



12099CH03

# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Sixty years ago, Rekha was born in a family of small farmer in Uttarakhand. She helped her mother in household chores. While her brothers went to school, she did not receive any education. She was dependent on her in-laws after she was widowed immediately after marriage. She could not be economically independent and faced neglect. Her brother helped her to migrate to Delhi.

For the first time, she travelled by bus and train and was exposed to a large city like Delhi. After a while, the same city which attracted her with its buildings, roads, avenues and facilities and amenities disillusioned her.

With greater familiarity of the city, she could comprehend the paradoxes. The *jhuggi* and slum clusters, traffic jams, congestion, crimes, poverty, small children begging on traffic lights, people sleeping on footpaths, polluted water and air revealed another face of development. She used to think whether development and underdevelopment coexist? Whether development help some segments of population more than the other? Does development create haves and have nots? Let us examine these paradoxes and try to understand the phenomena.

Of all the paradoxes of our times mentioned in the story, development is the most significant one. Development of a few regions, individuals brought about in a short span of time leads to poverty and malnutrition for many along with large scale ecological degradation. Is development class biased?

Apparently, it is believed that “Development is freedom” which is often associated with modernisation, leisure, comfort and affluence. In the present context, computerisation, industrialisation, efficient transport and communication network, large education system, advanced and modern medical facilities, safety and security of individuals, etc. are considered as the symbols of development. Every individual, community and government measures its performance or levels of development in relation to the availability and access to some of these things. But, this may be partial and one-sided view of development. It is often called the western or euro-centric view of development. For a

postcolonial country like India, colonisation, marginalisation, social discrimination and regional disparity, etc. show the other face of development.

Thus, for India, development is a mixed bag of opportunities as well as neglect and deprivations. There are a few areas like the metropolitan centres and other developed enclaves that have all the modern facilities available to a small section of its population. At the other extreme of it, there are large rural areas and the slums in the urban areas that do not have basic amenities like potable water, education and health infrastructure available to majority of this population. The situation is more alarming if one looks at the distribution of the development opportunities among different sections of our society. It is a well-established fact that majority of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, landless agricultural labourers, poor farmers and slums dwellers, etc. are the most marginalised lot. A large segment of female population is the worst sufferers among all. It is also equally true that the relative as well as absolute conditions of the majority of these marginalised sections have worsened with the development happening over the years. Consequently, vast majority of people are compelled to live under abject poverty and sub-human conditions.

There is yet another inter-related aspect of development that has direct bearings on the deteriorating human conditions. It pertains to the environmental pollution leading to ecological crisis. Air, soil, water and noise pollutions have not only led to the 'tragedy of commons' but these have also threatened the

existence of our society. Consequently, the poor are being subjected to three inter-related processes of declining capabilities; i.e. (1) social capabilities – due to displacement and weakening social ties (social capital), (2) environmental capabilities – due to pollution and, (3) personal capabilities – due to increasing incidence of diseases and accidents. This, in turn, has adverse effects on their quality of life and human development.

Based on the above experiences, it can be said that the **present development has not been able to address the issues of social injustice, regional imbalances and environmental degradation**. On the contrary, it is being widely considered as the prime cause of the social distributive injustices, deterioration in the quality of life and human development, ecological crisis and social unrest. Does development create, reinforce and perpetuate these crises? Thus, it was thought to take up human development as a separate issue against the prevalent western views of development which considers development as the remedy to all the ills including human development, regional disparities and environmental crisis.

