

---

Hassan Rasool\*  
Huma Hameed\*\*

---

## A Review of Past 32 Years of Human Development Reports: Conceptualization Challenge and Way Forward

### ABSTRACT

*This paper reviews the Human Development Reports (HDRs) of the past 32 years to evaluate changes in the conceptualization of the Human Development Index (HDI) in determining human development over time. Using a genealogical approach, the data is extracted from HDRs that were published during 1990-2022. We identify that no significant change occurred in the conceptualization of human development over a period of more than three decades. It was also identified that the changing needs of human development were not addressed holistically in the measurement of human development overtime. The changes that occurred over time were either event-driven or remained tentative to include more important attributes of human development. Furthermore, the human development concept as identified in HDRs and measured through HDI is neither grounded in theory nor takes into account the interdisciplinary nature of human development. We discuss how interdisciplinary knowledge could be used to overcome challenges in the better conceptualization of human development for preparing a more representative human development index (HDI).*

**Keywords:** Human Development, Human Development Index, Human Development Report, Capabilities, freedom of choice.

---

\* Assistant Professor, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics

\*\* Freelance, HR Consultant

## **Introduction**

Since 1990, the UN Human Development report publishes the Human Development Index (HDI) that measures human development in different countries in terms of health, education, and standard of living.

Since its initial development, the HDI has undergone several refinements to address its limitations in design and measurement indicators. However, it is very interesting to note that none of the revisions focused on the basic premise of human development but a response to ongoing debates that are considered to be important for human development like gender, environment stability, political freedom, cultural liberty, empowerment, security etc.

Dr. Mahbub ul Haq, the founding father of HDI, believed that the traditional measure of development based solely on economic indicators, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), was inadequate. He argued that development should be assessed not just by economic growth but also by the impact it has on improving the well-being and quality of life. It is also worth noting that the procedures adopted to conceptualize Human Development by UNDP led by Dr. Mahboob-ul-Haq were never systematic but more intuitive in quantifying attributes different from economic indicators. This discourse undoubtedly has been paving way to humanize development worldwide.

Amid various criticism on the human development index, the primary argument has been on its concept which does not take into account the interdisciplinary knowledge of human development. The criticism on the concept more or less focused on the premise that the definition does not include measure of “being” but is more concerned with the “doing” part of human capability.

The human development concept identifies healthy life, education and standard of income as primary choices for human development with additional variable aspects that substantiate the primary choices.

This substantiates the need for a careful review of human development definitions given in HDR reports, such a review might pave way for addressing the long-standing criticisms on human development as conceptualized in HDRs.

This review of HDRs serve two important gaps in the existing literature of human development. First, it articulates the basic tenants of the human development index by examining the conceptualization of human development as mentioned in the HDRs. Second it provides recommendations for consideration in terms of augmenting/revising the definition of human development. In doing so, benefiting from the interdisciplinary knowledge on human development could be useful. Such a contribution would be helpful in improving the limitations with regard to

design and conceptualization of human development thus making it a more representative index of human development.

Furthermore, such a review might be helpful in the categorical understanding of improvement needs in the conceptualization of human development. Such improvement in the conceptualization would provide a better guideline for the measurement mechanisms to produce more representative indicators of human development.

This paper reviews the concept of human development as mentioned in UN human development reports of the past 32 years i.e. 1990-2022. The purpose of reviewing reports includes understanding the conceptualization and definition, its changes over time and understanding of factors that have been affecting such change. Thus, we offer a way forward to improve the conceptualization and subsequent revisions in the definition of human development to make HDI more representative measure of human development.

## Literature Review

Dr. Haq (1995), emphasized that all development efforts should target the human development as an ultimate goal. Focus should be on expanding human choices, capabilities, and freedoms. Amartya Sen's (1991) capability approach has been shaping the conceptual foundation of the HDI. He argued that development should not be solely measured by economic indicators but should also consider the capabilities and freedoms that individuals have to lead valuable lives.

