Concepts And Technology of AI (5CS027)

Name: Aakrist Acharya

University ID: 2461802

Group: L5CG9

Tutor: Ms. Rakhee Pandey

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Table of Contents

Introduction

The Human Development Index (HDI) brings together indicators such as life expectancy, educational attainment, and national income per person into one consolidated measure. Unlike purely economic metrics, HDI captures broader aspects of human well-being and therefore provides a more meaningful way to compare living conditions among countries.

This report examines HDI from several perspectives. First, it reviews global HDI patterns for a single year. It then analyzes trends for five countries Nepal, India, Norway, the United States, and China between 2020 and 2022. A more advanced exploration focuses on inequality-adjusted HDI to reveal how disparities influence development outcomes. Finally, the report contrasts South Asia with the Middle East to highlight regional differences.

Through charts, tables, and interpretation, the report explains key trends, variations, and drivers associated with human development.

Problem 1A: Single-Year HDI Exploration

Methods / Approach

The latest available global HDI dataset was examined and descriptive statistics such as mean, median, and range were calculated. Countries were grouped into very high, high,

medium, and low HDI categories. Top- and bottom-performing nations were identified, and visualizations were produced to display the distribution.

Key Results

Global HDI levels varied significantly. Switzerland ranked among the highest with a value close to 0.97, while countries such as Somalia recorded much lower scores, close to 0.38. The worldwide average was around 0.75, although many nations fell below this value. High-HDI countries were concentrated in Europe, North America, and parts of East Asia, whereas most low-HDI countries were located in Africa and South Asia.

Interpretation

Countries with very high HDI typically demonstrate strong economies, effective education systems, and stable governance. In contrast, those with lower HDI scores often struggle with poverty, limited educational access, weaker healthcare systems, and fragile institutions. These gaps emphasize persistent inequalities in global development.

Problem 1B: HDI Trend Analysis (2020–2022)

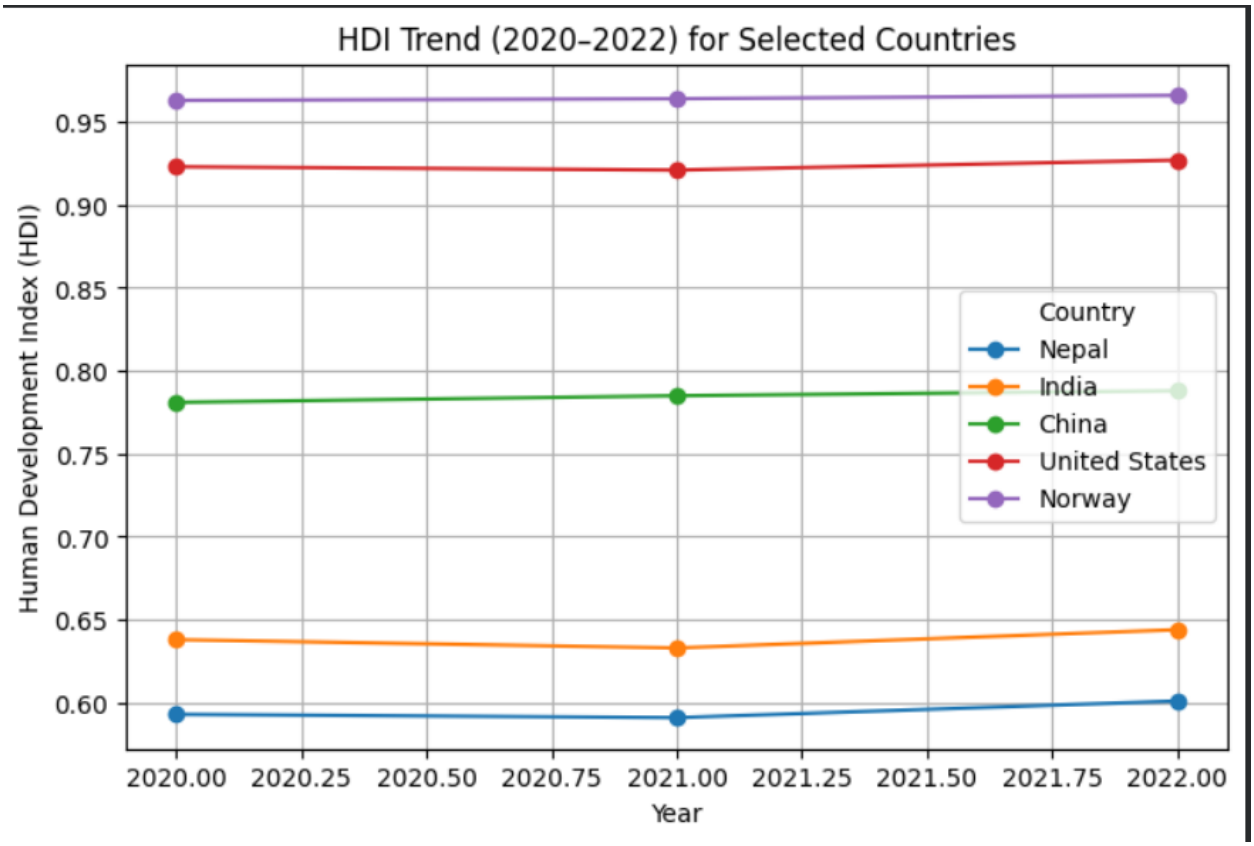

Figure 1: HDI Trend for Selected Countries

The line chart presents the HDI patterns for five selected nations over the years 2020 to 2022. High-HDI countries like Norway and the USA remained largely steady, showing minimal fluctuations, whereas developing countries such as Nepal and India experienced a marked drop in 2021, which was followed by a strong rebound in 2022. China exhibited a gradual, continuous increase throughout. This visualization underscores the differences in post-pandemic recovery trajectories among nations at varying development stages.