Concerted efforts were made to look at development critically at various times in the past. But, most systematic effort towards this was the publication of the First Human Development Report by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1990. Since then, this organisation has been bringing out World Human Development Report every year. This report does not only define human development, make amendments and changes its indicators but also ranks all the countries

### What is Human Development?

**"Human development is a process of enlarging the range of people's choices, increasing their opportunities for education, health care, income and empowerment and covering the full range of human choices from a sound physical environment to economic, social and political freedom."**

Thus, enlarging the range of people's choices is the most significant aspect of human development. People's choices may involve a host of other issues, but, living a long and healthy life, to be educated and have access to resources needed for a decent standard of living including political freedom, guaranteed human rights and personal self-respect, etc. are considered some of the non-negotiable aspects of the human development.



of the world based on the calculated scores. According to the Human Development Report 1993, “progressive democratisation and increasing empowerment of people are seen as the minimum conditions for human development”. Moreover, it also mentions that “development must be woven around people, not the people around development” as was the case previously.

You have already studied the concepts, indicators and approaches to human development and methods of calculating the index in your book, “*Fundamentals of Human Geography*.” In this chapter, let us try to understand the applicability of these concepts and indicators to India.

## Human Development in India

India with a population of over 1.20 billion is ranked 131 among 188 countries of the world in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI). With the composite HDI value of 0.624 India finds herself grouped with countries showing medium human development (UNDP 2016).

**Table 3.1 : Human Development Index Values of India and some other Countries**

Country	HDI value	Rank
Norway	0.949	1
Germany	0.926	4
USA	0.920	10
UK	0.909	16
Russian Fed.	0.804	49
Malaysia	0.789	59
Sri Lanka	0.766	73
Brazil	0.754	79
China	0.738	90
Egypt	0.691	111
Indonesia	0.689	113
South Africa	0.666	119
India	0.624	131
Bangladesh	0.579	139
Pakistan	0.550	147

Source: UNDP Human Development Report -2016, Economic survey 2016-17

Low scores in the HDI is a matter of serious concern but, some reservations have been expressed about the approach as well as indicators selected to calculate the index values and ranking of the states/countries. Lack of sensitivity to the historical factors like colonisation, imperialism and neo-imperialism, socio-cultural factors like human rights violation, social discrimination on the basis of race, religion, gender and caste, social problems like crimes, terrorism, and war and political factors like nature of the state, forms of the government (democracy or dictatorship) level of empowerment are some factors that are very crucial in determining the nature of human development. These aspects have special significance in case of India and many other developing countries.

Using the indicators selected by the UNDP, the Planning Commission of India also prepared the Human Development Report for India. It used states and the Union Territories as the units of analysis. Subsequently, each state government also started preparing the state level Human Development Reports, using districts as the units of analysis. Although, the final HDI by the Planning Commission of India has been calculated by taking the three indicators as discussed in the book entitled, “*Fundamentals of Human Geography*”, yet, this report also discussed other indicators like economic attainment, social empowerment, social distributive justice, accessibility, hygiene and various welfare measures undertaken by the state. Some of the important indicators have been discussed in the following pages.

### Indicators of Economic Attainments

Rich resource base and access to these resources by all, particularly the poor, down trodden and the marginalised is the key to productivity, well-being and human development. Gross National Product (GNP) and its per capita availability are taken as measures to assess the resource base/endowment of any country. Economic attainment and the well-being of individuals depend on economic growth, employment opportunities and access to assets. **Over the years the per capita income and consumption**



expenditure in India has increased. As a result there has been a consistent decline in the proportion of population living below the poverty line. The percentage of persons below the poverty line in 2011-12 has been estimated as 25.7% in rural areas, 13.7% in urban areas and 21.9% for the country as a whole.

The data of poverty for the states show that there are States like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Odisha, Dadra and Nagar Haveli which have recorded more than 30 per cent of their population living below the poverty line. Other states like Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West-Bengal have recorded between 10 to 20 per cent of their population below poverty line. Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Sikkim, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep have below 10 per cent of their population living below poverty line. "Poverty is a state of deprivation. In absolute terms it reflects the inability of an individual to satisfy certain basic needs for a sustained, healthy and reasonably productive living.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country does not fully reflect the quality of life of a country. There are other factors like housing, access to public transport, air, quality and access to drinking water which also determine the standard of living. Jobless growth and rampant unemployment are some of the important reasons for higher incidences of poverty in India.

