

CHAPTER - 3
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: REGIONAL DISPARITIES ASPECTS
(An Empirical Analysis)

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CHAPTER - 3
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: REGIONAL DISPARITIES ASPECTS
(An Empirical Analysis)

3.1 Introduction

Analysis of regional disparities in human development is important to understand the “Quality of Life” of the people living in different regions. The term regional disparities or imbalances refer to a situation where in standard of living, HDI indices, industrial, agricultural and infrastructural development is found to be different in different parts of a given region. The problem of regional disparities in development process is inconsistent with the concept of development. This problem is not a new phenomenon. Even during the earlier period there was difference in the level of economic development across the countries and regions. However, in recent years it has received lots of attention from regional economists. When the regional disparities are unchecked, it leads to numerous economic, social and political problems, and even become a threat to the unity and integrity of any nation. Identification of backward regions in a developing country could be helpful in formulating plans and policy to avoid regional disparities getting further accentuated, and preventing unwanted consequences. Regional disparities in human development are a new dimension of regional disparities and became very popular since UNDP introduced the first Human Development Report in 1990. The disparities in human development are mainly focused on the level of human development index and its indices including life expectancy at birth, educational attainment and decent standard of living. It also takes into account the different nuances of human development like Gender Related Development Index (GDI), Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), Human Poverty Index (HPI) and Human Freedom Index (HFI) etc. which provides more significant development of the society.

In this section, an attempt is made to analyze regional disparities in human development, empirically at various regional levels namely global to local level focusing on inter-state disparities. This chapter is broadly classified into three sections. Section I deals with inter country disparities in human development at the global level; Section II at South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) level; the Section III deals with the status of human development in India by focusing on interstate disparities in human development; and Gender related Development Index (GDI).

3.2 Human Development Disparities at Global Level

The UNDP human development report reveals that the position of India at the global level has been very low. The UNDP Human Development Report, 2020 ranked India at 131st place out of 189 countries with HDI value of 0.645; and India's human development position is lower than that of many of newly industrialized countries of South East Asia like Indonesia and Malaysia and also that of South Asian countries like China, Srilanka and Maldives. The low per-capita income of a country does not mean low level of human development; even with limited funds and their proper allocation, substantial improvement in human capital can be secured. Srilanka and China with low per capita incomes have secured higher levels of human development whose development efforts were initiated at about the same time as of India (Griffin, 1992, Tan and Mingal, (1992). Despite of its potentialities, India could not improve the life of the people in recent decades.

The UNDP classified the countries into three groups based on HDI - High, Medium and Low human development countries. The countries having HDI range from 0.8 and above are grouped as high human development countries; HDI ranges between 0.5 to 0.8 as medium human development; and HDI value less than 0.5 values as low human development. Data clearly reveals great disparities among countries in respect of human development indices. Norway occupied top position with 0.957 HDI value followed by Iceland and Australia with 0.949 and 0.944 respectively while Niger placed in the bottom with 0.394 HDI value (UNDP, 2020).

Table 3.1 Human Development Indicators for Selected Countries, 2019

HDI Rank	Countries	HDI (Value)	Life Expectancy at Birth	Expected Years of Schooling	Mean Years of Schooling	GNI per Capita	GNI per capita rank minus HDI Rank
1	Norway	0.957	82.4	18.1	12.9	66,494	7
4	Iceland	0.949	83.0	19.1	12.8	54,682	14
8	Australia	0.944	83.4	22.0	12.7	48,085	15
13	U.K.	0.932	81.3	17.5	13.2	46,071	13
16	Canada	0.929	82.4	16.2	13.4	48,527	5
17	USA	0.926	78.9	16.3	13.4	63,826	-7
19	Japan	0.919	84.6	15.2	12.9	42,932	9
23	Korea. Rep	0.916	83.0	16.5	12.2	43,044	4
52	Russia Fed	0.824	72.6	15.0	12.2	26,157	2
72	Sri Lanka	0.782	77.0	14.1	10.6	12,707	23
85	China	0.761	76.9	14.0	8.1	16,057	-11
131	India	0.645	69.7	12.2	6.5	6,681	-5
133	Bangladesh	0.632	72.6	11.6	6.2	4,976	7
142	Nepal	0.602	70.8	12.8	5.0	3,457	13
154	Pakistan	0.557	67.3	8.3	5.2	5,005	-15
161	Nigeria	0.539	54.7	10.0	6.7	4,910	-19
182	Burkina Faso	0.452	61.6	9.3	1.6	2,133	-9
183	Sierra Leone	0.452	54.7	10.2	3.7	1,668	-4
189	Niger	0.394	62.4	6.5	2.1	1,201	-4
CV (in percent)		26.76	13.22	28.77	46.67	90.39	----

