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

• Emerged in response to demand for newer approaches to development
• Context the huge human costs of structural adjustment policies of 1980s
• Process concept discussed at 3 North-South Round Tables organised by Mahbub ul Haq in 1980s
• Proposed 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
- 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

- Emphasis in HD
  - Enlargement of choices & capabilities focus on duty bearers and public policies

- Emphasis in HR
  - 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


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

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