolution of HDI for Sikkim at the state level;
- (c) the trend of the human development;
- (d) the spread of the developmental activities;
- (e) the degree of improvement;
- (f) the deficiency of human development; and
- (g) further requirements and modifications.

And the next hypothesis is that human development trend must have a impact at the micro level. This investigation would try to assess and evaluate the HDI at the grass-root level too. It proposes to cover.

- (a) the measure of HDI at the grass-root level;
- (b) the problem related with it;
- (c) the variation on the basis of ethnic composition;
- (d) the religious and social impact;
- (e) the local motivation and participation; and
- (g) the political motivation ad acceptance.

Lastly we would try to make a comparative study between the achievements at the state level and village level. It will also try to focus and measure the disparity.

On the basis of the these considerations. We have the following research questions regrading the human development condition in Sikkim. These are

- (i) Why do we assess the human development of sikkim?
- (ii) How do we evaluate the Human development condition in Sikkim Since 1975?
- (iii) Is it possible to construct a HDI far state like Sikkim as formulated by UNDP?
- (iv) If yes, what would be the value of the HDI for Sikkim?
- (v) If not this why?
- (vi) What modifications in HDI is to be made? Is there any need of inclusion of new variables?
- (vii) How do we construct a HDI at the gross-root level? What are the technical problems? What are the practical problems?
- (viii) Is there any variation in HDI on the basis of ethnic variation? What are the reasons behind this?
- (ix) How does the religious factors influence the HDI?
- (x) What is the state of the three constituents of HDI at the grass-root level and within different ethnic group?
- (xi) What is the role of government?
- (xii) What is the role of local bodies, implementing the concept of human development?
- (xiii) What are the main hurdles, in augmenting human development?

IV. Conceptual Development and a Brief Review of Economic Development Literature :

The concept of human well-being or promotion is not an innovative notion. Rather philosophers like Aristotle suggested that social arrangements should be evaluated and judged by the extent to which they promote human welfare. The same idea evolved in the early writings of William Petty, Gregory King, Francis Quesnay, A. Laviosier, J. Lagrange. The political economists like Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Robert Malthus, Karl Marx and John Stuart Mill also had an ideological consensus regarding this issue.

The classical school, comprising of Adam Smith (1776) Malthus (1820) and Mill (1840) put forward approach to economic development than Ricardo, Senior and others because Ricardo's system was logically very relevant but it was based on a higher degree abstraction. The basic theories, explaining the process of economic growth are same both in the classical and Marxists models and the development of the capitalist economics was a tug of war between technological progress and population growth. Smith, Malthus and Mill all recognised that output depended on the size of the labour force, the stock of capital, the amount of land and the technological progress and economic development from Smith to Hensen are interrelated with these four factors. Classical economist did not include those resources which are economically useful or technological progress and they excluded entrepreneurship explicit. Entrepreneurs play a vital role in fostering investment and production opportunities but Schumpeter intelligently incorporated the role of an entrepreneur in his innovation theory of growth. His concept of development cover the following five cases: i) the introduction of new good, ii) the introduction of a new method of production, iii) the opening a new market, iv) the conquest of a new source of supply of raw materials, v) the carrying out of the new organisation in an industry, may alter the equilibrium position for ever.

Arthur Lewis and others put forward the purpose of development as widening our choices and poverty eradication. But the concepts were related to countries not with the people. So and we have tried to make a closer look at regional, district,

families or particular class level. The justification of their theory (i) economic growth would spread its benefit smoothly to the people; They also incorporated that government interventions such as progressive taxation, social services and others would facilitate the alleviation of poverty. It would restrict the concentration of benefits within a few, Thirdly the fate of the poor was not protected during early stages of development. It stressed on the building up the capital infrastructure and the productive capacity of an economy which could improve the fate of the poor in the later phase⁵.

In the same line, another powerful economist Simon Kuznets also propounded Kuznets curve to show the nature of the early stages of development. It proposes that inequality increases as per capita income increases. The bottom of the 'U' curve is regarded as the turning point with greater equality, reducing poverty. A. Lewis predicts that economic development takes place when capital accumulates as a result of the withdrawal of surplus labour from the 'subsistence' sector to the 'capitalist' sector. It will increase inequality at the early stage but later on it would reduce that inequality like Kuznets curve⁶.

