



## HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: MUMBAI KARNATAKA STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

**H**uman Rights and Human development are all human focused. In other words, human beings are at the center of any activities or programs under the umbrella of these pillars. The concept of Human Rights and Human development has seen significant changes over the last few decades. Human development is directly linked to human rights. A rights-based approach demands participation in governance and development, which guaranteed access to information can provide. Political liberalization in recent decades has also begun movements towards democracy, deepening public participation in the development process of the country. In such context, human rights are better safeguarded. An understanding of the inter-relationships of human development and human rights will be shown to have both theoretical and practical implications. These papers mainly focused on progress of human development in Mumbai Karnataka (North-West Karnataka) by focused on inter district disparities in HDI.

**KEY WORDS-**Human rights and Human Development, status of HDI in Mumbai Karnataka.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Today, globalization brings in both opportunities and challenges at large; Majority of the population in every country is dependent, among others, on the developmental level, the protection of human rights, governance, and security of that country; after all, the wide world is compressed into a small global village. Human rights and human development are explicitly expressed in former Secretary-General Kofi Annan made clearer the inter-relationship of rights, development: "Today, development and human rights go hand in hand; no one of them can advance very far without the other two. Indeed, anyone who speak forcefully for human rights does nothing about human development – or vice versa – undermines both his credibility and his cause. So let us speak with one voice on all two issues, and let us work to ensure that freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity carry real meaning for those most in need".

### 2. HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

One major human rights problem is fulfillment or implementation. Human rights are neither universally protected nor respected; national and even international implementation of human rights standards can be characterized as uneven, sometimes weak. Human rights were born in the institutional environment of the United Nations and have only gradually become accepted as binding laws by a number of states. A total of 140 out of 185 member states of the United Nations have ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, while 137 states have ratified the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Human rights thus

exist in limbo between a feeble international community and state powers that to varying degrees are capable and willing to make human rights more than aspirations. To the vast majority of the population in the developing world most in need of protection and support, human rights remain unknown or abstract. If human rights are to be an integral element of a development agenda, they must contribute to empowerment so that people become capable of demanding their rights and of dealing with their needs and problems. There are thus two strategies that seem particularly pertinent for human rights defenders to follow in order to make their agenda part of a development agenda: a participatory notion of promotion of the rule of law, and a genuine concern for economic, social and cultural rights. The promotion of the rule of law is relevant for two reasons. First, the poorest sections of the population are often those who suffer most from arbitrary implementation of justice. Impunity and corruption contributes to insecurity, and insecurity will mostly discriminate against the poorest sections of the population. Secondly, the promotion of the rule of law must be seen as part of an agenda of promoting access to justice —i.e., bringing the formal system of justice closer to people.

A genuine concern for the implementation and fulfillment of economic, social and cultural rights among human rights defenders and activists is needed in the development context because—in addition to personal protection and integrity—these rights are most relevant to the target groups of development efforts. Securing the means of livelihood, whether through access to food and water or to shelter and clothing, remains sadly a salient priority of the majority of Third World populations. These concerns, often together with those of health and education, are major obstacles in the realization of a dignified life. In a development context, human rights defenders cannot abstain from dealing with these priorities, although they may vary from place to place, precisely because they relate to that core of human rights that concerns dignity.

### 3. CURRENT PRACTICES OF INTEGRATING DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS:

Except for certain NGO activities, human rights and development work are usually carried out in different spheres and within different institutional frameworks. Human rights policy is debated at large international conferences and interpreted and monitored by the United Nation's Human Rights Commission; the regional human rights commissions and courts in America, Europe, and Africa; national courts and human rights institutions; and many state bureaucracies, most often under the ministries of justice.

Development policies are formulated and implemented by completely different institutions. On the international level, this is the realm of special UN organizations like the UNDP and the World Bank. On the national level, this function is carried out by state officials (most often in the foreign ministry) interacting with corresponding state institutions in developing countries. It is obvious that the central themes for these bureaucracies, such as growth, distribution, effective resource allocation, sustainable development, agricultural development, and lately decentralization and good governance only overlap to a certain degree with those of the human rights institutions. It is also clear that the professional background of "developers," their traditions and education, are primarily within economics, sociology, and political science plus the cross-cutting social science disciplines, while the "human rights defenders" are primarily jurists.

Finally, the quality criteria and the professional ethics within the two areas have been different. The development worker measures quality in terms of effective and goal-oriented transfer of resources and increasing social welfare (sometimes defined as "well-being") or in terms of independence and global equality, while the human rights worker measures quality in terms of the establishment and incorporation of human rights norms and legal rules in a given culture. Also here, however, there is an increasing convergence as political participation and social processes of change gain greater acceptance in both spheres.

### 4. MEASURING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The composite Human Development Index (HDI) integrates three basic dimensions of human development. Life expectancy at birth reflects the ability to lead a long and healthy life. Mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling reflect the ability to acquire knowledge. And gross national income per capita reflects the ability to achieve a decent standard of living.

To measure human development more comprehensively, the Human Development Report also

presents four other composite indices. The Inequality-adjusted HDI discounts the HDI according to the extent of inequality. The Gender Development Index compares female and male HDI values. The Gender Inequality Index highlights women's empowerment. And the Multidimensional Poverty Index measures non-income dimensions of poverty.