Health, education and standard of living are tools to gauge wellbeing where life expectancy measures health, years of schooling measures education and literacy and gross national income (GNI) measures standard of living (Sen, A. 1994). The premise of HDI, as put forward by Dr. Mahbub Ul Haq and furthered by Amartya Sen emphasizes the rationale that economic growth must turn itself into the human well-being of a country (Balioune-Lutz, & McGillivray, 2006).

Despite the prolific use and applications of HDI, it is still viewed as a weak measure of human development. Many economist and social scientists have been questioning the role, design, measurement criteria and overall usefulness of HDI. Like Srinivasan (1994) consider it to be neither grounded in theory nor produce empirically valid outputs. He believes that the comparability challenge of HDI outputs across time and regions do not make it a good representative of human development. He is also convinced that the meaningfulness of HDI is marginalized due to its inability to offer policy guidelines. Similarly, other scholars (i.e. Caplan, 2009, Wolff et al.,2011) challenge the usefulness of HDI due to its measurement errors and data collection methods. They tag it to be the only the measure of "how

Scandinavian your country is" (Caplan, 2009). Furthermore, the ability of HDI to represent human development is only confined to basic physical and psychological attributes and does not take into account well-being attributes further up in the Maslow's triangle (i.e. Maslow, 1943). The measure of HDI ignore important facets of human development like creativity, imagination, and intimacy (Max-Neef, 1992). The same fact is acknowledged by Anand and Sen (1994) who are considered to be the seminal researcher of the field, that the capabilities measured in HDI only represent the basic ones and HDI need to address the assessment of higher order capabilities.

Hou, Walsh & Zang (2015) question the selection of HDI components and look forward to a revision in the design of HDI. Likewise, (c.f. Michalos, 2017; Ramos, Silva, Bolela, & de Andrade, 2018; Klugman, Rodríguez, & Choi, 2011) identify that HDI must include factors like environmental change, freedom and justice and consider that current measures are not representative of human development. Stanton (2007) emphasizes the need for the inclusion of enabling factors for health, education and standard of living. He suggests that access to education, health and opportunities for improving standard of living have been left out in the current design and measurement of HDI. He also exhibits concerns regarding the terminal effects of these developments on the distribution of income, environment, natural resources, and political and civil liberty. More theoretical reflections are needed for refining the capability approach of human development (Oosterlaken, 2009).

This review substantiates the need for studying human development reports from a perspective of identifying meanings of human development as posted in these report and put forward a meaningful way to proceed with the further development of HDI.

## **Methods**

Each HDR report consists of a foreword from the Director followed by an overview of the report. Subsequently, the chapters outlining in detail the HDI of that year, the chapters also consist of development reports from various countries as well as future development goals. Lastly, technical notes outline how index is calculated, followed by the HDI ranking of each country.

We adopted a genealogical approach to take into account the definition given in the annual Human Development report beginning from 1990. We reviewed the first three sections of the report which are (1) foreword (2) overview and, (3) chapter one. Arbitrarily, one of these sections begin with the initial definition given in HDR 1990 and proceed to define human development, its dimensions, and how various aspects of human development led to the determination of a "theme" for that year's report.

A similarity and contrast analysis was undertaken to identify the variations in the definition and concept of Human development in HDRs overtime. We used three techniques to conduct this analysis, first we synthesized the words used to define Human Development and look for variations in the choice of words and its meaning explained in scholarly publication of human development in the economics domain. Secondly, we dig deeper to list the measurements of HDO across years to identify the similarities and differences. Thus a summary table was produced (See Appendix) that provide a one shot analysis of HDR themes and measurements.

We also used conceptual analysis to figure out and map changes in the selection of yearly themes to propose a strategic configuration of human development as conceived in the HDRs over years.

## Results & Discussion

### ***Review of Definition of Human Development in HDRs***

Since the Human Development Report (HDR) 1990 was the first publication for Human Development Index, it focused in detail on the concepts and measures of Human Development. The HDR 1990 starts with “People are the real wealth of a nation. The basic objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to live long, healthy and creative lives”.

The 1990 HDR defines human development as:

“Human development is a process of enlarging people’s choices. The most critical ones are to lead a long and healthy life, to be educated and to enjoy a decent standard of living. Additional choices include political freedom, guaranteed human rights and self-respect – what Adam Smith called the ability to mix with others without being “ashamed to appear in public”.