Source: HDR 2020; Countries 189

Table 3.2 India's Human Development Position in the Global Context, 2019

Countries/ Region	Human Development Indicators			
	Life Expectancy Index	Education Index	GDP Index	HDI
India	0.765	0.566	0.635	0.645
Least Developed Countries	0.697	0.439	0.510	0.538
Developing Countries	0.789	0.589	0.704	0.689
Very High Human Development Group	0.917	0.860	0.921	0.898
OECD	0.929	0.853	0.923	0.900
WORLD	0.812	0.637	0.773	0.737
CV (in percent)	12.27	28.28	24.54	21.84

Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report, 2020

Fig. 3.1 India's Human Development position in the global context



Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report, 2020

Table 3.1, Table 3.2 and Fig. 3.1 depict India's human development position in the global context as per HDR, 2020. In respect to human development indices such as Life Expectancy Index, Educational Index, GDP Index and Human Development Index, Indian position were 0.765, 0.566, 0.635 and 0.645 respectively; while the position of all developing countries, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and World were well over India's position. This indicates that the relative position of India's human development indices were not only lower than so-called OECD but also lower than other developing countries of the World as well.

Table 3.2 indicates that Life Healthy Index, Education Index, Income Index and HDI vary largely across the different groups of the world as revealed by the estimated CV; and the variation was highest in the case of education index (28.28 percent).

Table 3.3 India’s Human Development position in the Global Context, 2019

Human Development Indicators		India	Developing Countries	Least Developed Countries	Very High Human Development Group	OECD	World
Life Expectancy at Birth		69.7	71.3	65.3	79.6	80.3	72.8
Education Index	Mean Years of Schooling	6.5	7.5	4.9	12.2	12.0	8.5
	Expected Years of Schooling	12.2	12.2	9.9	16.3	16.3	12.7
GNI Per Capita (2008 ppp\$)		6,681	10,583	2,935	44,566	44,967	16,734
Human Development Index (HDI) Value		0.645	0.689	0.538	0.898	0.900	0.737

Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report, 2020

Table 3.3 shows the India’s position in the global context in terms of various human development indicators in the year 2019. The data indicates that India’s position in terms of life expectancy at birth (health index), MYS and EYS (education index) GNI per capita (income index) remained well below the OECD and world average. Not only that, India’s position was even below the average of developing countries.

The UNDP classified various countries of the world into high, medium and low human development groups on the basis of their performance in terms of various human development indicators. The Table 3.4 and Fig. 3.2 indicate the Human Development Index for selected countries from 1990 – 2019, based on the HDI value, they have been classified into four groups: very high, high, medium and low human development groups (UNDP, 2020). Norway, Iceland, Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea Republic and Russia Federation were placed as very high human development

group; and China as representative of high human development group. India, Srilanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal are in the group of medium human development; and Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Niger were in the group of low human development group. Estimated CV shows that there has been a gradual decrease in the variation of HDI among the countries indicating the trend of convergence between high and low human development countries; CV being 41.56 percent in 1990 to 26.27 percent in 2019.