The GNP concept neglected job and justice and promoted economic growth only. As a result G. Myrdal talked about 'labour utilization'. Practically 'labour utilisation' covers more dimensions than the demand for labour which is reflected in the Keynesian unemployment theory and the need for co-operating factors of production⁷. The major causes of low labour utilisation are living standard, attitude and institution. Nutrition, health and education are the major elements of living standard. Although better nutrition health facilities and education can be very productive forms of developing human resources in LDCs. Attitudes vary from country to country in the kinds of jobs and the third is the lack of institutions as labour exchanges, credit facilities, land ownership and the nature of the soil, for which labour utilisation varies.

Developments in theoretical economics since 1930 exerted profound influence on the formation of development economics as a distinct discipline. Keynes (1936) made a major breakthrough against the classical concept. Harrod's

(1939) seminar work on growth theory influenced the concern for maximisation of savings ratio and for speedy capital accumulation and technical progress in the over populated areas of the globe.

Rosenstien-Rodan (1943) was the first economist who propounded the theory of balanced growth. The balanced growth doctrine was shared by Nurse (1953) who preferred better market mechanism as opposed to comprehensive planning in UDC. The theory of 'big push or critical minimum effort thesis' was a variation in the theme of 'balanced growth' one finds a striking similarity between the writings of Rosenstien-Roadan (1943) Nurkse (1953), Leibenstein (1957) and Nelson (1960), although there were obvious but minor differences in details W. W. Rostow (1960) also developed a theory of economic development.

W.A. Lewis (1954) elaborated the dual economy model for economic development. The dual economy hypothesis of Lewis sparked off theoretical and empirical research on various facets of development economics. Dale Jorgenson (1961) extended the Lewis models in terms of Coob-Douglas technology and Fei and Ranis (1964). M.Dobb (1960), A.K. Sen (1966) have made a contributory works on Development. D. Taylor (1979), (1983) and Mihir R.Rakshit (1982) applied the Cambridge theory of income distribution and effective demand to differentiate between the behaviours of various socio-economic classes. Taylor and Rakshit do provide a fresh insights about the nature of conflict among social classes over income distribution in the process of economic development.

During 1940 to 1950 the idea of growth of GNP used to be regarded as the objective goal and performance test of economic development. However, the incremental GNP does not equal opportunities to all. The prediction of A. Lewis and Simon Kuznets failed to explain the employment question at the golden age of egalitarian growth and turned the development debate to the question of income distribution. As a result, Hollis Chenery and others published the book entitled redistribution with growth in 1974. This questions were raised : Do conventional measures of growth involve a bias against the poor and how can this be changed? How can strategies of redistribution be combined with strategies of growth? Is it

possible to identify groups whose members have common characteristics and to direct strategies towards those groups? What are the principal instruments of policy⁸? Another question : Is it important to reduce inequality or to meet basic needs? In LDCs levels of living meeting basic need is more important than reducing inequality. Meeting basic needs is morally more important than reducing inequality. Reducing inequality is more complex and ambiguous than meeting basic needs. Removing malnutrition in children and women, eradicating deases or spreading education among the neglected section of the society are prominent. Meeting these basic need are more feasible than eleminting equality⁹. Therefore the notion redistribution with growth became possible and feasible. In stead of 'meeting basic need approach' A. K. Sen suggested that development economics should concentrate on 'entitlements' of people and the 'capabilities' these entitlements generate. It forwarded a thematic shift in development economics in 1970 and the debates on poverty, inequality and income distribution was launched with Atkinson's (1970) article. A.K. Sen (1973) also made a contributory work. Mahbub Ul Haq (1971) synthesised and defined the GNP notion and propounded that we should take care of poverty as this would take care of the GNP and Pigon reformulated the notion that economic development is not a measure of GNP per capita but its distribution but the degree of steadiness or fluctuation of it over time is important (Todaro, 1977) professor Goulet and others suggested three basic components which would serve as the conceptual basis and practical guideline for understanding the inner meaning of development. These are self-sustenance (food, shelter, health & protection) self-esteem (authenticity, identify, dignity etc.) & freedom (economic & social choice).

Previously the level of living was reflected through the standard of living. This notion was completely based on the quantitative variations in object. But later on it was realised that this concept is inconsistent with the qualitative parameters which have a positive impact. The quality as a measure variable would refer to both the subjective and objective factors.