**Table 3.2 : Poverty in India, 2011-12**

State	% of Population below poverty line
Andhra Pradesh	9.20
Arunachal Pradesh	34.67
Assam	31.98
Bihar	33.74
Chhattisgarh	39.93
Delhi	9.91
Goa	5.09
Gujarat	16.63
Haryana	11.16
Himachal Pradesh	8.06
Jammu & Kashmir	10.35
Jharkhand	36.96
Karnataka	20.91
Kerala	7.05
Madhya Pradesh	31.65
Maharashtra	17.35
Manipur	36.89
Meghalaya	11.87
Mizoram	20.40
Nagaland	18.88
Odisha	32.59
Punjab	8.26
Rajasthan	14.71
Sikkim	8.19
Tamil Nadu	11.28
Tripura	14.05
Uttarakhand	11.26
Uttar Pradesh	29.43
West Bengal	19.98
Puducherry	9.69
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.00
Chandigarh	21.81
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	39.31
Daman & Diu	9.86
Lakshadweep	2.77
<b>All India</b>	<b>21.92</b>

Source: Press Note on Poverty Estimate, 2011-12, Government of India, Planning Commission, July 2013

## Activity

Which one of the states in India has the highest proportion of population below poverty line?

Arrange the states on the basis of their percentage of population below poverty line in ascending order.

Select 10 states which have the high proportion of population below poverty line and represent the data by bar diagram.



## Indicators of a Healthy Life

Life free from illness and ailment and living a reasonably long life span are indicative of a healthy life. Availability of pre and post natal healthcare facilities in order to reduce infant mortality and post delivery deaths among mothers, old age health care, adequate nutrition and safety of individual are some important measures of a healthy and reasonably long life.

### Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)

The release of toxic and non-biodegradable wastes from industries and urban sewerages, and open defecation, etc, have created many health hazards. The Government of India has initiated many steps to address these problems and the *Swachh Bharat Mission* is one of these.

A healthy mind lives in a healthy body and for a healthy body, clean environment, particularly, clean air, water, noise-free ambience and hygienic surrounding are pre-requisites.

Municipal waste, industrial effluents and pollutants generated by transport, etc., are major sources of pollution in urban India. Open defecation in rural areas and in urban slums are a major source of pollution. The Government of India with its flagship programme *Swachh Bharat Mission* (SBM) aims at a pollution-free environment. Its objectives are :

- making India open defecation-free and achieving 100 per cent scientific management of municipal solid waste, construction of individual household latrines (IHHL), community toilet (CT) seats and public toilet (PT) seats;
- making provisions for the supply of clean energy fuel LPG to all households in rural India to reduce domestic pollution;
- providing potable drinking water to every household to control the spread of water-borne diseases; and
- promoting the use of non-convention energy resources, like wind and solar energy.

**Table 3.3 : India Literacy Rates, 2011**

State	Total literacy	Female literacy
<b>India</b>	<b>74.04%</b>	<b>65.46%</b>
Jammu and Kashmir	68.74	58.01
Himachal Pradesh	83.78	76.60
Punjab	76.68	71.34
Chandigarh	86.43	81.38
Uttarakhand	79.63	70.70
Haryana	76.64	66.77
NCT of Delhi	86.34	80.93
Rajasthan	67.06	52.66
Uttar Pradesh	69.72	59.26
Bihar	63.82	53.33
Sikkim	82.20	76.43
Arunachal Pradesh	66.95	59.57
Nagaland	80.11	76.69
Manipur	79.85	73.17
Mizoram	91.58	89.40
Tripura	87.75	83.15
Meghalaya	75.48	73.78
Assam	73.18	67.27
West Bengal	77.08	71.16
Jharkhand	67.63	56.21
Orissa	73.45	64.36
Chhattisgarh	71.04	60.59
Madhya Pradesh	70.63	60.02
Gujarat	79.31	70.73
Daman & Diu	87.07	79.59
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	77.65	65.93
Maharashtra	82.91	75.48
Andhra Pradesh	67.66	59.74
Karnataka	75.60	68.13
Goa	87.40	81.84
Lakshadweep Is.	92.28	88.25
Kerala	93.91	91.98
Tamil Nadu	80.33	73.86
Puduchhery	86.55	81.22
Andaman & Nicobar Is.	86.27	81.84