Table 3.4 Human Development Index trends for selected countries 1990 – 2019

Name of the Countries	HDI				Average Annual HDI Growth (in %)			
	1990	2000	2010	2019	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2019	1990-2019
Iceland	0.807	0.867	0.898	0.949	0.72	0.35	0.62	0.56
Norway	0.849	0.915	0.940	0.957	0.75	0.27	0.20	0.41
Australia	0.871	0.903	0.930	0.944	0.36	0.30	0.17	0.28
Canada	0.850	0.867	0.901	0.929	0.20	0.39	0.34	0.31
Japan	0.818	0.858	0.887	0.919	0.48	0.33	0.39	0.40
USA	0.865	0.886	0.916	0.926	0.24	0.33	0.12	0.24
U.K.	0.781	0.874	0.912	0.932	1.13	0.43	0.24	0.61
Korea Rep	0.732	0.823	0.889	0.916	1.18	0.77	0.33	0.78
Russia Fed	0.735	0.722	0.781	0.824	-0.18	0.79	0.60	0.39
China	0.499	0.588	0.699	0.761	1.65	1.74	0.95	1.47
Sri Lanka	0.629	0.691	0.754	0.782	0.94	0.88	0.41	0.75
India	0.429	0.495	0.579	0.645	1.44	1.58	1.21	1.42
Pakistan	0.402	0.447	0.512	0.557	1.07	1.37	0.94	1.13
Bangladesh	0.394	0.478	0.557	0.632	1.95	1.54	1.41	1.64
Nepal	0.387	0.453	0.537	0.602	1.59	1.72	1.28	1.54
Burkina Faso	0.150	0.293	0.384	0.452	6.92	2.74	1.83	3.88
Sierra Leone	0.287	0.295	0.399	0.452	0.28	3.07	1.40	1.58
Niger	0.220	0.262	0.331	0.394	1.76	2.37	1.95	2.03
World	0.601	0.644	0.699	0.737	0.69	0.82	0.59	0.71
CV (%)	41.56	36.43	30.17	26.27	--	--	--	--

Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report 1990 to 2020

HDI trend of the countries as depicted in Table 3.4 for the period 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2019 is shown by the Fig. 3.2.

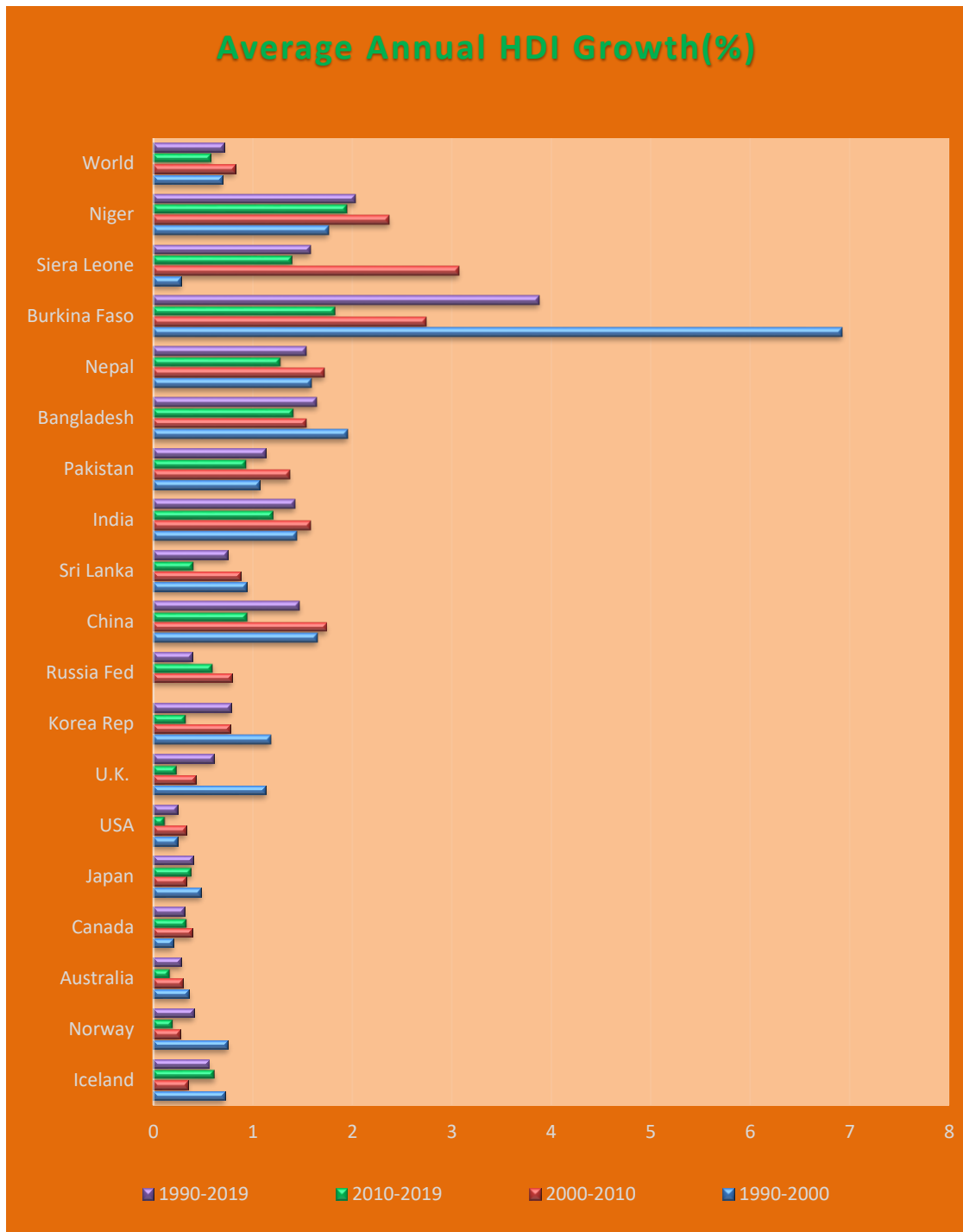
Fig. 3.2 HDI trend in the selected countries: 1990-2019



Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report 1990 to 2020

The average annual growth in HDI values during 1990-2000 and 2000-2010 is shown in Fig. 3.3. It has been observed that the growth is higher in low human development countries than very high, high and medium human development countries. It reveals that progress of HDI shows convergence trend rather divergence between very high, high, medium and low human development countries. Less human development countries improved more than the relatively better developed countries in the world. It is worth mentioning that the percentage changed for 2000-2010 was much higher than the percentage change for the period 2010-2019.

Fig. 3.3 Average annual growth in HDI for selected countries: 1990-2019



Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report 1990 to 2020

Thus, from the above analysis it is seen that the position of India in terms of human development aspect remained lower not only that of high human development and OECD countries; the position of India is even lower than some of the South East Asian and SARRC countries, like Maldives and Srilanka. High rate of growth of population and diversity which exist in the country is difficult to manage. Large scale unemployment, low public expenditure on social sectors along with inadequate facilities of health and nutrition in rural areas, low level of literacy and skills, lack of basic amenities like housing facilities, safe drinking water facilities are main reasons for low level of human development aspect in the country. Inequality in social, economic and gender aspect has also been contributing to low HDI in the country.

3.3 Disparity in Gender Related Development Index (GDI) at Global Level

The aspect of gender development is an important issue in the area of human development. Here, in this section, we analyze the aspect of GDI for selected countries of the world including India. The Beijing Conference on Women held on 1995 brought new grounds in comparing human development performance of countries from a gender perspective; and the question was how women fare in the socio-economic development of a country (**UNDP, HDR 1995**). The report focused on the two dimensions of gender development measures – Gender Related Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM).

Table 3.5 and Fig. 3.4 show the aspect of GDI for selected countries from 2005 to 2019. So long percentage change is concerned for GDI, they were higher in low human development countries such as Niger, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Nepal and medium HDI countries namely, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India compared to high HDI countries. It reveals that progress of GDI shows a convergence trend rather than divergence between high and low human development countries. In fact, low human development countries improved relatively better when compared to high and medium HDI countries in the world; however, the gap in terms of opportunity between males and females is still significant which involves future policy implications.

Table 3.5 GDI for selected countries of the world (1995-2019)