The choices available to people to earn their livelihood and the options available in term of health, education and standard of income is what constitutes human development from HDI perspective, included with the primary choices are political freedom, guaranteed human rights and self-respect.

The term human development here denotes both the *process* of widening people’s choices and the *level* of their achieved well-being. It also helps to distinguish clearly between two sides of human development. One is the formation of human capabilities, such as improved health or knowledge. The other is the use that people make of their acquired capabilities, for work or leisure (Alkire, 2010).

Human development generates economic development such as bringing together the production and distribution of goods and services coupled with development, expansion and use of human capabilities. It also focuses on choices people should have, “be” and “do” to be able to ensure their own

earnings and development. Human development is also about basic needs satisfaction as well as with human development as a participatory and dynamic process. The dynamics of human development applies in every nation irrespective of whether it is less developed or highly developed (Alkire, 2010).

**Concept of Human Development 1990-2022**

In this section, we review the yearly definition, theme and focus of human development extracted from HDRs published during 1990-2022. Then an analysis of the yearly reports is presented for the purpose of identifying changes in the conceptualization of human development over time.

**Table 1:** Year wise definitions/themes of Human Development in Human Development Reports

Year	Themes and Definitions
HDR 1991	“The real objective of development is to increase people’s choices. “To advance human development growth ought to be participatory, distributed well and sustainable.” “It has to be development of the people, by the people, for the people.”
HDR 1992	“enlarging people’s choices’
HDR 1993	“Human development involves widening [people’s] choices, and greater participation enables people to gain for themselves access to a much broader range of opportunities.” “The important thing is that people have constant access to decision-making and power. Participation in this sense is an essential element of human development.”
HDR 1994	<i>Theme: “Human Security”,</i> “the purpose of development is to create an environment in which all people can expand their capabilities, and opportunities can be enlarged for both present and future generations.”
HDR 1995	<i>Theme: Gender,</i> “Human Development is a process of enlarging people’s choices.” This issue presented four principles which it argued to be ‘essential’ to the human development paradigm: Productivity, Equity, Sustainability (across time), and Empowerment”
HDR 1996	<i>Theme: “Economic growth and human development”,</i> “Human development went far beyond income and growth to cover the full flourishing of all human capabilities, their needs, their aspirations, their choices – at the center of the development effort.” “human development can be expressed as a process of enlarging people’s choices.”

HDR 1997	<i>Theme: "To eradicate poverty", "The process of widening people's choices and the level of well-being they achieve are at the core of the notion of human development. Such choices are neither finite nor static."</i>
HDR 1998	<i>Theme: "Consumption for human development", "a process of enlarging people's choices,"</i>
HDR 1999	<i>Theme: "Globalization": "The central concern [of the Human Development Report] has always been people as the purpose of development, and their empowerment as participants in the development process."</i>
HDR 2000	<i>Theme: "Human rights and human development" "Human development is the process of enlarging people's choices, by expanding human functioning and capabilities. Human development thus also reflects human outcomes in these functioning and capabilities".</i>
HDR 2001	<i>Theme: "Making new technologies work for human development" "Human development...is about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accord with their needs and interests. People are the real wealth of nations. Development is thus about expanding the choices people have to lead lives that they value. And it is thus about much more than economic growth, which is only a means – if a very important one – of enlarging people's choices. Fundamental to enlarging these choices is building human capabilities – the range of things that people can do or be in life."</i>
HDR 2002	<i>Theme: "Deepening democracy in a fragmented world". "Human development is about people, about expanding their choices to lead lives they value." "People are not only the beneficiaries of economic and social progress, they are also its agents, both as individuals and by making common causes with others."</i>
HDR 2003	<i>Theme: "Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty". "to improve people's lives by expanding their choices, freedom and dignity."</i>
HDR 2004	<i>Theme: "Cultural liberty in today's diverse world". "the process of widening choices for people to do and be what they value in life."</i>
HDR 2005	<i>Theme: "International Cooperation" "Human development is about freedom. It is about building human capabilities—the range of things that people can do, and what they can be. Individual freedoms and rights matter a great deal, but</i>