Source: Census of India – 2011 (Provisional)  
<http://www.censusindia.gov.in>



India has done reasonably well in some of the health indicators like decline in death rate from 25.1 per thousand in 1951 to 6.5 per thousand in 2015 and infant mortality from 148 per thousand to 37 during the same period. Similarly, it also succeeded in increasing life expectancy at birth from 37.1 years to 66.9 years for males and 36.2 to 70 years for females from 1951 to 2015. Though, these are great achievements, a lot needs to be done. Similarly, it has also done reasonably well in bringing down birth rate from 40.8 to 20.8 during the same years, but it still is much higher than many developed countries.

The situation is more alarming when seen in the context of gender specific and rural and urban health indicators. India has recorded declining female sex ratio. The findings of 2011 Census of India are very disturbing particularly in case of child sex ratio in the age group of 0-6 years. The other significant features of the report are, with the exception of Kerala, the child sex ratio has declined in all the states and it is the most alarming in the developed state of Haryana and Punjab where it is below 850 female children per thousand male children. What factors are responsible for it? Is it the social attitude or scientific methods of sex determination?

### Indicators of Social Empowerment

“Development is freedom”. Freedom from hunger, poverty, servitude, bondage, ignorance, illiteracy and any other forms of domination is the key to human development. Freedom in real sense of the term is possible only with the empowerment and participation of the people in the exercise of their capabilities and choices in the society. Access to knowledge about the society and environment are fundamental to freedom. Literacy is the beginning of access to such a world of knowledge and freedom.

### Activity

Represent the literacy rates for states having more than the national average by bar diagram after arranging the data in descending order.

Why is the total literacy rates in Kerala, Mizoram, Lakshadweep and Goa are higher than other states?

Can literacy reflect the status of Human Developments? Debate.

Table 3.3 showing the percentage of literates in India reveals some interesting features:

- Overall literacy in India is approximately 74.04 per cent (2011), while female literacy is 65.46 per cent.
- Total literacy as well as female literacy is higher than the national average in most of the states from south India.
- There are wide regional disparities in literacy rate across the states of India. There is a state like Bihar which has very low (63.82 per cent) literacy and there are states like Kerala and Mizoram which have literacy rates of 93.91 and 91.58 per cent respectively.

Apart from the spatial variations, percentage of literates in the rural areas and among the marginalised sections of our society such as females, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, agricultural labourers, etc. is very low. It is worth mentioning here that though, there has been improvement in the percentage of literates among the marginalised section yet the gap between the richer and the marginalised sections of the population has increased over the years.

### Human Development Index in India

In the backdrop of the above-mentioned important indicators the Planning Commission calculated the human development index by taking states and union territories as the unit of analysis.

India has been placed among the countries showing medium human development. What is the rank of India among the 188 countries of the world? As indicated in Table 3.4 Kerala with the composite index value of 0.790 is placed at the top rank followed by Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Goa and Punjab. As expected, states like Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh are at the bottom among the 23 major states in India.



# One notch up, but India still has miles to go

## Has Growth Slowed Down Development?

## Better healthcare still out of bounds

TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

**New Delhi:** The Human Development Report (HDR) 2006, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on Thursday provides the opponents of globalisation, particularly in India, with useful ammunition. What it shows is that in most countries including India, improvement in the human development index has slowed down in the period 1990 to 2004, compared to the period in the previous 15 years.