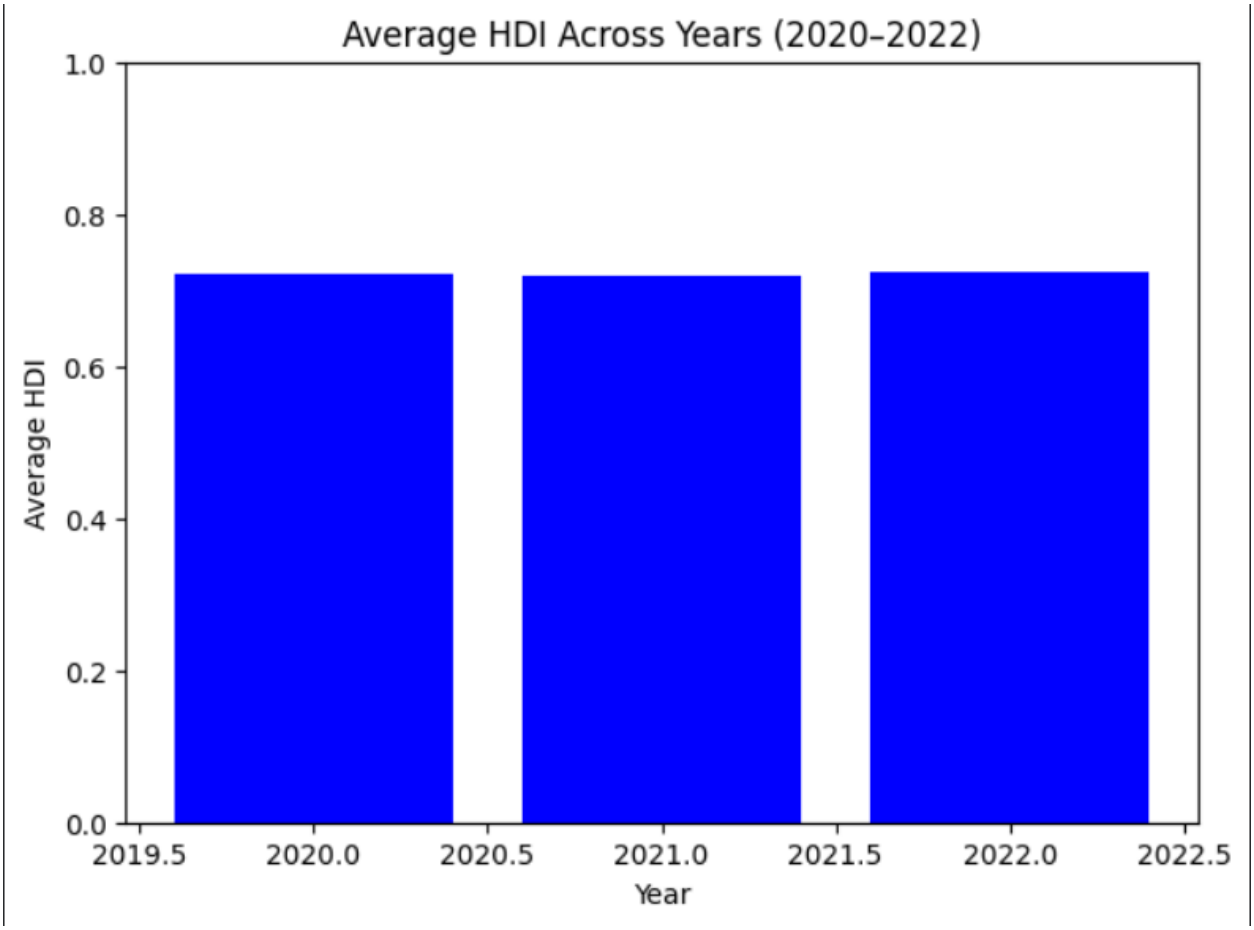

Figure 2: Average HDI Across Years

This chart depicts the global average HDI trend from 2020 to 2022. A decline is observed in 2021, reflecting the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a recovery in 2022. The pattern indicates how worldwide crises temporarily affected development, with subsequent recovery observable across most countries.

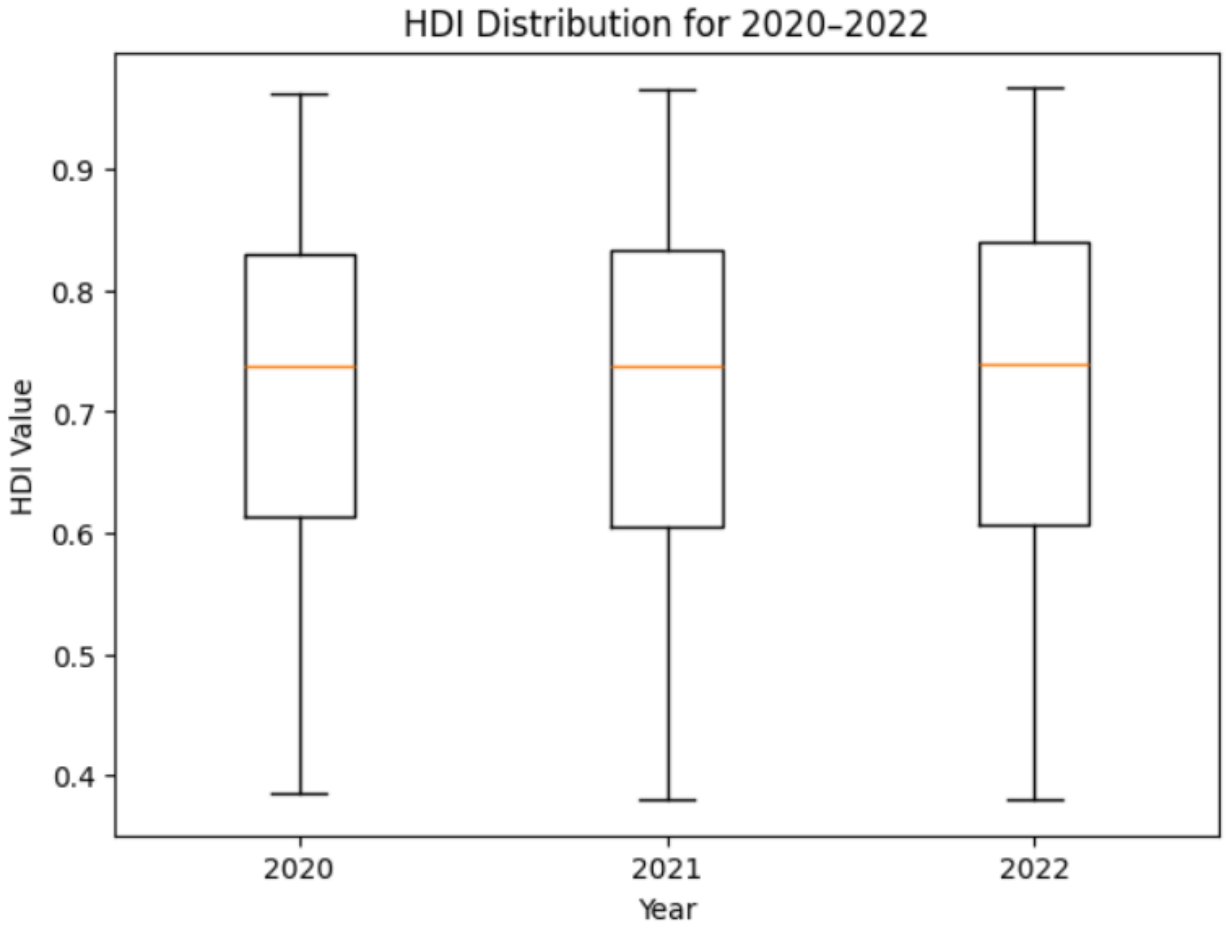

Figure 3: HDI Distribution for 2020–2022

The scatter plot demonstrates how HDI values are distributed across countries each year. A considerable gap exists between highly developed nations and those with lower development levels, emphasizing persistent global inequalities that influence the speed and extent of recovery from global shocks.