	people are restricted in what they can do with that freedom if they are poor, ill, illiterate, discriminated against, threatened by violent conflict or denied a political voice."
HDR 2006	<i>Theme: "Water scarcity", "Ultimately, human development is about the realization of potential. It is about what people can do and what they can become—their capabilities—and about the freedom they have to exercise real choices in their lives."</i>
HDR 2007/8	<i>Theme: Water scarcity, "Ultimately, human development is about the realization of potential. It is about what people can do and what they can become—their capabilities—and about the freedom they have to exercise real choices in their lives."</i>
HDR 2009	<i>Theme: Migration "the expansion of people's freedoms to live their lives as they choose." "putting people and their freedom at the center of development. It is about people realizing their potential, increasing their choices and enjoying the freedom to lead lives they value." "Human development is concerned with the full range of capabilities, including social freedoms that cannot be exercised without political and civic guarantees...."</i>
HDR 2010	<i>Theme: "The Real Wealth of Nations". "Human development is the expansion of people's freedoms to live long, healthy and creative lives; to advance other goals they have reason to value; and to engage actively in shaping development equitably and sustainably on a shared planet. People are both the beneficiaries and the drivers of human development, as individuals and in groups".</i>
HDR 2011/	<i>Theme: "Sustainability and Equity": "Human development is the expansion of people's freedoms and capabilities to lead lives that they value and have reason to value. It is about expanding choices. Freedoms and capabilities are a more expansive notion than basic needs"</i>
HDR 2012/2013	<i>Theme: "The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World" "The human development approach is a major advance in the difficult exercise of understanding the successes and deprivations of human lives, and in appreciating the importance of reflection and dialogue, and through that advancing fairness and justice in the world."</i>
HDR 2014	<i>Theme: "Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerability and Building Resilience" "A human development approach to resilience focuses on people and their interactions, where power and social position are important factors. Resilience is to be built at the level of both individuals and society—in terms of their individual capabilities and social competences"</i>



HDR 2015	<i>Theme: “Work for Human Development: “Human development is about enlarging human choices—focusing on the richness of human lives rather than simply the richness of economies.”</i>
HDR 2016	<i>Theme: “Human Development for Everyone”: “Human development is all about human freedoms: freedom to realize the full potential of every human life, not just of a few, nor of most, but of all lives in every corner of the world—now and in the future. Such universalism gives the human development approach its uniqueness. Human development is about enlarging freedoms so that all human beings can pursue choices that they value. Such freedoms have two fundamental aspects— freedom of well-being, represented by functioning and capabilities, and freedom of agency, represented by voice and autonomy.”</i>
HDR 2017	Country Report
HDR 2018	Country Report
HDR 2019	<i>Theme: “Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st Century”. Beyond 2019, there are new set of inequalities to be considered such as inequality in opportunities, social and political differences, rise of the knowledge economy with educated and connected people with no choices or opportunities</i>
HDR 2020	<i>Theme: “The next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene”: The Anthropocene, also known as the era of humanity, signifies that we are the initial inhabitants of a time shaped by human decisions, wherein the primary threat to our existence lies within our own actions.</i>
HDR 2021-2022	<i>Theme: “Uncertain times, unsettled lives”: Apart from the timeless uncertainty that individuals have encountered throughout history, we presently find ourselves entangled in three turbulent forces, the threat from Anthropocene, the pursuit of societal changes and the fluctuations and divisions within societies.</i>

Source: UNDP Human Development Reports

The Human Development Reports (HDRs) from 1990 to 2022 presented various conceptualizations of human development, like a jigsaw puzzle overtime different attributes have been added in an effort to complete the picture of overall human development.

From the 1990s notion of human development as “a process of expanding people’s choices” to the realization of human development and

Anthropocene (c.f. HDR 2020) to the pursuit of neutralizing the impact of uncertainty (c.f. HDR 2021-22), the concept and comprehension of human development has been evolving.

