

Highlights of Himachal Pradesh HDR (2002)

Achievements

- Life expectancy at birth was 62.8 years higher than the national average of 57.7 years for the period 1986-90.
- Infant Mortality Rate has fallen from 118 in 1971 to 62 in 1999 (almost half).
- Decline in crude birth rate from 37.3 in 1971 to 22.6 in 1998 below the national average of 26.5 in 1998 (SRS Bulletin, April 2000) as also crude death rate from 15.6 in 1971 to 7.7 in 1998 (SRS Bulletin, April 2000).
- Male sterilisations are remarkably high in the State being four times higher than the national average. 13.6 per cent rural couples use this method as against 5 per cent in Haryana and 3.5 per cent all-India.
- The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined from 4.7 to 3.6 in the State (Census 1991). A declining TFR means that women are exercising their choice with regards to family planning.
- Overall literacy grew by 34.65 per centage points between 1981 and 2001.
- Enrolment in primary schools increased by almost 40 per cent between 1981-2 and 1997-8 while enrolment in secondary levels increased by 3 times.
- Female work force registered an increase from 37.07 per cent in 1981 to 43.66 per cent in 2001.
- Proportion of children fully vaccinated increased from 63 per cent in NFHS-1 (1992) to 83 per cent in NFHS-2 (1999).

Challenges

- Incidence of income poverty high, especially in rural areas, so pressure on arable land for food production increasing.
- Several species of medicinal and aromatic plants have become extinct or have been listed as endangered, because of unscientific and poorly managed exploitation of these plants.
- Forests of the State under great pressure because of dependency of 82 per cent of the population on fuel wood.
- Difficult terrain, poor infrastructure, high rates of out-migration and overall shortage of medical personnel and centers barrier to achieving the goal of "Health for all".
- As per Census 2001, sex ratio of child population in the age group of 0-6 years is considerably lower than the sex ratio of population in the age group of 7 years and above.
- Couple protection rate has shown a declining trend from 58.37 per cent (1994 -95) to 51.57 per cent in 2000.
- Maternal mortality rate (456) higher than the national average (453) as per NFHS-1.
- Low literacy levels in rural areas and also among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe a matter of serious concern.
- Only 39 per cent of children born to illiterate mothers received antenatal care compared to 75 per cent in case of mothers who had completed high school (NFHS-2, 1999).
- Nearly half the children under 4 years are underweight.
- Increasing trend of HIV infection reported among pregnant women (0.2 per cent - 0.8 per cent) indicative of the advancing of the epidemic into the general population. High prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases among women (3 per cent by etiological diagnosis).
- Non-institutional delivery constitutes 71 per cent in the State (NFHS-2, 1999).
- Excessive dependence of employment on the primary sector however productivity of labour in this sector very low.

Key Recommendations

- Raise productivity of manpower engaged in the Primary sector, as it is conventionally known for its low productivity,
- Policy interventions required to selectively promote the secondary and tertiary sectors.
- Quality of education needs to be addressed especially at the post school stage.
- Ensure accountability of existing staff within the health department.
- Encourage the consumption of Kerosene and LPG for reducing dependency on fuel wood.
- Provision of specialist medical services especially in rural areas.

- Adequate investment in transport and other infrastructural facilities. Improving village connectivity and easy access to potable water required.
- Encourage more participation of NGOs and private sector need of the hour keeping the financial constraints of the government.

Human Development Indices for the Districts of Himachal Pradesh

Districts/State	Human Development Index (HDI)	
	(Value)	(Rank)
Bilaspur	0.423	7
Chamba	0.423	7
Hamirpur	0.404	9
Kangra	0.432	6
Kinnaur	0.510	3
Kullu	0.534	1
Lahaul & Spiti	0.469	4
Mandi	0.390	11
Shimla	0.518	2
Sirmaur	0.409	8
Solan	0.454	5
Una	0.399	10
Himachal Pradesh	0.433	
<i>Source: Government of Himachal Pradesh (2002), Himachal Pradesh Human Development Report 2002, Government of Himachal Pradesh, pp. 40</i>		