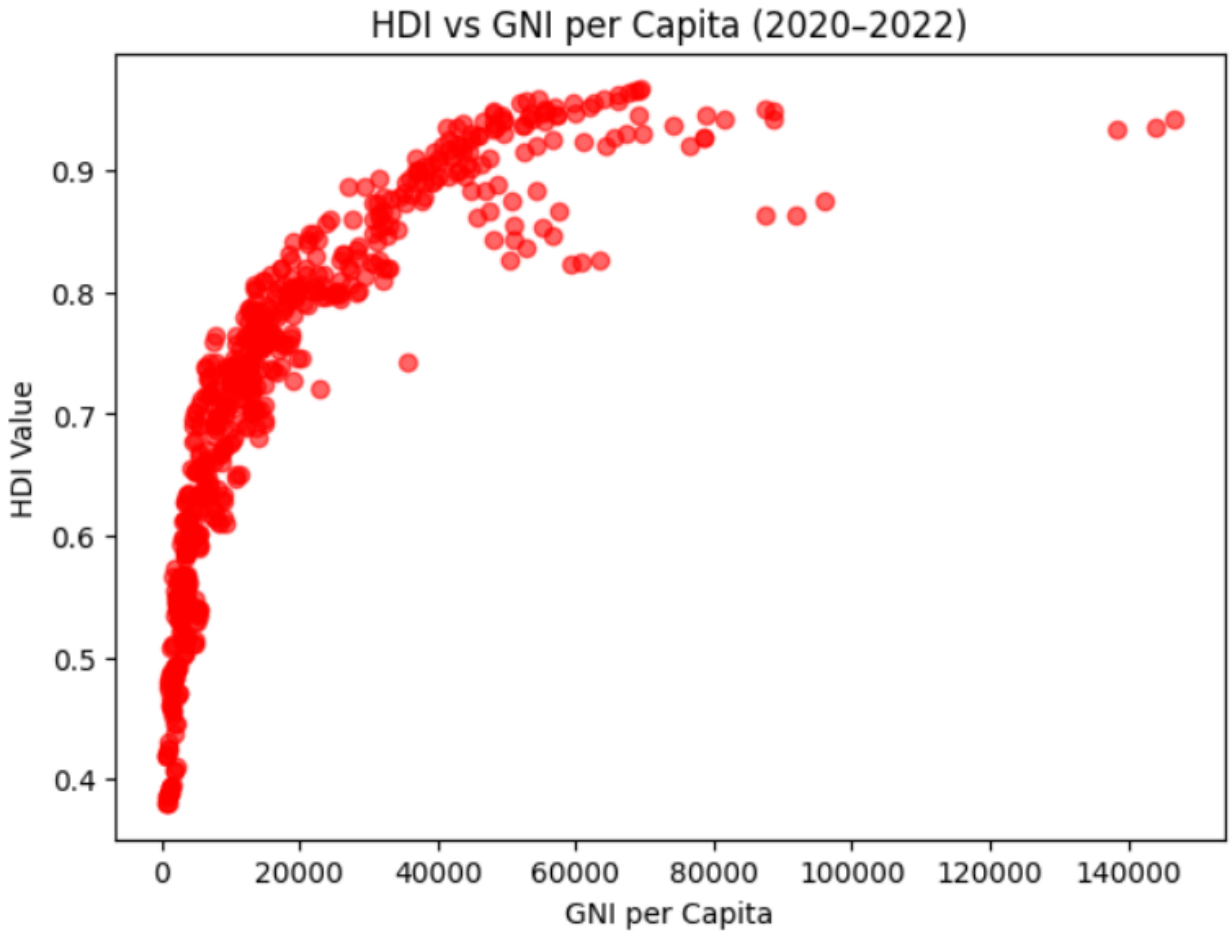

Figure 4: HDI vs. GNI per Capita

This plot examines the relationship between HDI and Gross National Income per capita. Generally, countries with higher income tend to achieve higher HDI scores; however, gains diminish at very high income levels. Wealthier nations were better equipped to withstand and recover from crises, as illustrated by their HDI trends.

Methods / Approach

HDI data for Nepal, India, Norway, the United States, and China from 2020–2022 were gathered. Line graphs illustrated trends, while percentage changes were computed to compare development progress across countries.

Key Results

All five nations showed recovery in HDI by 2022 following declines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Norway and the United States experienced only minor fluctuations within the very high HDI range. Nepal and India temporarily declined in 2021, but both rebounded by 2022. China, meanwhile, showed steady and gradual growth across the period.

Interpretation

The pandemic affected nearly all countries, but recovery speeds differed. Wealthier nations demonstrated greater resilience and faster improvements, while developing countries took longer to regain pre-pandemic progress. This highlights how a country's development level influences its ability to respond to crises.

Problem 2: Advanced HDI Exploration

	country	Composite Score	hdi
3530	Maldives	5678.289357	0.762
3529	Maldives	5081.257038	0.753
5476	Sri Lanka	3910.566378	0.783
5475	Sri Lanka	3799.859835	0.777
3528	Maldives	3723.426396	0.737

Screenshot of Data Table: Composite Score Table

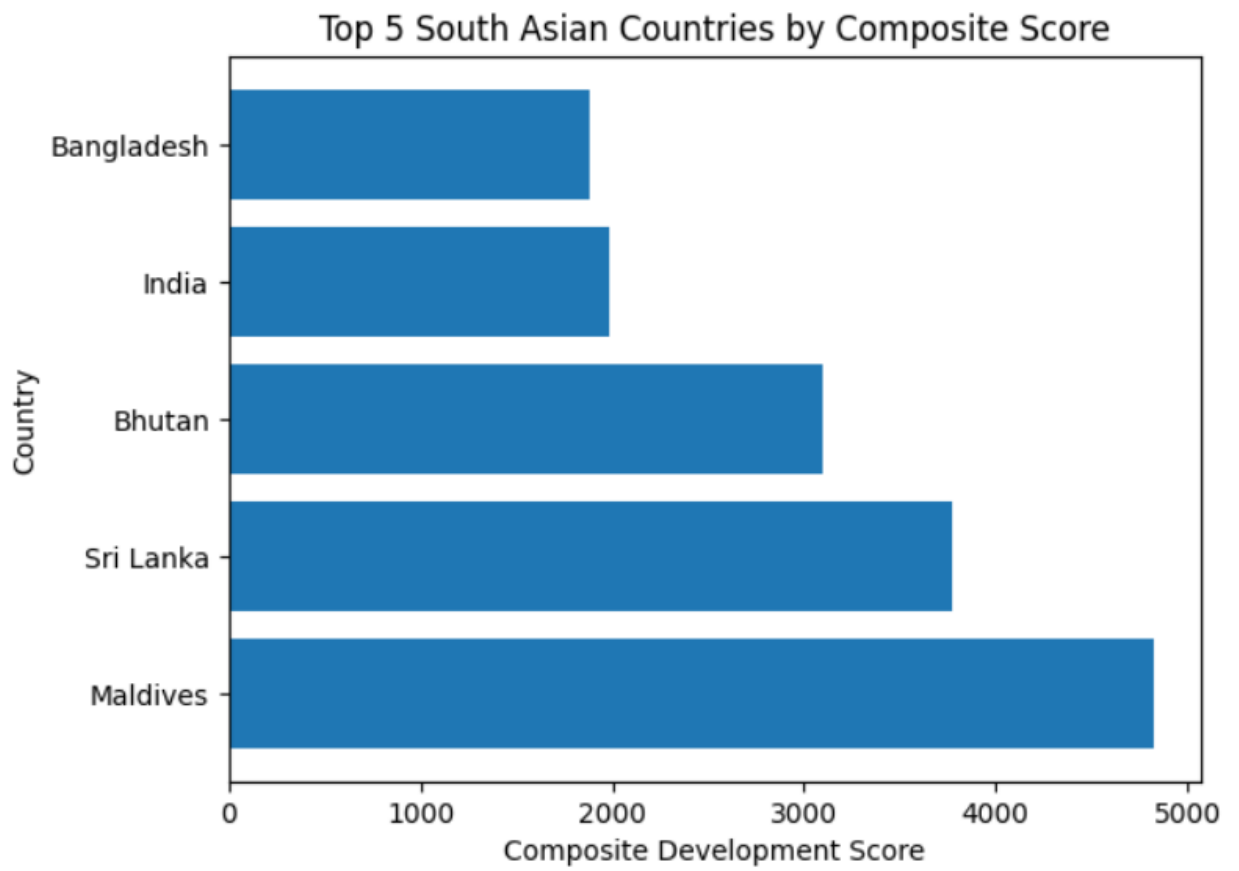

Figure 5: Top Countries by Composite Score Bar Chart

The bar chart compares South Asian countries based on their composite HDI scores. Maldives and Sri Lanka emerge as leaders, creating a notable gap between them and other regional countries. This visualization provides insight into regional rankings and relative development performance.