As a consequence the quality of life became a popular concept within a very short period i.e. app. two decades. As a result the concept of welfare activities

are judged or focused on the basis of the quality of life improvement rather than the macro social welfare activities. The real impact of the welfare is realised through the quality of life.

Quality converts a measure variable for the object, engaging with the introduction of the brand, 'Style of living' and style introduces the concept of culture. Taylor C.B. defines, "that complex whole includes knowledge, belief, arts, morals. Law custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society. And the style of living in a group is represented by some qualitative attributes of culture.

V. Basic Human Needs Approach :

It is fact that per capita income is but one indicator of welfare, But other indicators may reveal an additional and different informations about the level of living conditions and changes. Basic Human Needs are regarded as the next logical step in development thinking. Basic need approach is superior to previous approaches to growth, employment, income distribution and poverty eradication. The basic need concept is a guideline that the objective of development is to reach all human beings. The previous concept of development was concentrated with production, productivity, savings ratio, export ratio, capital output ratio, etc. and failed to target the end. So the basic need approach reminded the fundamental concern of development, which is human beings and their needs.

The approach reached beyond abstractions e.g. money, income, employment. Talking about GNP and its growth highly abstract so the discussion was narrowed down to particular groups. Another the basic need approach appealed to member of the national and international community and was therefore able of mobilising resources. People normally don't share any thing but in crisis the used to share it for greater humanity. Meeting basic needs has some characteristics of public good. Intellectually and politically the basic need approach has great organising and integrating power.

This concept is relevant for any social or socio-economic context. It tries to arrest both the qualitative as well as quantitative aspects of life. To attend the objective factors the experts precisely and comprehensively reaches at the following fields namely food, clothing, housing, health, education, leisure, security, etc. The basic need approach put forward and appropriated by ILO (1976a, 1977b). Haq (1976) Stewart and Streeten (1976), Beekeman (1977), Bhalla (1977), Streeten (1977), Griffin and Khan (1978), Perkins (1978), Streeten & Burki (1978) Morris (1979) Fields (1980) but the contradiction arises when the qualitative variables are ignored at the level of data enumeration. It is well-known that the basic needs criteria is mostly culture-bound. The input culture plays a vital role in specifying the basic needs. It is realised that neither can the qualitative variables be ignored nor can the individualwise subjective perception of the basic needs be neglected (Cole, and Lucas 1979:43).

So the people themselves should decide on the scope, content and priority of their own basic needs (Ghai and Alftor, 1977). Hopkins, (1972) described "A basic needs strategy includes mass participation of the people both in defining basic needs and decisions taken to meet basic needs (Hopkins, 1972). There must be a mechanism introduced into the planning process through which representatives of organised group choose basic needs (ILO 1977). In this manner the concept of basic need approach failed to promote a better quality of life on the basis of quantitative variables yet Dewnowski pointed out that (a) a blending of quality and quantity is an "impossible task and (b) the course of research can be so organised that qualitative variables may 'not cover all human needs but it does cover most essential of them".

There are also other attempts other than need based approach such as Gillingham and Reece (1980) to resolve the Analytical problems in the measuring of the quality of life, in the light of utility maximisation. But it is also a purely quantitative approach. QOL :Another attempt was QOL but the quality of life indicators fails to indicate properties beyond its construction. As a POL indicator GNP per capita indicators fails to indicate properties beyond its construction. As a QOL indicator GNP per capita indicates the spending power to meet the demands

of their wants. But the inequality in the distribution is a common phenomenon. So its significance is limited in nature.

Another attempt is PQL, the concept of physical quality of life was evolved in the USA in the context of the world Development Agenda to indicate the state of well-being of nation states by a set of indices (PQLI). It was designed mainly to measure the performance of the most basic needs of the world poor.

The human development approach should also be contrasted with so-called “basic needs” approach. Though both the approaches move away from valuing income per se, the basic needs approach is still firmly centered on commodity possession rather than on functioning achievements. Human Development is a process of enlarging people’s choices. The choices are infinite but at all levels of development we should consider the three essential ones are for people to lead a long and healthy life, to acquire knowledge and to have access to resources needed for a decent standard of living (HDR 1990)¹⁰. Human Development has two sides : the information of human capabilities - such as improved health, knowledge and skills and the use people make of their acquired capabilities for leisure, productive purposes is being active in cultural social and political affairs. There is a difference between HDR and Sen’s capabilities approach (in Sen 1970,1977b). There is a greater concern with issues of personal liberty and with the general perspective of freedoms. Also in general, the fit between theory and application is not quite so easy in this complex field. The HDR’s specific measurement of human development is not consistent in every respect with capability based reasoning.