In India's case for instance, the period from 1975 to 1990 saw the HDI score improve by close to 25%. In the next 14 years, that figure has come down to 18.6%. Given the fact that the latter period is more or less the post-reforms period in India, this is bound to be used as a strong argument by those opposed to the reforms. India is by no means an isolated example. The HDR gives index scores for 177 UN member countries. For as many as 79 of these, comparative figures are not available over the two periods we are looking at. This could be because some countries simply did not exist in 1975 — Slovenia, Bosnia or Turkmenistan for instance — or because they had not been included in the list of countries in the 1990s. However, for the 118 countries for which data is available, the average improvement in the HDI score between 1975 and 1990 was 25%, while between 1990 and 2004 it was 18.6%.

**Can you find out the causes of the above problems?**

**HOW THEY FARE**  
Share of govt health spending to total health expenditure  
Investment in HDI (%)

Rank	Country	1975-90	1990-04
138	Nepal	42	24
134	Pakistan	27	16
93	Sri Lanka	15	7
126	India	25	19
81	China	19	22
137	Bangladesh	22	26

idly since 1990 than they did between 1975 and 1990.

It might seem that this is because countries that had already attained very high levels of human development by the mid-80s would have had little scope for improvement later. That, however, is not the case. In fact, Norway, which tops the latest HDI index, is among the few that have improved more in the later period. Other developed countries in this select list include the UK, Italy, Sweden, Luxembourg, Australia, Ireland, Denmark and New Zealand, all of which are ranked in the top 20. Switzerland's HDI score has improved exactly as much between 1990 and 2004 as it did in the 1975-90 period, while "Swiss have a bit better since it is a bit better than the average of countries in the list, which is 18.6%."

TIMES INSIGHT GROUP

**New Delhi:** India may be among the fastest growing economies in the world, but the UNDP's Human Development Report 2006 shows that this growth hasn't translated into better public healthcare for the citizen, at least not as yet.

For instance, there are only seven countries — of the 177 that the HDR looks at — with a lower share of public expenditure in total health expenditure. These seven — Guinea, Congo, Myanmar, Cambodia, Armenia, Tazikistan and Burundi — are not exactly those with whom India would like to be compared, but they are the only ones in which the government accounts for less than a quarter of total health expenditure. For India, the share

**MEDICAL MALADY**  
Share of govt health spending to total health expenditure  
HDI Rank Country

160	Guinea	16.7
167	Congo	17.5
130	Myanmar	17.9
129	Cambodia	19.3
80	Armenia	20.0
122	Tajikistan	20.5
169	Burundi	22.6
126	India	25.0
97	Georgia	25.0
99	Azerbaijan	25.0

of public expenditure in the total is exactly one-fourth or 25%. The low share of public health expenditure is not surprising, given the fact that only 13 countries spend a smaller proportion of the gross do-

mestic product (GDP) on the health sector than India's level of 1.2%. Apart from six of the seven mentioned above, these include Pakistan and Bangladesh in our neighbourhood as well as Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea and Indonesia.

One result of this low level of government spending on healthcare is that people have to spend more from their pockets to keep themselves in good health. Thus, India's private spending on healthcare at 3.6% of GDP is higher than most. In fact, only 33 of the remaining 176 countries has a higher level on this count.

However, the high private expenditures are clearly unable to bridge the gap when it comes to things like immunisation, which are typically public pro-

grammes in most parts of the globe. Not surprisingly, India's immunisation rate for those who are one-year old against measles is worst in the world, with just 13 countries doing worse. A similar picture emerges if we look at the numbers for full immunisation of one-year olds against tuberculosis. Again, there are a mere 20 of the 176 others who have a lower rate.

What highlights all of this as a glaring failure of our governments is the fact that India's pool of roughly 6.5 lakh physicians is the third biggest in the world after China, which has about twice as many, and the US, which has only a few tens of thousands of doctors more than India, although for a population that's only about one-third the size of India's.