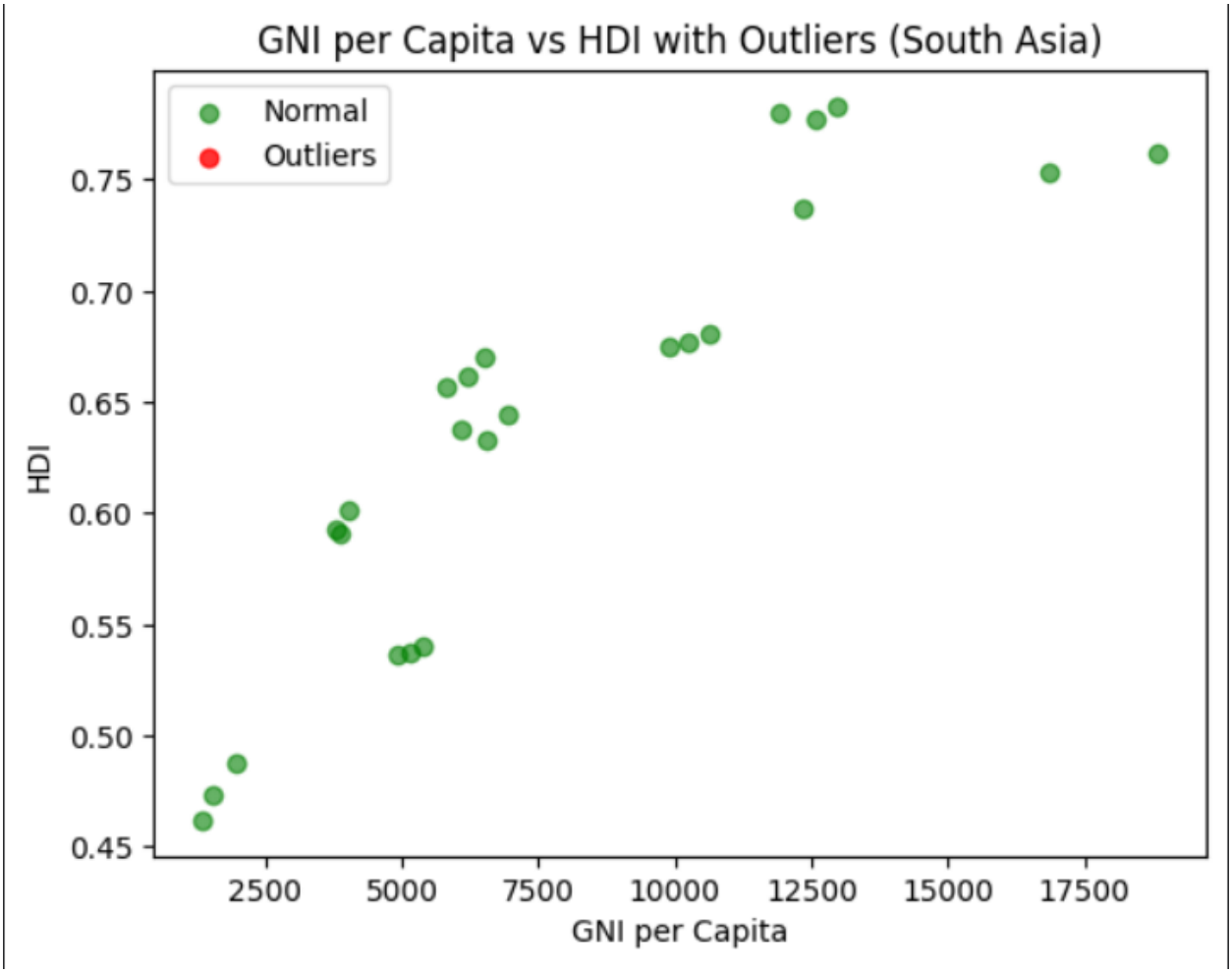

Figure 6: GNI per Capita vs HDI with Outliers

By plotting GNI per capita against HDI, this chart identifies countries whose human development diverges from expectations based on income. Outliers are highlighted, offering a basis for understanding why some nations perform better or worse than predicted by economic metrics alone.

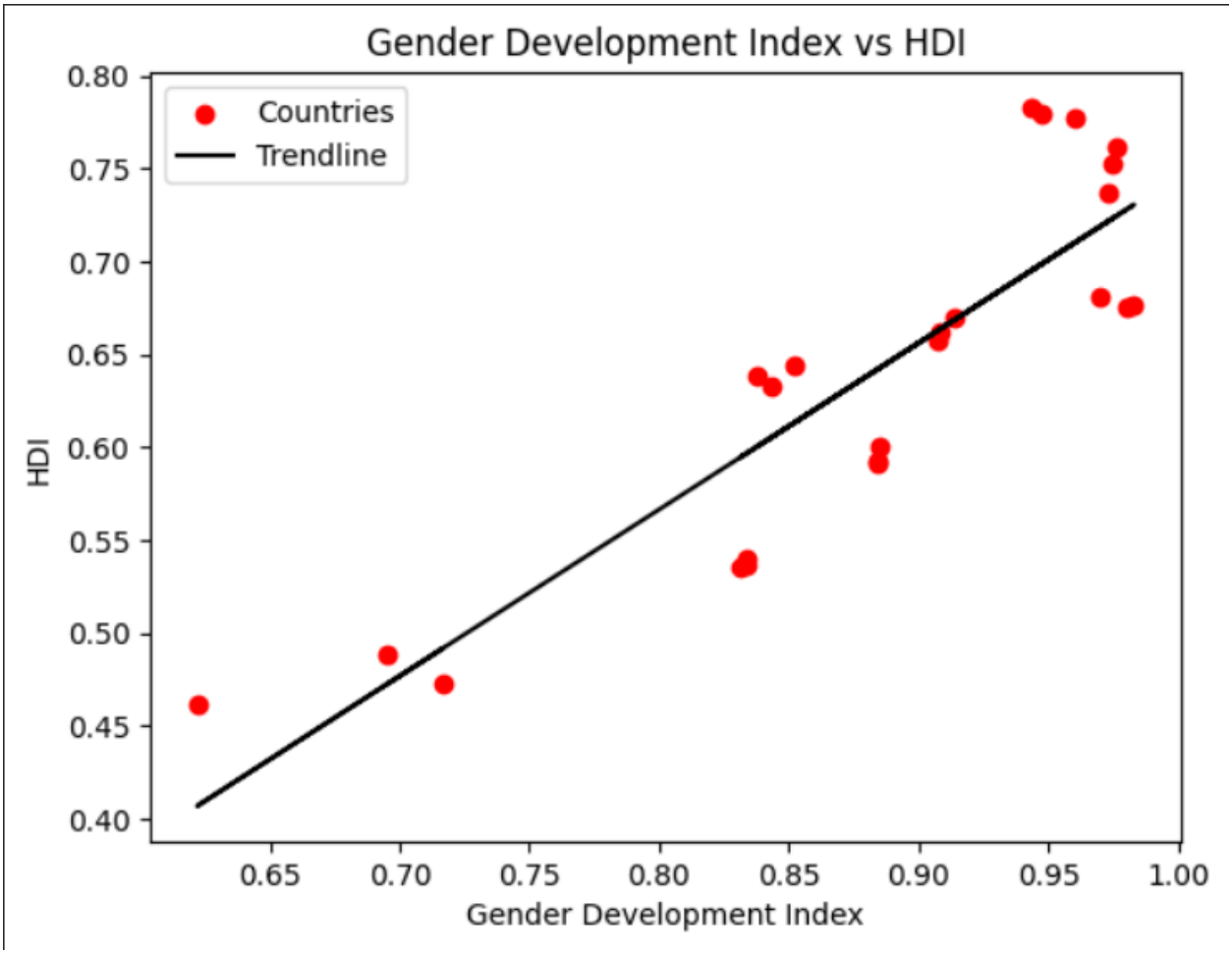

Figure 7: Gender Development Index vs HDI

The chart explores the connection between gender equality and human development. Nations with higher HDI tend to exhibit better gender outcomes, suggesting that gender equality contributes positively to overall development.