The 1991 report emphasized on participatory, well-distributed, and sustainable growth. It also introduced the idea of development as "of the people, by the people, and for the people." In 1992, the concept of human development was more targeted and aimed at "enlarging people's choices" the process of fulfilling the target was not emphasized. The 1993 report draws our attention toward people's participation, stating that human development involves widening choices and enabling individuals and groups to access a broader range of opportunities. The 1994 report shed light on the importance of sustainability as an important ingredient of human development, emphasizing the need to create a conducive environment for expanding capabilities for future generations.

The 1995 report reiterated the need of productivity, equity, sustainability, and empowerment for better human development. In 1996, the report emphasize on the role people's centrality and freedom of choice to build untapped capabilities for human development. The 1997-98 report emphasized define human development as expanding choices as means of human development and well-being. The 1999-2000 report signifies the role of empowerment and enlarging people's choices and focus on human capabilities. From 2001 to 2005, the report introduced the concept of making technology work for human development, role of the environment, human values, participation and inclusion and addressing the millennium development goals to offer better choices, freedom and dignity. Poverty, illness, discrimination and other challenges were identified as barriers to human development. The 2006-2010 HDRs conceptualize human development in terms of the realization of potential, the exercise of real choices in individuals' lives, to live long and healthy lives, expansion of human potential, freedom, and self-respect. The 2011-2015 HDR reports emphasized on cherishing human values, freedom, and expanding choices and capabilities, the importance of reflection, dialogue, fairness, and justice in understanding human lives. The Reports focused on vulnerability and resilience, people and their interactions, recognizing the significance of power dynamics and social positions. Enlargement of choices and the enrichment of human lives through meaningful work also was identified as key ingredients of human development. Beyond economic measures, the need to focus on quality of lives as overall community was emphasized.

The 2016-2019 reports draws attention to collectivism and oneness and define human development as freedom for all individuals worldwide irrespective of cast creed and age in all present and future times. The reports addresses capabilities as means to realize well-being and agency challenges to represent voice and autonomy. The reports focused on the realization of multidimensional poverty and inequality and highlighted the disparities in people's well-being beyond just income measures. These reports identified and addressed to need to cover disparities in access to basic services, social protection, political participation, and environmental sustainability.

Human Development Report 2020 "The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene" focused on the concept of the Anthropocene, which refers to the impact of human interventions on ecosystem and climate. These reports conceptualize that human development cannot be achieved without taking care of the ecosystems in which we as human being operate. The reports highlight the need for transformative changes in production and consumption patterns, energy systems, technological innovations, and governance.

The 2021-2022 Human Development Report consolidate and expand upon these discussions by placing uncertainty as one of the major focus. It seeks to understand how uncertainty is evolving, its implications for human development, and how we can thrive in the face of it. By exploring the theme of uncertainty, the report endeavors to shed light on the transformations necessary to promote human well-being in an ever-changing world. It prompts us to question existing paradigms and consider new approaches to foster resilience, adaptability, and sustainable development.

Individual Well-being and Development	Human Rights	Socioeconomic Concerns	Environmental Concerns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long healthy life</li> <li>• Good physical environment</li> <li>• Self-Respect</li> <li>• Being productive &amp; Creative</li> <li>• Enjoying political and civil freedoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guaranteed Human Rights</li> <li>• Freedom of Action &amp; Expression</li> <li>• Participation</li> <li>• Political, Social &amp; Economic Freedoms</li> <li>• Democracy</li> <li>• Dignity &amp; Respect of others</li> <li>• Empowerment</li> <li>• Cultural liberty</li> <li>• Social &amp; Political Participation</li> <li>• Civil &amp; Political Rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources for decent standard of life</li> <li>• Inequality</li> <li>• Uncertain Future</li> <li>• Security</li> <li>• A sense of belonging to a community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability</li> <li>• Anthropocene: Human Choice - threat or opportunity</li> </ul>

**Table 1:** Classification of Human Development Themes (1990-2022)

The table 1 summarizes the themes of human development as mentioned in the HDRs since 1990. We classified them into four broad domains including Individual well-being and Development, Human Rights, Socioeconomic and Environmental concerns. This explains the fact that the selection of themes across years is not balanced in the understanding of human development and is more focused on human rights than needs of individual development. The more recent inclusion of environment in the human development context is also questionable from a theoretical perspective.