## 'Water distribution in India inequitable'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** On the face of it, India looks like a country with plenty of water with the average use per person per day exceeding 140 litres. However, as the HDR 2006 points out, aggregate figures are often deceptive, because they conceal the disparity in the distribution of water over regions, groups of people, between rich and poor and between the rural and urban population.

Even in the UK, the average use of water per person per day is only 150 litres, not too far above the Indian level, and in neighbouring Bangladesh, the average use is only 100 litres.

### NOT ENOUGH LIFELINE

- In India, spending on military is 3% of GDP and on water and sanitation it is less than 0.5%.
- Diarrhoea kills 450,000 in India annually, more than in any other country.
- Research in India by Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) has shown that reducing water collection to one hour a day would enable women to earn upto an additional \$100 (Rs 4,500 roughly) a year.
- In Delhi, Karachi and Kathmandu, fewer than 10% of households with piped water receive service 24 hours a day. Two or three hours of delivery is the norm.
- If the entire population of South Asia had access to basic low-cost water and sanitation technology, it would save the region \$34 billion available for average use per person per day. Yet, specific expenditure on water and sanitation is only \$1.5 billion.

distribution of water is and how dismal the situation is for millions of people across the country.

20 litres of clean water per person per day.

Official data for Mumbai says the city enjoys a safe water coverage of more than 90%. But, as the HDR points out, a most half the city's population lives in slums and these residents do not even figure in municipal data.

Similarly, in Chennai, the average supply is 68 litres a day, but areas relying on tankers use as little as 8 litres.

The HDR also talks about the 'water lords' of Gujarat, land owners who have constructed deep wells depriving neighbouring villages of water, only to sell it back at a high price.

**Table 3.4 : India – Human Development Index**

State	HDI Value 2007-08	Rank 2007-08
Kerala	0.790	1
Delhi	0.750	2
Himachal Pradesh	0.652	3
Goa	0.617	4
Punjab	0.605	5
NE (excluding Assam)	0.573	6
Maharashtra	0.572	7
Tamil Nadu	0.570	8
Haryana	0.552	9
Jammu and Kashmir	0.529	10
Gujarat	0.527	11
Karnataka	0.519	12
West Bengal	0.492	13
Uttarakhand	0.490	14
Andhra Pradesh	0.473	15
Assam	0.444	16
Rajasthan	0.434	17
Uttar Pradesh	0.380	18
Jharkhand	0.376	19
Madhya Pradesh	0.375	20
Bihar	0.367	21
Orissa	0.362	22
Chhattisgarh	0.358	23

Source: Planning Commission of India: India National Human Development Report, 2011

There are several socio-political, economic and historical reasons for such a state of affairs. Kerala is able to record the highest value in the HDI largely due to its impressive performance in achieving near hundred per cent literacy. In a different scenario the states like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Assam and Uttar Pradesh have very low literacy. States showing higher total literacy rates have less gaps between the male and female literacy rates.

Apart from the educational attainment, the levels of economic development too play significant impacts on HDI. Economically developed states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Punjab and Haryana have higher value of HDI as compared to states like Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, etc.

Regional distortions and social disparities which developed during the colonial period continue to play an important role in the Indian economy, polity and society. The Government of India has made concerted efforts to institutionalise the balanced development with its main focus on social distributive justice



through planned development. It has made significant achievements in most of the fields but, these are still below the desired level.

### Population, Environment and Development

Development in general and human development in particular is a complex concept used in social sciences. It is complex because for ages it was thought that development is a substantive concept and once it is achieved it will address all the socio-cultural and environmental ills of the society. Though, development has brought in significant improvement in the quality of life in more than one way but increasing regional disparities, social inequalities, discriminations, deprivations, displacement of people, abuse of human rights and undermining human values and environmental degradation have also increased.