## 5. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT APPROACH IN INDIA

The Human Development Report (HDR) of 2000, on "Human Right and Human Development", brings to the fore the close link between equal human rights and human development. The concept of human development emerged in the late 1980s based on the conceptual foundation provided by Dr. Amartya Sen and Dr. MahbubulHaq. The HD approach puts people at the center of the development agenda, where economic growth and wealth are considered means to development, not an end by itself. Put simply, the starting point for the human development approach is the idea that the purpose of development is to improve human lives by not only enhancing income but also expanding the range of things that a person can be and can do, such as be healthy and well nourished, be knowledgeable, and to participate in community life. Seen from this viewpoint, development is about removing the obstacles to what a person can do in life, obstacles such as lack of income, illiteracy, ill health, lack of access to resources, or lack of civil and political freedoms. As expressed by Sen: "...the twin recognition that human beings can 1) fare far better, and 2) do much more to bring this about may sensibly be seen as the two central thesis of the human development approach."

## 6. STATUS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN KARNATAKA

Human development situation in Karnataka State was mostly guided by the Millennium Development Goals (UNDP, HDR 2001). The progress of human development of Karnataka state was reasonably good, since the last two decades of human development experiences in terms of literacy rate, life expectancy at birth, infant mortality rate and other human development indicators has been better than all India average. Karnataka State has medium human development rank it improves from 0.541 to 0.650 between 1991 to 2001 with 7th rank of the 15 Indian states were well above the national average 0.423 and 0.621 respectively during same period. The level of human development of Karnataka state is more or less equal with that of Egypt and considerably higher than South Asian countries such as Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh in 2001. At the international level, state has 120th rank while the country has 127th rank (UNDP, HDR 2003). The human development indicators such as per capita NSDP, life expectancy at birth, literacy and infant mortality rate are also improved over the period of time. The state's per capita gross state domestic product (GSDP) is above the national average and it occupies sixth place in the ranking of 15 major states in India.

## 7. INTER DISTRICT DISPARITIES IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN MUMBAI KARNATAKA

Karnataka was the second state, which has brought out its first human development report in 1999. There have been some independent studies which carried out works on inter district disparities in human development using latest UNDP methodology of which studies by Benerjee & Roy 1998, Rani 1999, Roy & Bhattacharya, 1999; Shanmugaum 2005 and Vysula 1997 are significant. The Government of Karnataka again brought out his second successive human development report 2005 in 2006. In this report HDI has been computed for 27 districts in the state using the UNDP, HDR 1999 methodology. This can be infers the regional disparities in HDI of various districts in the state enables an understanding of the nature and changing magnitude of variations among districts. This, intern points to either divergence or convergence of regional variations in human development among districts in the state. North-West Karnataka as historically consider as Mumbai Karnataka which have 7 districts.

**Table 1. Per capita Income and Human Development Index of Mumbai Karnataka Districts**

Sl No.	Name of the districts	Per capital Income (Rs.)		Percentage changes in 1991-92 - 2001- 02	Human Development Name of the Index (HDI)		Percentage changes in 1991-92 - 2001-02
		1991-92	2001-02		1991	2001	
01	Uttara Kannada	7,788	12,043	54.63	0.567	0.653	15.16
02	Belgaum	7,028	11,085	57.72	0.545	0.648	18.89
03	Dharwad	7,905	12,549	58.74	0.539	0.642	19.10
04	Gadag	5,918	10,607	79.23	0.516	0.634	23.20
05	Haveri	4,850	8,679	78.94	0.496	0.603	24.16
06	Bagalkot	6,511	11,557	77.49	0.505	0.591	18.21
07	Bijapur	6,562	9,092	38.55	0.504	0.589	20.76
	<b>KARNATAKA</b>	<b>7,447</b>	<b>13,057</b>	<b>75.33</b>	<b>0.541</b>	<b>0.650</b>	<b>20.14</b>

Source: 1. Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Karnataka

2. Government of Karnataka (2006) Karnataka Human Development Report 2005, Planning Commission

The table 1 depicts the district-wise estimates of HDI and per capita income during 1991-92 and 2001-02, of various districts of Mumbai Karnataka. Uttar Kannada takes the top position while Bijapur is placed at the bottom. As we consider to South Karnataka districts like Bengaluru, Udupi, Dakshin Kannada, Shimoga the Mumbai Karnataka districts were in bottom place which is not only lowest in state average but also less than national average and also lower than so called low human development countries such as Niger, Sierra Leone and others.

## 8. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

To begin a clarification process, one could ask the question: What does a human rights approach to development mean? On the basis of the preceding discussion, the approach appears to consist of three bottom-line notions:

- 1) A focus on protection of individuals and groups against power exertion, not only from states, but also from other agencies exerting power, such as transnational corporations, NGOs, and international organizations.
- 2) A focus on non-discrimination, equal opportunity and participation irrespective of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status. Participation and to some extent also non-discrimination will relate to political rights including freedom of association, assembly, and speech.
- 3) A focus on enabling support that allows individuals and groups to lead a life in dignity, free of poverty, with access to certain minimum standards of living, health, water, and education. What is central here is to approach basic capabilities via human rights, including an effort to enable people to organize and to demand their rights.

The core of a human rights approach to development thus relates to personal integrity, equal opportunity, and livelihood security. It is important to realize that such an approach will not solve all injustices and developmental problems. Human rights initiatives relate only indirectly to inter-state relations, and they are not adept in addressing issues of efficient resource allocation and in reconciling different strategies and struggles for development. What human rights can achieve in development relates to the creation of a space of protection and dignity around the human person from where development can move forward. At the level concerning the most important actors in development, i.e., the human actors and their basic livelihood security and interaction with authorities and power, human rights and development are mutually reinforcing. Human rights can serve to concentrate the focus of development around the human person. There are thus strong linkages between a human development paradigm and human rights. In the 1990s, human rights and development efforts were

brought closer together as the basic expectations and objectives within the two areas changed, and as a new global order, with human rights as one of its constituting characteristics, was established.

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