Future studies should focus more on the definition and conceptualization of Human Development from interdisciplinary perspective. This would provide a requisite evidence base for refinement of human development concepts.

### **Conclusions & Way Forward**

Review of past 32 years of HDRs explain the fact that concept of human development has been evolving but not much has changed over time as far as the conceptualization of human development is concerned. At the time of initial conceptualization there was no dependence on technology as compared to today. Today, our society is heavily reliant on the knowledge economy and the valuable contributions of knowledge workers. This reliance was not as prominent or widespread just two decades ago.

Human development encompasses various dimensions, such as health, education, income, and social well-being, but it may require reevaluation to align with the emerging realities and measures of progress in the 21st century.

Given these observations, many believe that it is crucial to revisit and reevaluate the initial concept of human development. By doing so, we can incorporate new measures and indicators that have emerged in the 21st century. This revision would ensure that the definition of human development reflects the multifaceted nature of contemporary society and accounts for the evolving challenges, opportunities, and aspirations of individuals and communities in the modern era.

Though an effort has been undertaken to include themes influenced by the macro economic factors yet these are more incidental than strategic. It is identified that inclusion of different themes is random and are withdrawn without considering the continuing strategic impacts on human development. Furthermore, the revisions in the definition of human development and subsequent identification of measurement mechanisms should undertake a multidisciplinary approach instead of being more economic and social. For instance, the definition of human development may take benefit from religion, spirituality and psychology and other sciences.

While the original definition of human development, as conceptualized in the initial Human Development Report (HDR), continues to serve as the fundamental framework for the Human Development Index (HDI), it is important to recognize that the concept has evolved over time.

It acknowledges that external environmental forces, such as social, cultural, economic, and political contexts, play a significant role in shaping human development outcomes.

While the initial HDR and the HDI provide a foundation for measuring and assessing human development, it is essential to continually reassess and expand the concept to account for the evolving needs, values, and aspirations of individuals and societies. By incorporating these various aspects and

dimensions, the concept of human development can better capture the richness and complexity of human well-being in a rapidly changing world.

All in all, the inclusion of these notions in the HDI report is random and inconsistent reaping no strategic value for understanding human development. The concept of human development for the Human Development Index (HDI) would benefit from being supported by a well-established theory that validates its measures. However, since the definition lacks a solid theoretical foundation, it lacks perpetuity, as evidenced by the inclusion of various aspects of human dimensions each year to supplement the original definition based on the changing state of affairs worldwide. If the definition of human development had stood the test of time, the need for including new aspects annually would not have been necessary or, at the very least, arbitrary.

It has been recognized that the conceptualization of human development in the Human Development Report (HDR) primarily focuses on the physical aspects of human beings and neglects the psychological and spiritual dimensions. We believe that a more comprehensive representation of human development should take advantage of interdisciplinary knowledge and arrive at a conclusive framework that better reflects all indicators of human development.

Human development, as defined by any multidisciplinary approach, encompasses not only physical aspects but also psychological and spiritual dimensions. However, the definition formulated for the HDI primarily addresses physical factors influencing human development. While the literature on the HDI reports does acknowledge the ease of measurement for the existing index, it does not justify an incomplete conceptualization. This leads to the introduction of supplementary indexes such as the inequality adjustment index, gender parity index, and poverty index, which upon closer examination, appear to be more inclined towards capturing the psychological aspects of development. We believe that the time has come to modify the basic definition of human development to incorporate the psychological and spiritual components.

The concept of human development for the HDI would benefit from a robust theoretical foundation. The inclusion of various aspects each year to supplement the original definition highlights the need for a more enduring framework. Moreover, the current conceptualization primarily focuses on physical aspects, overlooking the psychological and spiritual dimensions. Therefore, we advocate for the modification of the basic definition of human development to encompass all these dimensions and reflect a more comprehensive understanding of human well-being.