Whereas the WDR looks at the reduction of poverty in terms of income, though not solely in those terms - as the fundamental objective of development, a high weights is given to the economic growth as an instrument for reducing poverty. The HDR talks a rather different view of what development is about, broadly consistent with the “capabilities approach” advocated by Sen. Human development and Economic growth are closely connected. People contribute to growth and growth contribute to human well-being. Economic growth is not the end of human development. It is one important means. Human development places on human

capabilities which leads the misconception that it is limited to social sectors e.g. health and education. These investments in people are vital, but they are only one part of the picture. It stresses the need to develop human capabilities. But it is equally concerned with how those capabilities are used - by people who can participate freely in social, political and economic decision making and who can work productively and creatively for development.

The influence of Prof.A.K.Sen is predominant in the formation of the conceptual underpinning of Human Development. The meaning and measurement of human development, proposing a new composite index has been prepared by a team of eminent economists and distinguished development professionals, like Gustav Ranis, Amartya K.Sen, Stewart, Meghnad Desai, K.Griffin, A.R.Kvan, Paul-streeten and Herbert Wulf, under the overall guidance of Mahbub ul Haq.

The process of economic development is guided by two types of factors, economic and non-economic. The economic development of country is dependent on its natural resource, human resource, capital enterprise, technology, management etc. these are classified as economic factors. But it is not possible so long as, the social institutions, political conditions and moral values in a state do not encourage development. The social institutions, cultural attitudes, moral values, institutional and political conditions are non-economic factors.

The development process is an integrated achievement of economic factors and non-economic factors of development. In this consequences, Development criteria consists of two aspects simultaneously; the quantitative aspect and the qualitative aspect and the concept of Human Development is an admixture of both the aspects. In this approach Gross Domestic production is taken as a purely economic factor; on the other hand the literacy achievement is a prolonged non-economic factor, largely related with the qualitative aspects of development and lastly the health indicators or demographic factors has two way aspects economic and non-economic¹¹.

Growth and redistribution of income was the central theme for the development Research centre of the World Bank and the sussex Institute of

Development studies. How Redistribution with growth could increase the productivity of the small scale, labour intensive and informal sector? It is suggested that a proportion of incremental income would be taxed and channelled into public services to raise the productivity of the poor. So the question arises how economic growth affects the reduction of inequality and poverty. The solution lies in the distribution of assets, the policy of the Government, the technology, the scope of export and the rate of population growth. Although the conversion of the means on ends varies difficulty among the people. It varies on the basis of the rate of metabolism, the sex, the age, the climate, entertainment etc.

Human development can be defined as the Abraham Lincoln's definition of Government. It is development of the people, for the people, by the people. It implies the economic social as well as political dimensions of development. When it promotes skill, efficiency and productivity, it is directly correlated with the economic aspect and when it eradicates social beliefs, taboos and checks population through family planning measures, it works as non-economic factors.

Human development pin points the ultimate goal of the exercise : man and women as ends to improve the human condition, to enlarge people's choices there are six reasons why we should promote human development. Firstly, Human beings are both ends in themselves and means by production. Secondly it proposes better and higher productivity. It is well - accepted that an educated, well nourished and healthy labour force is more productive asset in the society. It is widely recognised by World Bank that nutrition, education and health services has a positive and justified impact on production.

Thirdly, the concept of human development lowers down reproductivity and population growth too. Controlling infant mortality raising health standards, it may lead to lower down population growth. It also lowers down the desired family size. It has also an impact on lowering down the fertility rates and the emphasis of better education for girls pay off in smaller families sooner. Fourthly, human development is good for the physical environment. It is recorded that the poor are a care and the main victim of environmental degradation. The health of

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the physical environment largely depends on the degree of poverty. Although the impact of population growth and population density on the environment is more controversial - Fifthly the reduction in poverty contributes to a healthy civil society, democracy and greater social stability and costly it has a political appeal too in also proposes political freedom.¹²

In this regard UNDP incorporates three prime components in their study. We know that - life expectancy at birth depends on the incidence of mortality rates which in turn depend on a large number of factors such as the occurrence of epidemics, the prevalence of diseases, the level of nutrition attained by the people, the level of living conditions care of women, infant mortality, fertility, etc. The importance of life expectancy lies in the common belief that a long and healthy life is valuable.