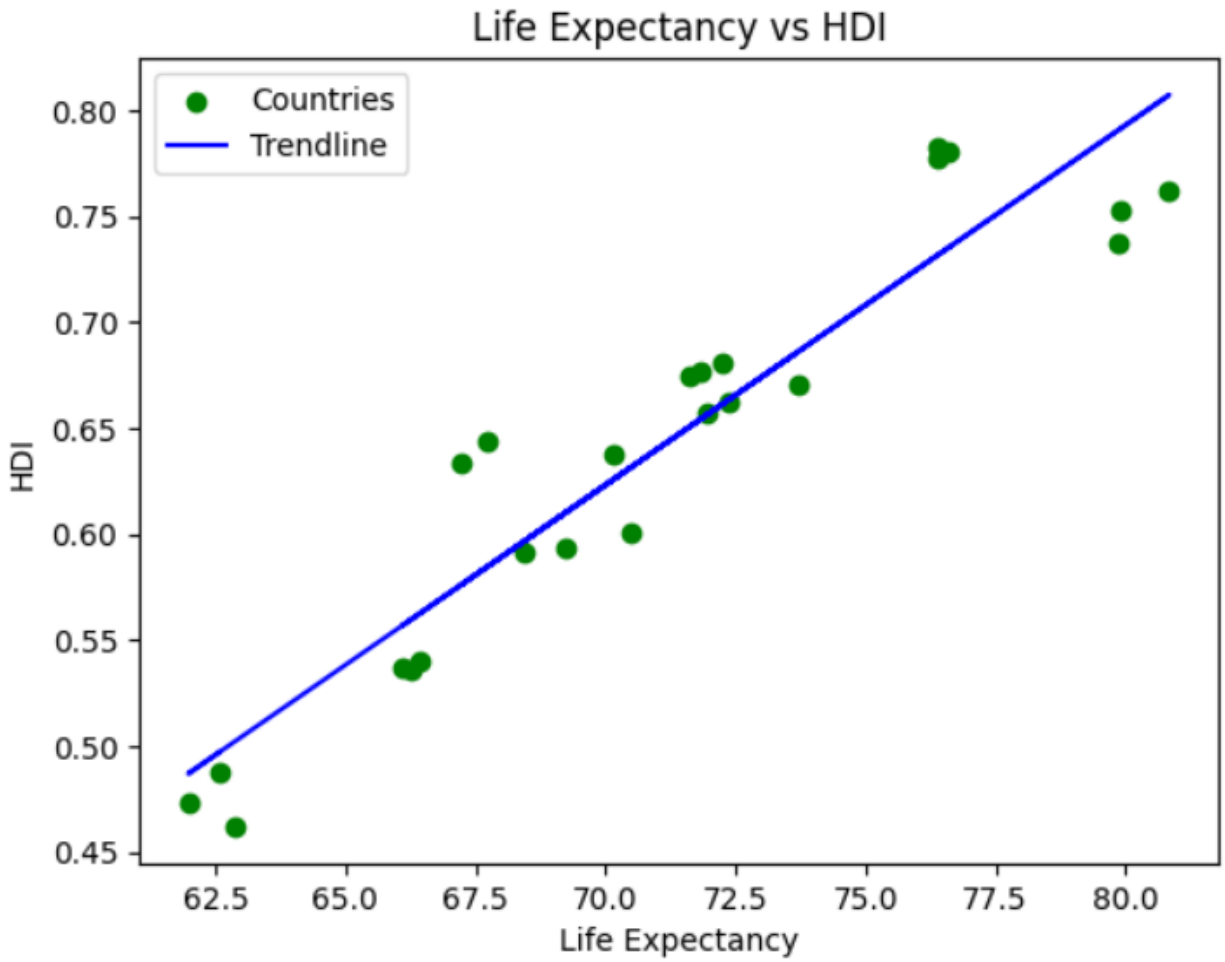

Figure 8: Life Expectancy vs HDI

This figure illustrates the correlation between life expectancy and HDI. Countries with higher life expectancy generally show higher HDI, emphasizing the role of health in overall human development.

	country	GNI_HDI_Gap
4	Maldives	16011.230657
7	Sri Lanka	12481.929060
2	Bhutan	10253.395723

Screenshot of Data Table: Top Positive Gap

	country	GNI_HDI_Gap
0	Afghanistan	1618.240627
5	Nepal	3901.138692
6	Pakistan	5149.963106

Screenshot of Data Table: Top Negative Gap

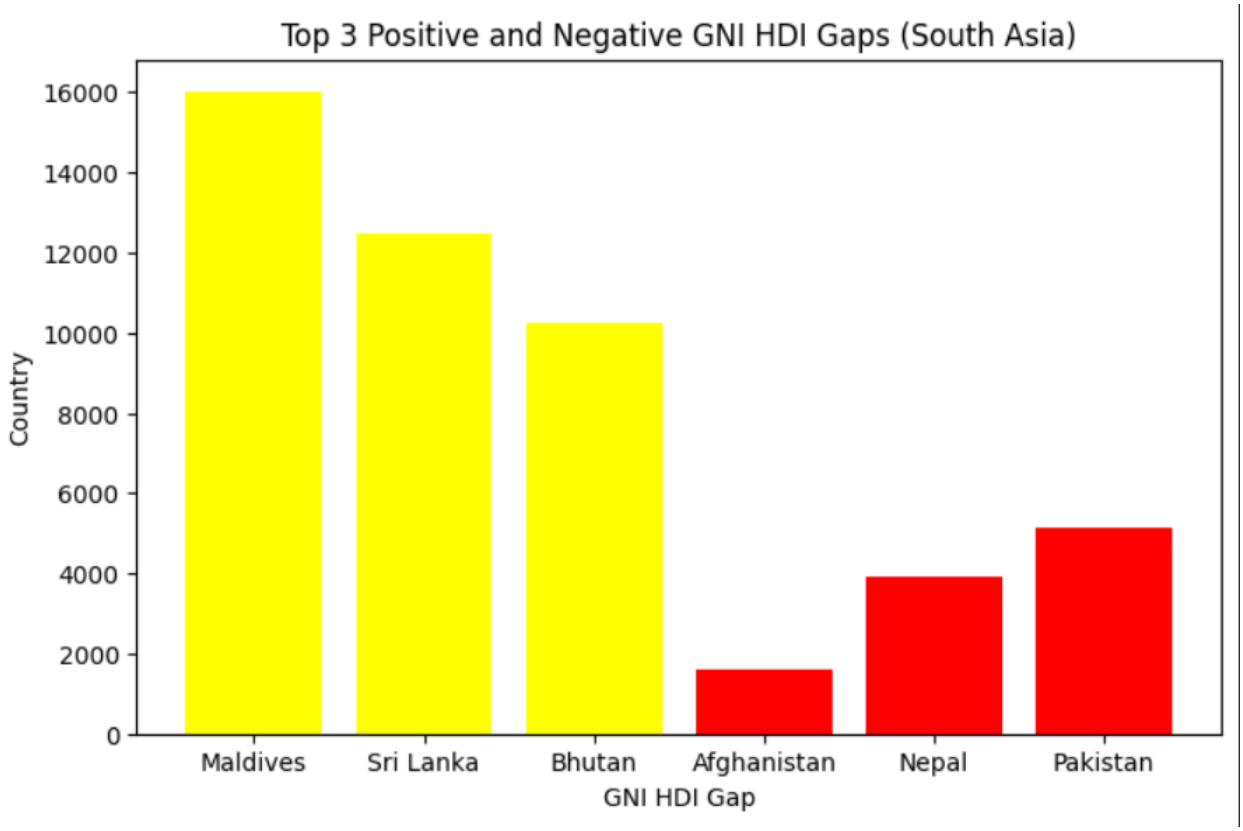

Figure 9: Top 3 Positive and Negative GNI HDI Gaps Chart

The plot highlights countries with the largest deviations between income and HDI. Positive outliers like Maldives and Sri Lanka have higher HDI than their income would suggest, whereas negative outliers such as Afghanistan lag behind. These gaps reveal disparities and opportunities for targeted development policies.

Methods / Approach

In this section, the Inequality-Adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) was calculated to provide a clearer view of development outcomes. Unlike the standard HDI, IHDI reduces the score when there are significant internal disparities in health, education, or income. The gap between HDI and IHDI therefore represents the proportion of development that is lost because inequality prevents people from benefiting equally.