Human development definition conceptualized in HDR focused on the process of widening choices to improve individual's quality of life in terms of health, education and a satisfactory level of income, the concept identified

these three choices as primary which every individual aspires for, additional choices apart from the primary ones are political freedom, guaranteed human rights and self-respect. This definition although comprehensive in its dimension is more of an economic concept rather than a measure of human potential, which if seen in perspective defies the philosophy of the conceptualization of HDI as put forward by Dr. Mahbub ul Haq. He was of the view that GDP alone cannot be a sole indicator of a country's progress, as it also involves human intervention as well. However, when the concept of human development was initially formulated, it primarily aligned with an economic philosophy, focusing on quantifiable and measurable aspects of human development, particularly those of a physical nature. The omission of psychological and spiritual dimensions may be attributed to their subjective nature, which posed challenges for inclusion. As a result, the supplementary indexes were introduced in subsequent reports, which to a large extent capture the psychological factors associated with human development. Nevertheless, these indexes do not form an integral part of the primary index. Based on these findings, our contention is that although the philosophy behind HDI may be an accurate depiction of a country's progress and in 1990 this was the need of the day however it is now time to upgrade the concept and include a holistic concept of human development. We need to see human development from a lens other than just economic.

## REFERENCES

- Alkire.S (2010) Human Development: Definitions, Critiques & Related Developments, *American Economic Review*, Vol. 84, No. 2, pp. 238-243
- Anand, S., & Sen, A. (1994). *Human Development Index: Methodology and Measurement*.
- Baliamoune-Lutz, M., & McGillivray, M. (2006). Fuzzy well-being achievement in Pacific Asia. *Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy*, 11(2), 168-177.
- Caplan, B. (2009). *Against the Human Development Index*. *Library of Economics and Liberty*, 22.
- Doyal, Len, & Gough, Ian (1991). *A Theory of Human Needs*. New York: Guilford
- Hicks, D. A. (1997). The inequality-adjusted human development index: a constructive proposal. *World development*, 25(8), 1283-1298.

- Kovacevic, M. (2010). Review of HDI critiques and potential improvements. Human development research paper, 33, 1-44.
- Klugman, J., Rodríguez, F., & Choi, H. J. (2011). The HDI 2010: new controversies, old critiques. *The Journal of Economic Inequality*, 9, 249-288.
- Maslow, A.H. (1943). "A Theory of Human Motivation". In *Psychological Review*, 50 (4), 430-437.
- Max-Neef, M. A. (1991). Human scale development: conception, application and further reflections.
- Michalos, A. C. (2017). *Connecting the quality of life theory to health, well-being and education*. Berlin, Germany: Springer.
- Oosterlaken, I. (2009). Design for development: A capability approach. *Design Issues*, 25(4), 91-102.
- Ramos, S. B., de Paula Silva, J., Bolela, C. A., & de Andrade, M. (2018). Prediction of human development from environmental indicators. *Social Indicators Research*, 138, 467-477.
- Sen, A. (1998). Mortality as an indicator of economic success and failure. *The economic journal*, 108(446), 1-25.
- Sen, A. (1999). *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Seth, S. (2009). Inequality, interactions, and human development. *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 10(3), 375-396.
- Srinivasan, T. N. (1994). Human development: a new paradigm or reinvention of the wheel? *The American Economic Review*, 84(2), 238-243.
- Stanton, E. A. (2007). *Engendering human development: A critique of the UNDP's Gender-related Development Index*.
- Ul Haq, M. (1995). *Reflections on human development*. oxford university Press.
- UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). (1990). *Human development report*.

- UNDP. (1991). Human development report 1991: Financing human development.
- UNDP. (1992). Human development report 1992: Global dimensions of human development.
- UNDP. (1993). Human development report 1993: People's participation.
- UNDP. (1994). Human development report 1994: New dimensions of human security.
- UNDP. (1995). Human development report 1995: Gender and human development.
- UNDP. (1996). Human development report 1996: Economic growth and human development.
- UNDP. (1997). Human development report 1997: Human development to eradicate poverty.
- UNDP. (1998). Human development report 1998: Consumption for human development.
- UNDP. (1999). Human development report 1999: Globalization with a human face
- UNDP. (2000). Human development report 2000: Human rights and human development. UNDP. (2001). Human development report 2001: Making new technologies work for human development.
- UNDP. (2002). Human development report 2002: Deepening democracy in a fragmented world.
- UNDP. (2003). Human development report 2003: Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty.
- UNDP. (2004). Human development report 2004: Cultural Liberty in today's diverse world. UNDP. (2005). Human development report 2005: International cooperation at a crossroads: aid, trade and security in an unequal world.
- UNDP. (2006). Human development report 2006: Beyond scarcity: power, poverty and the global water crisis.