Secondly knowledge-literacy rates are only crude reflection of access to education. Yet literacy is a persons' s first step in learning and knowledge building. It raises social consciousness and eliminates superstitions. In accordance with Schultz, there are five ways of developing human resources, "(i) health facilities and services, broadly conceived to include all expenditures that affect the life expectancy, strength & stamina, and vigor and the vitality of the people (ii) on the job training, (iii) formally organized education at the elementary, secondary and higher levels (iv) study programme for adults...". Schultz, Harbison, Moses, Beeken, Bowman, Kuznets and a host of other economists reveal that investment on education brings a greater increase in national income than the expenditure on dams, roads, factories, etc¹³.

The third component is command over resources needed for a decent living - is most difficult to measure. It requires data on access to land, credit, income and other sources. So the most available data on per capita income or per capita gross domestic product is taken into account. These GDP data are improved by using purchasing power parity comparison and make adjusted real GDP.

There is a controversy over the items, included in the Human Development index. They are very critical over the issues of qualitative aspects. But practically

it should be remembered that Human Development is a much richer concept than others.

There are different reasons why human indicators are less misleading than income per head. It is an established fact that literacy and life expectancy are much less skewed in their distribution than income. Literacy (Adult literacy) and mean years of schooling range between 0 to 100 and 0 to 9.5 yrs respectively. On the other hand the life span of a man is limited by nature, irrespective of all the achievements of modern medical facilities. But the upper limit of the third component, income is simply unpredictable - Although a limited percentage lies in this group due to different reasons. Secondly the average nature of the human indicators is a good reflection of the distribution. Thirdly any upward movement in human indicators obviously is a good reflection of improvement of human condition, some might be critical over the sex bias improvement of education and life expectancy.

Fourthly where as per capita GNP analysis may cause relative deprivation in others, but this is not possible for human indicators. Specially the benefits of health and education spread all over the society.

Per Capita income gap is widening internationally day by day but our aim is to reduce international gaps in human indicators is remarkable and feasible. The gaps between infant mortality, literacy, life expectancy, nutritional levels are reducing sharply at the international level while in terms of income the picture is gloomy¹⁴.

Human freedom must include economic, social and political rights. But these are not measured or analysed jointly. The human development index is an attempt to measure economic and social rights and the extent to which they are realized. A new political freedom index (PFI) could look specially at the political rights. The HDI changes slowly over time but PFI fluctuates rapidly. Yet the intrinsic human development not only depends on economic and social factors but also on the political aspects too. Political freedom indicators depend on (1) personal

security (2) Rule of law (3) Freedom of expression (4) political participation(5) Equality of opportunity.

VII. Related Study

The above literature suggests the need for a new measure of development which is related to more pragmatic approach of development and the earlier cited Human Development notion is an application of it. United Nation Development programme has propounded a challenging notion, defining Human Development (HDR - 1990). The main theme of the report was concentrated on the growth of Gross Domestic Production but its main concern was how this growth translated into human development in various countries. The report was mainly based on three essentials of human life for its all round development. These are longevity (which is apprehended by life expectancy), knowledge (which is approximated by literacy rate) and living standard (appropriated by the log of real GDP per capita based on PPP).⁸

It also forwarded a comparison between the GNP per capita ranking with the newly composed composite Human development Index among the nations. The report (HDR - 90) also categorised the human development index as low below 0.5, medium (between 0.5 - 0.799 interval and high human development (above 0.8).

The second UNDP report in 1991 had the theme of financing human development and the role of the Government. It revealed that the readily available life expectancy was re-appropriated by current life expectancy and the knowledge variable is enriched; adopting mean years schooling with literacy rate. Lastly the income variable is radically revised. In 1990, logarithmic income was accepted and a zero weight is given (UNDP 1993) above the poverty line. But in 1991 Atkinsons formulation for the utility of income is taken. The report covered 160 countries.

