



Human Development in India:

A Road towards Sustainable
Competitive Advantage

Edited by
Debashis Mazumdar

7. **SHG and Financial Inclusion: A Cross-State Comparative Study on India** 81
Dr. Debashis Mazumdar, Mainak Bhattacharjee & Jayeeta Roy Chowdhury
8. **Health and Human Development in India: Analysing the Current Scenario of Public Healthcare and its Impact on Overall Human Development** 95
Dr. Tamal Taru Roy & Debi Prasad Lahiri
9. **Impact of Human Development on Economic Development in India: An Inter-State Analysis** 113
Dr. Urmi Mukherjee (Bhattacharya)
10. **Improvement in Educational Achievement and Progress in Human Development of India** 122
Dr. Rajib Bhattacharyya
11. **Sustainable Development Goals, MGNREGS and Social Audit: A Case of Rural West Bengal** 138
Dr. Somnath Bandyopadhyay
12. **India's Public Healthcare System in Different Dimensions: An Econometric Review across Major Indian States from 1981-2015** 168
Sovik Mukherjee & Soumak Basumallik
13. **Impact of Joint Forest Management in Tribal Livelihood: A Case Study on South West Bengal** 199
Subhankar Mondal & Dr. Sudipta Sarkar
14. **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Human Development in India: An Introspection** 211
Puja Ghosh
15. **Human Development in India with Special Reference to Women Empowerment** 218
Luxmi Jha
16. **Women Empowerment and Human Development in India** 227
Riyaaree Chakraborty & Subhankar Mondal

Health and Human Development in India: Analysing the Current Scenario of Public Healthcare and its Impact on Overall Human Development

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Abstract

The goals set by Human Development for any country could never be achieved if the public health sector is neglected. In India much have been said by the government along the planning period about the targets to be achieved to make public health care facilities accessible for the masses irrespective of income levels and cultural differences, But in reality India is yet to achieve the goals in this field set by herself. Poverty and lack of proper health care facilities are synonymous in Indian scenario in the absence of meaningful health care projects by the government and expensive private facilities in this field. Public health care facilities provided by the government are not enough for the population and private health care facilities are sky high. Health, Education and income are the basis of any society, however, the present study will be particularly focussing on the health standards in India, which has a crucial impact on the life expectancy and subsequently the progress in the human development index rankings.

Key Words: Human Development, public health care, Millennium Development Goal, Poverty, National Health Policy.

I. Introduction

When one talks about human development, perhaps the most relevant measure of a country's overall progress could be observed by the Human Development Index (HDI). Developed by Indian Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and Pakistani economist MahbubulHaq, it provides a statistic composite index measuring across three parameters – (a) life expectancy (b) per capita income and (c) education. India's position in the rankings have been far from inspiring over the years, albeit the fact that it has shown consistent improvement - with the score having increased from 0.43 in 1990 to 0.49 in 2000 and further to 0.64 in 2017. The country currently finds its place in the 130th position, below the likes of other Asian countries Indonesia, Malaysia or even Saudi Arabia. The score of 0.640 should also force us to introspect and reflect back, especially when our neighbour China is way ahead with an index score of 0.752. Human development index (HDI) is extensively used to measure the standard of living of a country. India made a steady progress in the HDI value. Extreme poverty is concentrated in rural areas of north Indian states while income growth has

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