Key Results

The results show that high-income countries such as Norway and the United States experience only small reductions once inequality is taken into account. By contrast, countries like India and Nepal lose a noticeably larger share around 10 20 percent indicating that the average HDI overstates the level of development experienced by many individuals (Miranda-Lescano et al., 2024).

Interpretation

Considering inequality alongside HDI offers a more realistic picture of human development. Countries that appear similar in terms of HDI may, in practice, provide very different opportunities for their citizens once disparities are included. Targeted efforts to narrow gaps in education, healthcare, and income distribution can therefore play a decisive role in improving genuine human well-being (UNDP, 2024).

Problem 3: Comparative Regional Analysis: South Asia vs Middle East

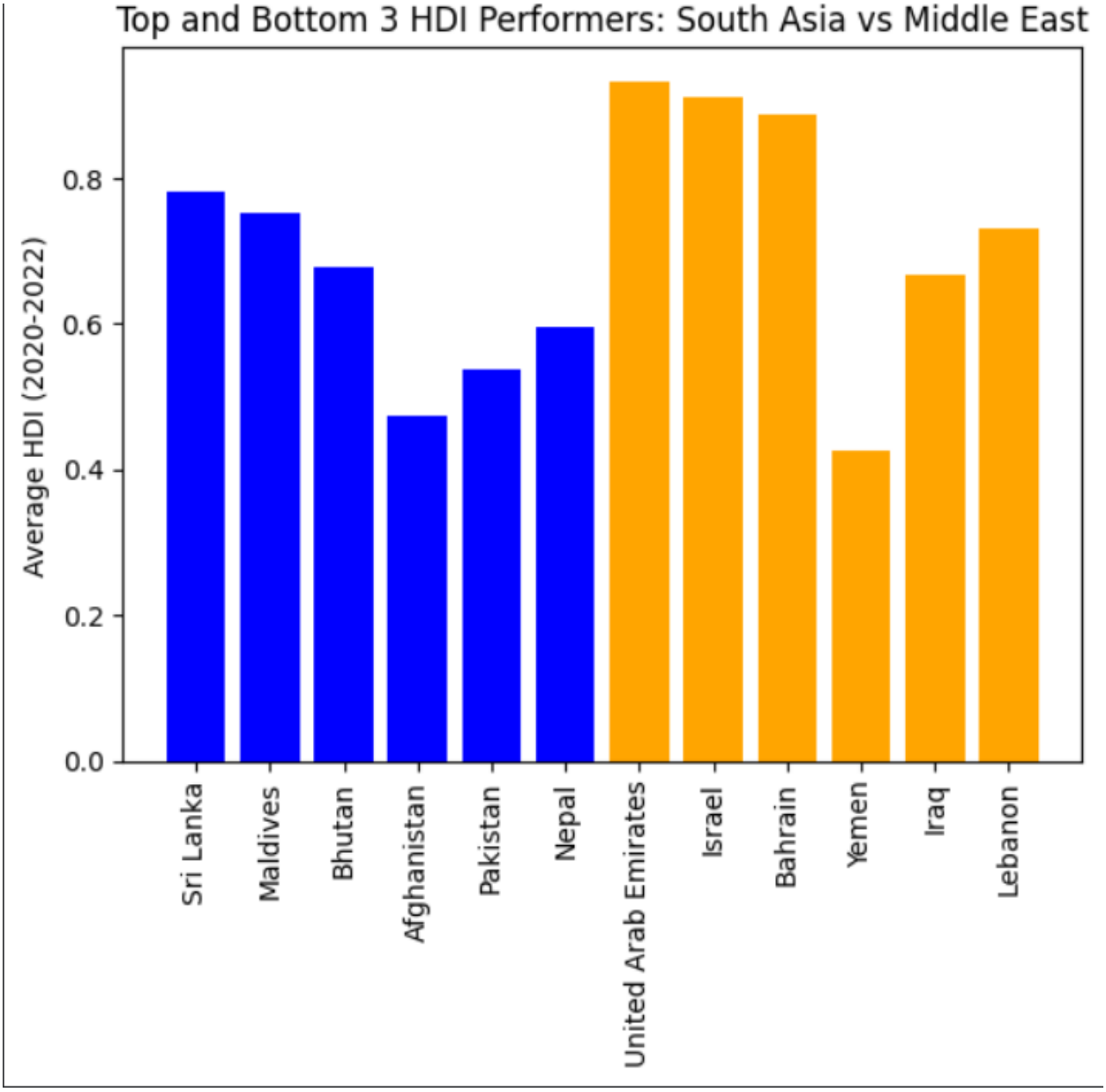

Figure 10: Top and Bottom HDI Performers

The chart contrasts the highest and lowest HDI performers in South Asia and the Middle East. While top-ranking countries like Sri Lanka and UAE achieve high development, nations such as Afghanistan and Yemen show much lower HDI. This comparison illustrates regional disparities and developmental extremes.

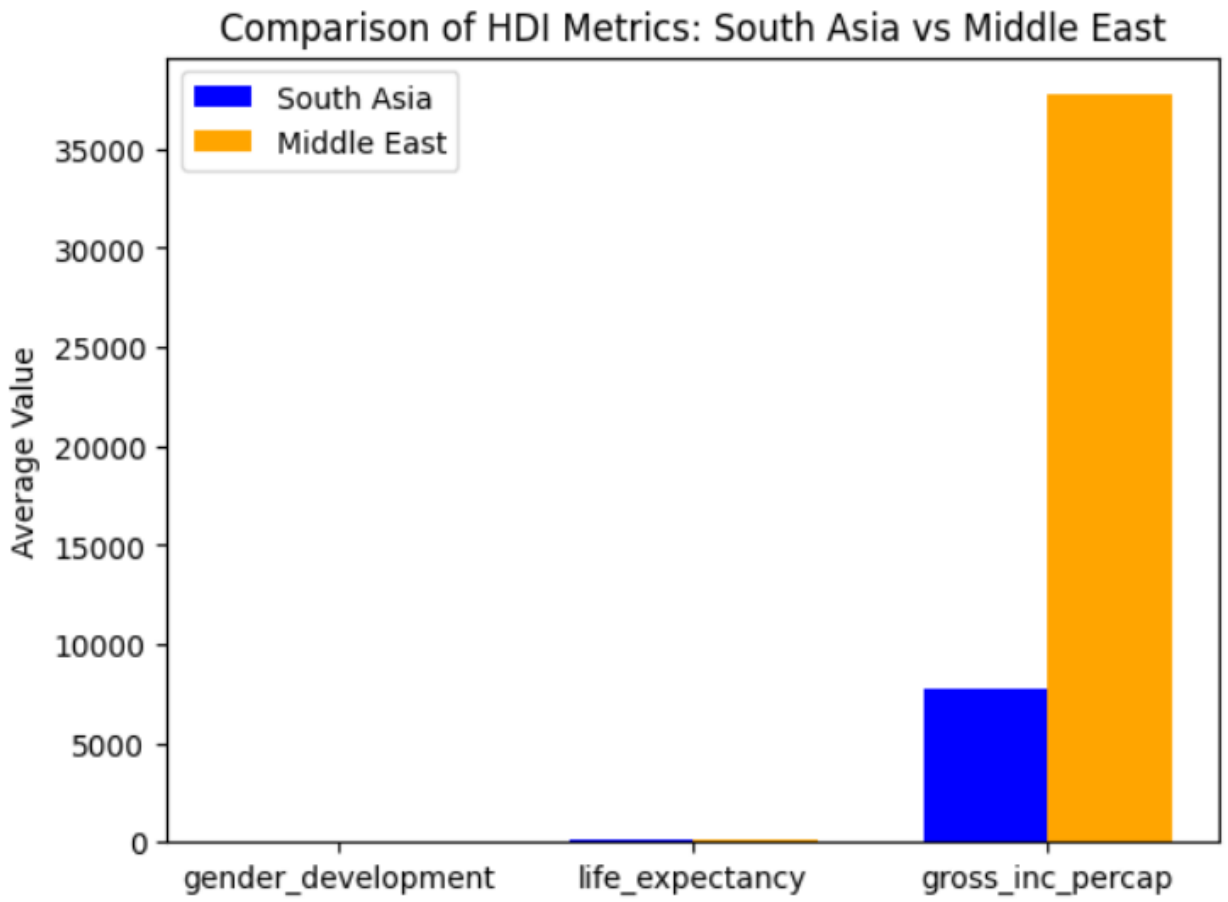

Figure 11: Comparison of HDI Metrics

This visualization compares regional averages of HDI components—income, life expectancy, and gender development. Middle Eastern countries benefit primarily from high income levels, whereas gaps in life expectancy and gender equality are smaller. This indicates that wealth alone drives regional differences.