The 1992 Report explored a new direction. It investigated the links between

human development and environment and secondly between human development and global markets. It also proposed a further development of the composite Index and wade practical suggestions for translating human development. The concepts of sustainable development gender -sensitive HDI, Income distribution Adjusted HDI, provincial and rural HDIs are widely accepted for discussion with due priority. Political freedom was incorporated as an essential element of human development in this report. It had a coverage of 160 countries.

The 1993 Report was mainly concentrated on people's participation. It revealed the essence of disaggregating the HDI within a country. Thus, disaggregation is feasible between rural-urban, by ethnicity or by region and in 1993 a disaggregation by ethnic groups has been attempted for a small number of countries. The maximum and minimum limit of HDI are reformulated and the notion of modified Human Development Index is accepted. This MHDI is comparable over time.

Sudhir Anand and Martin Ravallion's work (1993) has made a delicate comparison of HDR and WDR (World Development Report)¹⁵ and Toshiyuki Mizoquehi's work has attempted to identify the standard of living by some Macro and Micro indicators. Lastly A.K.Shiv Kumar's attempt has revealed the inter-state difference in HDI within a country. It pin-points the practical need of the study of disaggregated HDIs.

National or Unified HDI concept takes the whole country as an unit. But within each country there is a wide disparity of HDI among the different regions, ethnic and religious groups, between urban and rural areas and sexed, climatic zones. As a consequence we need disaggregating HDI within a country which would be very useful to the planners and policy makers. Disaggregating HDI needs disaggregating data by which we can make internal human development analyses.

But there is some difficulty relating to the absence of disaggregated data in health, life expectancy and income. Life expectancy is a proxy variable of health indicators. But the quality of public health in the backward region largely depends on infant mortality, mortality at young age & maternal mortality. As a result the

improvement of basic capabilities through health parameters requires a vigorous analysis and discriminate treatment. Regional heterogeneity; religious disparity and ethnic differences are prominent in Sikkim state. These differences are truly reflected in consumption pattern, sanitation system and other health enhancing factors. But reliable data are not available in this backward region.

Literacy is closely related to the concept of culture and heritage of a society. Each culture appreciates the effort to promote literacy. In this context it may be mentioned that cultural literacy may vary with the universal literacy. In many cases it is noted that functional literacy is below the recorded literacy. Literacy plays a significant role in promoting the basic capabilities. But the vocational education, on the job training and non-traditional mode of acquiring education are not included in the literacy rate; though these enhances basic capabilities. The motivation to be literate is a prime factor in the backward region to spread the literacy mission. Inaccessibility, natural hazards and the lack of basic needs hinder the growth of literacy in the backward region.

Income, is the most decisive factor in determining human development. Command over resources is the prime condition of decent living but the income indicator is very difficult to measure. People living in mountainous areas need more energy from food and fuel and more expenditure on clothes and shoes because they lose more energy in the colder temperature. So we have to go through the detail characteristics of this hilly state, Sikkim.

Conclusion :

There is a close associationship between Human Development and Human Resource Development. Human Resource Development is primarily concerned as a means of development rather than ends of Development. It is only associated with the supply side of the development but the demand side is kept untouched. Whereas the term human development implies both the process of enlarging people's choice and the level of well-being achievement. Besides basic needs satisfaction, it also focuses on both the production and distribution of commodities

and the expansion and use of human capabilities.

The primary concern of human development is to ensure that the poor have access to basic needs and obtain sustainable livelihoods. For this, macro level planning is not sufficient, obviously the focus must be on the basic needs, capabilities, priorities and mass involvement. It is obligatory local participation through local bodies like Panchayat and the decision-making power to be adjusted with the government policies. Hence, the relevance of Micro-level planning and its target to be evaluated.

The local bodies may play a vital role in reaching the concept of Human Development Programme to the mass. This requires a proper organisation and mechanism of local bodies which would perform as the work head of the macro policy. The local bodies are best suited to perform various functions in the sphere of education, health and preservation of ecological balance, because of their intricate knowledge of local area.

Human development not only incorporates the three basic component it has also to consider the political set up and freedom of the state. Historical, cultural and geographical identity are the latent causes behind the performance and development of the state. Inaccessibility and immobility are to be considered. These regions need a special human development programme which must not be in conflict with the traditional customs and beliefs.

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