- UNDP. (2008). Human development report 2007/2008: Fighting climate change: human solidarity in a divided world.
- UNDP. (2009). Human development report 2009: Overcoming barriers: human mobility and development.
- UNDP. (2010). Human development report 2010: The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development.
- UNDP. (2011). Human development report 2011: Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All.
- UNDP. (2012/13). Human development report 2013: The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World.
- UNDP. (2014). Human development report 2014: Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerability and Building Resilience.
- UNDP. (2015). Human development report 2015: Sustainability and Equity: Work for Human Development.
- UNDP. (2016). Human development report 2016: Sustainability and Equity: Human Development for Everyone.
- UNDP. (2017). Human development report 2017.
- UNDP. (2018). Human development report 2018.
- UNDP. (2019). Human development report 2019. Beyond Income, Beyond Averages, Beyond Today: Inequalities in Human Development in the 21st Century
- UNDP. (2020). Human development report 2020. The next frontier. Human Development and the Anthropocene. New York: United Nations Development Programme.
- UNDP. (2022). Human development report 2022.

**Appendix I: Measurements in HDI Across Years (1990-2022)**

Dimensions mentioned in the HDR Report by Year	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	09	10-15	16	17	18	19	20	21-22
Long healthy life	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Knowledge	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Resources for decent standard of life	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Political freedom	x		x					x							x				x							
Guaranteed Human Rights	x					x		x		x																
Self-Respect	x					x		x		x																
Good physical environment							x																			
Freedom of Action & Expression																					x					
Participation				x	x								x													
Human Security					x																					x
Political, Social & Economic Freedoms						x		x		x																
Being creative						x		x		x																
Being Productive						x		x		x																
Freedom							x																			

Dimensions mentioned in the HDR Report by Year	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	09	10-15	16	17	18	19	20	21-22
Democracy							x																			
Dignity & Respect of others								x																		
Empowerment									x																	
A sense of belonging to a community									x	x	x															
Security																			x							
Sustainability																										
Enjoying political and civil freedoms to participate in the life of ones community														x												
Cultural liberty															x											
Social & Political Participation																x										
Civil & Political Rights																	x									
Inequality																									x	
Anthropocene: Human Choice threat or opportunity																									x	
Uncertain Future																										x

Source: UNDP Human Development Reports

**Appendix II: Themes of Human Development Reports 1990 -2016**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Themes</b>
1990	Concept and Measurement of Human Development
1991	Financing Human Development
1992	Global Dimensions of Human Development
1993	People's Participation
1994	New Dimensions of Human Security
1995	Gender and Human Development
1996	Economic Growth and Human Development
1997	Human Development to Eradicate Poverty
1998	Consumption for Human Development
1999	Globalization with a Human Face
2000	Human Rights and Human Development
2001	Making New Technologies Work for Human Development
2002	Deepening Democracy in a Fragmented World
2003	Millennium Development Goals: A Compact among Nations to End Human Poverty
2004	Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World
2005	International Cooperation at a Crossroads: Aid, Trade and Security in an Unequal World
2006	Beyond Scarcity: Power, Poverty and the Global Water Crisis
2007/8	Fighting Climate Change: Human Solidarity in a Divided World
2009	Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development
2010	The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development
2011	Sustainability and Equity: A Better Future for All
2012/13	The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World
2014	Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerability and Building Resilience
2015	Work for Human Development
2016	Human Development for Everyone
2017	Country Reports
2018	Country Reports
2019	Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today
2020	The next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene
2021-2022	Uncertain times, unsettled lives: Shaping our future in a transforming world

Source: UNDP Human Development Reports