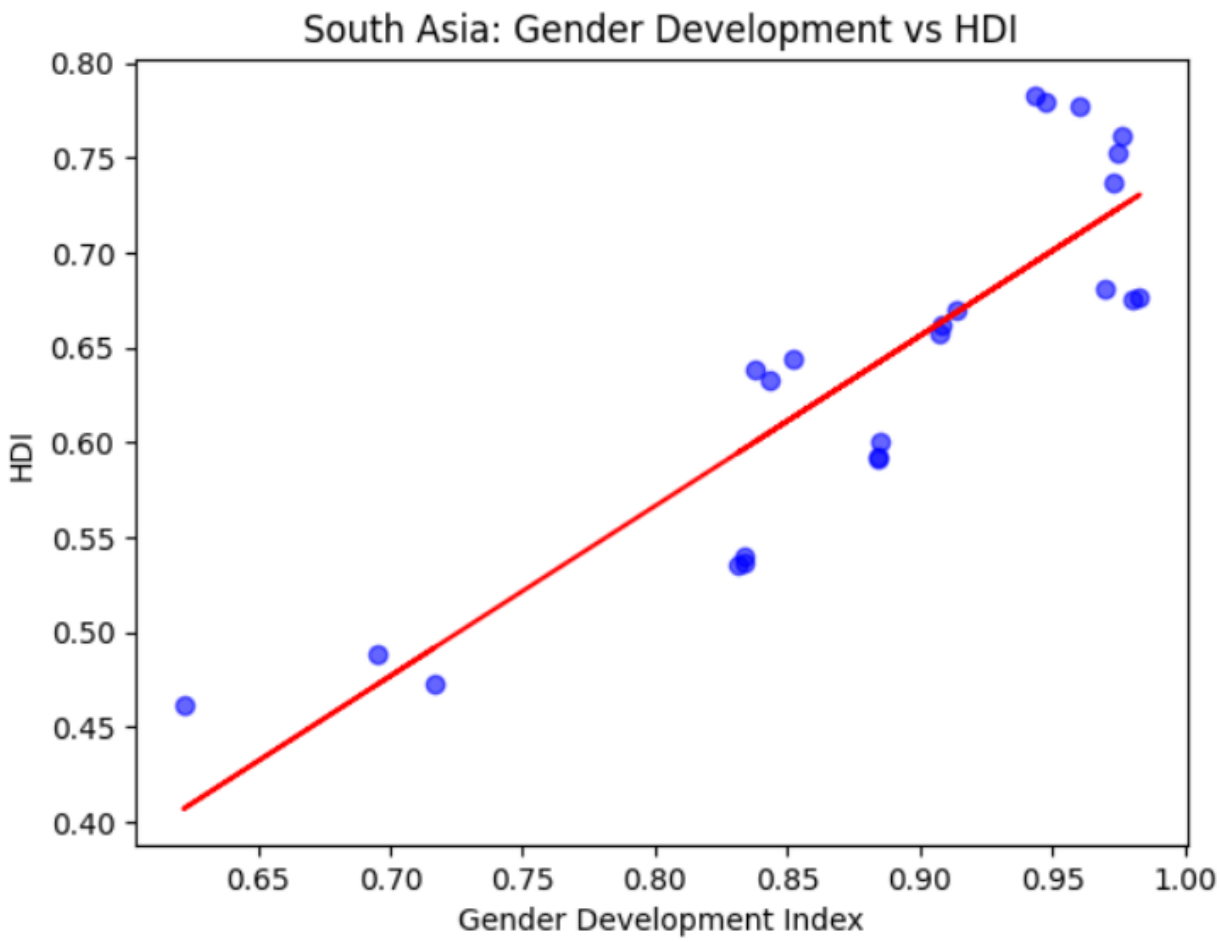

Figure 12: South Asia: Gender Development vs HDI

The chart demonstrates a positive correlation between gender equality and HDI in South Asia. Countries with higher HDI also perform better on gender-related outcomes, showing that improvements in equality are linked to broader human development.

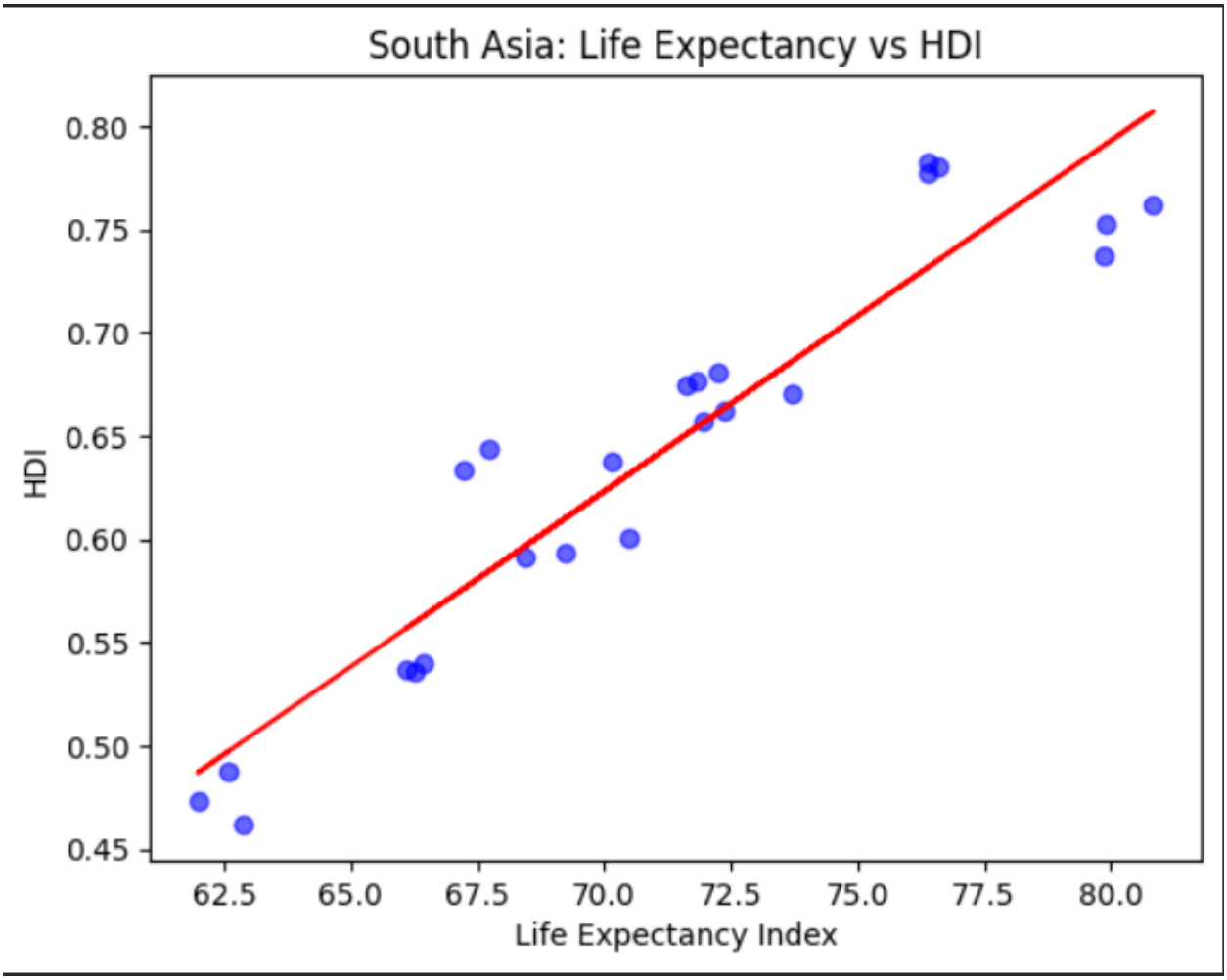

Figure 13: South Asia: Life Expectancy vs HDI

The scatter plot shows a clear positive relationship between life expectancy and HDI in South Asia. Higher life expectancy aligns with higher development, suggesting that health interventions can substantially enhance human development in the region.