Considering the gravity and sensitivity of the issues involved, the UNDP in its Human Development Report 1993, tried to amend some of the implicit biases and prejudices which were entrenched in the concept of development. People's participation and their security were the major issues in the Human Development Report of 1993. It also emphasised on progressive democratisation and increasing empowerment of people as minimum conditions for human development. The report recognised greater constructive role of 'Civil Societies' in bringing about peace and human development. The civil society should work for building up opinion for reduction in the military expenditure, demobilisation of armed forces, transition from defence to production of basic goods and services and particularly disarmament and reduction in the nuclear warheads by the developed countries. In a nuclearised world, peace and well-being are major global concerns.

At the other extreme of this approach lie the views expressed by the **Neo-Malthusians, environmentalists and radical ecologists. They believe that for a happy and peaceful social life proper balance between population and resources is a necessary condition.** According to these thinkers, the gap between the resources and population has widened after eighteenth century. There have been marginal expansion

in the resources of the world in the last three hundred years but there has been phenomenal growth in the human population. Development has only contributed in increasing the multiple uses of the limited resources of the world while there has been enormous increase in the demand for these resources. Therefore, the **prime task before any development activity is to maintain parity between population and resources.**

Scholar like Sir Robert Malthus was the first one to voice his concern about the growing scarcity of resources as compared to the human population. Apparently this argument looks logical and convincing, but a critical look will reveal certain intrinsic flaws such **as resources are not a neutral category. It is not the availability of resources that is as important as their social distribution.** Resources everywhere are unevenly distributed. Rich countries and people have access to large resource baskets while the poor find their resources shrinking. Moreover, unending pursuit for the control of more and more resources by the powerful and use of the same for exhibiting ones prowess is the prime cause of conflicts as well as the apparent contradictions between population-resource and development.

Indian culture and civilisation have been very sensitive to the issues of population, resource and development for a long time. It would not be incorrect to say that the ancient scriptures were essentially concerned about the balance and harmony among the elements of nature. Mahatma Gandhi in the recent times advocated the reinforcement of the harmony and balance between the two. He was quite apprehensive about the on-going development particularly the way industrialisation has institutionalised the loss of morality, spirituality, self-reliance, non-violence and mutual co-operation and environment. In his opinion, austerity for individual, trusteeship of social wealth and non-violence are the key to attain higher goals in the life of an individual as well as that of a nation. His views were also re-echoed in the Club of Rome Report "Limits to Growth" (1972), Schumacher's book "Small is Beautiful" (1974), Brundtland Commission's Report "Our Common Future" (1987) and finally in the "Agenda-21 Report of the Rio Conference" (1993).







## EXERCISES

1. Choose the right answers of the following from the given options.
  - (i) Which one of the following is India's rank in terms of Human Development Index among the countries of the world in 2016?
    - (a) 126
    - (b) 134
    - (c) 128
    - (d) 131
  - (ii) Which one of the following states of India has the highest rank in the Human Development Index?
    - (a) Tamil Nadu
    - (b) Punjab
    - (c) Kerala
    - (d) Haryana
  - (iii) Which one of the following states of India has the lowest female literacy?
    - (a) Jammu and Kashmir
    - (b) Arunachal Pradesh
    - (c) Jharkhand
    - (d) Bihar
  - (iv) Which one of the following states of India has the lowest female child sex ratio 0-6 years?
    - (a) Gujarat
    - (b) Haryana
    - (c) Punjab
    - (d) Himachal Pradesh
  - (v) Which one of the following Union Territories of India has the highest literacy rate?
    - (a) Lakshadweep
    - (b) Chandigarh
    - (c) Daman and Diu
    - (d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Answer the following questions in about 30 words.
  - (i) Define Human Development.
  - (ii) Give two reasons for low levels of Human Development in most of the Northern States of India.
  - (iii) Give two reasons for declining child sex ratio in India.
3. Answer the following questions in about 150 words.
  - (i) Discuss the spatial patterns of female literacy in India in 2011 and bring out the reasons responsible for it.
  - (ii) Which factors have caused spatial variations in the levels of Human Development among the states in India?

