Chapter 3: Human Development

Exercises — Exercises

Q1 Which one of the following best describes development? (a) an increase in size (b) a constant in size (c) a positive change in quality (d) a simple change in the quality

(c) a positive change in quality. Growth is a quantitative change that can be positive or negative, but development is a qualitative change that is always value positive. It occurs only when the quality of conditions improves.

Q2 Which one of the following scholars introduced the concept of Human Development? (a) Prof. Amartya Sen (b) Ellen C. Semple (c) Dr Mahabub-ul-Haq (d) Ratzel

(c) Dr Mahbub-ul-Haq. The Pakistani economist introduced the concept and created the Human Development Index in 1990. He described human development as development that enlarges people's choices and improves their lives.

Q3 What are the three basic areas of human development? (Answer in about 30 words.)

The three basic areas of human development are health, education and access to resources. They are measured by life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate with gross enrolment ratio, and purchasing power respectively.

Q4 Name the four main components of human development. (Answer in about 30 words.)

The four pillars supporting the idea of human development are equity, sustainability, productivity and empowerment. Together they ensure equal opportunities, continuity across generations, enriched human labour and the power to make choices.

Q5 How are countries classified on the basis of human development index? (Answer in about 30 words.)

Countries fall into four groups by HDI score: very high (above 0.800, 69 countries), high (0.700 to 0.799, 49 countries), medium (0.550 to 0.699, 42 countries) and low (below 0.550, 33 countries), per the 2023-24 report.

Q6 What do you understand by the term human development? (Answer in not more than 150 words.)

Human development, a concept introduced by Dr Mahbub-ul-Haq, is development that enlarges people's choices and improves their lives. People are central to all development, and their choices keep changing over time. The basic goal is to create conditions in which people can live meaningful lives. A meaningful life is not merely a long one; it must have purpose. People must be healthy, able to develop their talents, participate in society and be free to achieve their goals. The key areas are health, education and access to resources, because a long and healthy life, knowledge and enough means for a decent living are the most important aspects. When people lack capabilities in these areas, through poverty, discrimination or weak institutions, their choices become limited. For example, an uneducated child cannot choose to become a doctor. Building capabilities in these areas therefore enlarges choices. Human development is measured by the Human Development Index, ranking countries on a score between 0 and 1.

Q7 What do equity and sustainability refer to within the concept of human development? (Answer in not more than 150 words.)

Equity means making equal access to opportunities available to everybody, irrespective of gender, race, income and, in India, caste. In practice this is often not so. In India, many women and people from socially and economically backward groups drop out of school, which limits their choices by denying them knowledge. Sustainability means continuity in the availability of opportunities. For sustainable human development, each generation must have the same opportunities as the one before. All environmental, financial and human resources must be used with the future in mind, because misuse of any of them leaves fewer opportunities for coming generations. A good example is sending girls to school. If a community does not stress this, many opportunities are lost to these young women when they grow up; their career choices are severely curtailed, which affects other aspects of their lives. So each generation must ensure that choices and opportunities remain available to its future generations.