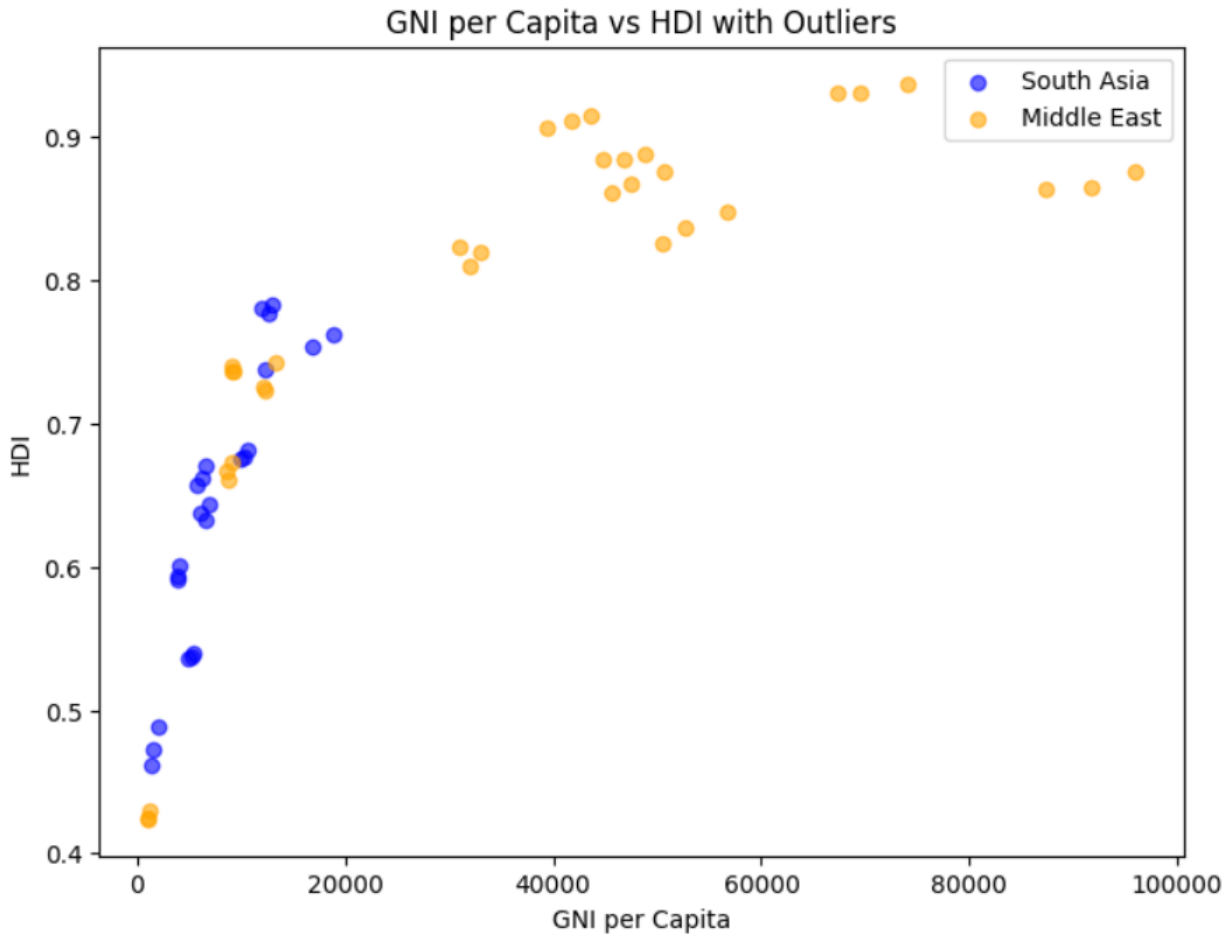

Figure 14: GNI per Capita vs HDI with Outliers

This chart highlights countries in South Asia where HDI deviates from expectations based on income. Some nations perform better than income alone would predict, demonstrating that development can improve even under constrained economic conditions.

Methods / Approach

This section compares two regions: South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, and Afghanistan) and the Middle East (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Qatar, and Yemen). For analysis, South Asia is treated as a single regional group. Average HDI values, the overall range, and measures of variation were calculated to understand differences in development. Visual charts were then used to present regional contrasts clearly and to highlight patterns across countries.

Key Results

The findings show that countries in the Gulf region and Israel generally record very high HDI scores. In contrast, most South Asian countries fall within the medium-HDI category. There are still variations within each region: Yemen performs poorly within the Middle East, whereas Maldives and Sri Lanka rank among the highest in South Asia.

Interpretation

Resource-driven economies, particularly those reliant on petroleum, significantly contribute to higher income levels in many Middle Eastern countries, which in turn supports stronger HDI outcomes. South Asia, however, faces challenges such as larger populations and broader development demands, which contribute to comparatively lower HDI values. Efforts aimed at reducing inequality and strengthening social investments have the potential to raise development levels in both regions (UNDP, 2022).

Conclusion

This report examined Human Development Index (HDI) patterns from multiple perspectives, including global comparisons, country-level trends, inequality-adjusted measures, and regional differences between South Asia and the Middle East. Overall, the findings show that human development continues to improve in many parts of the world, but progress remains uneven and strongly influenced by income levels, social investment, and inequality.

Summary of Findings

HDI varies widely across countries, with very high values concentrated in economically strong and socially stable nations, while many developing countries still fall within the medium or low HDI categories. Trend analysis from 2020–2022 revealed temporary reductions during the COVID-19 pandemic followed by gradual recovery, although the pace differed by development level. Inequality-adjusted HDI confirmed that internal disparities can significantly reduce real human well-being, particularly in countries such as Nepal and India. Regionally, the Middle East generally recorded higher HDI values than South Asia, largely driven by higher income levels and stronger infrastructure investment.

Insights on Trends and Disparities

The results highlight that economic growth alone is not sufficient to guarantee human development. Countries that invest consistently in health, education, and social protection achieve more resilient outcomes, even when their income levels are modest. Likewise, inequality plays a decisive role: two countries with similar HDI can have very different realities when access to opportunities is unevenly distributed.

Limitations

The analysis relied on published HDI indicators and covered only a limited time period. It did not fully capture differences within countries, the effects of environmental factors, or the impact of informal economic activity. As a result, some aspects of development may not be fully represented.

Recommendations and Implications

Policies aimed at reducing inequalities in education, healthcare, and income distribution are essential for improving genuine human development. Continued investment in public services, digital access, and social protection systems can strengthen resilience during crises. Monitoring both HDI and inequality-adjusted indicators can help governments design targeted interventions that reach vulnerable populations and support more inclusive growth.

Reference

Miranda-Lescano, R. M.-G. L. &. R.-S. O., 2024. Human development and inequalities: The role of social public spending.. *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*.

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GitHub Link:

Aakrist16/Sem3_Ai_all_assignments

Appendix

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