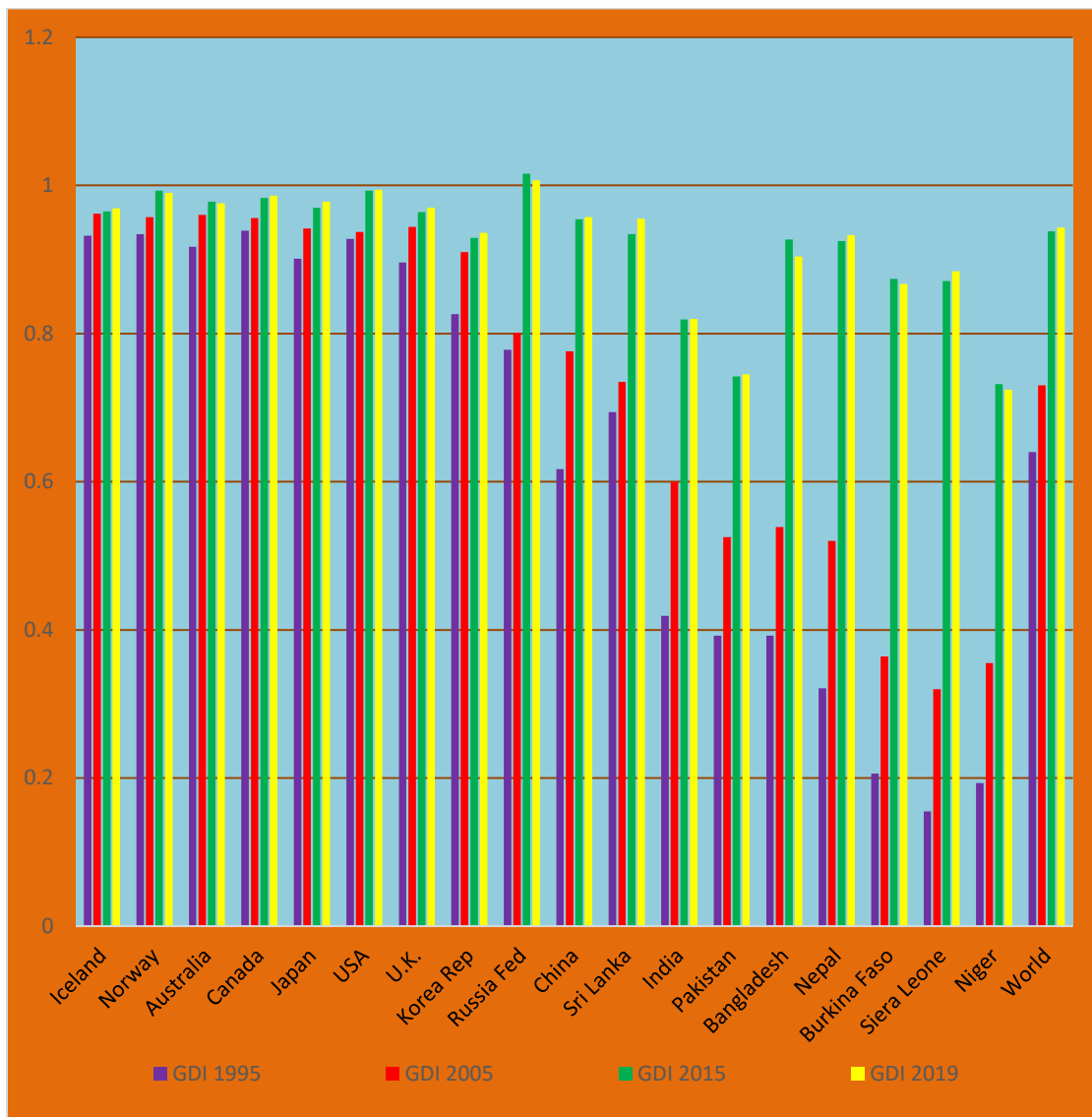
Name of the Countries	GDI 1995	GDI 2005	GDI 2015	GDI 2019	% Changed from 1995-2005	% Changed from 2005-2015	% Changed from 2015-2019
Iceland	0.932	0.962	0.965	0.969	3.21	0.31	0.41
Norway	0.934	0.957	0.993	0.990	2.46	3.76	-0.30
Australia	0.917	0.960	0.978	0.976	4.68	1.86	-0.20
Canada	0.939	0.956	0.983	0.986	1.81	2.82	0.31
Japan	0.901	0.942	0.970	0.978	4.55	2.97	0.83
USA	0.928	0.937	0.993	0.994	0.96	5.98	0.10
U.K.	0.896	0.944	0.964	0.970	5.35	2.12	0.62
Korea Rep	0.826	0.910	0.929	0.936	10.16	2.09	0.75
Russia Fed	0.778	0.801	1.016	1.007	2.95	26.84	-0.89
China	0.617	0.776	0.954	0.957	25.76	22.94	0.31
Sri Lanka	0.694	0.735	0.934	0.955	5.90	27.07	2.24
India	0.419	0.600	0.819	0.820	43.19	36.5	0.12
Pakistan	0.392	0.525	0.742	0.745	33.92	41.33	0.40
Bangladesh	0.392	0.539	0.927	0.904	37.50	71.98	-2.48
Nepal	0.321	0.520	0.925	0.933	61.99	77.88	0.86
Burkina Faso	0.206	0.364	0.874	0.867	76.69	140.11	-0.80
Sierra Leone	0.155	0.320	0.871	0.884	106.45	172.19	1.49
Niger	0.193	0.355	0.732	0.724	83.93	106.20	-1.09
World	0.640	0.730	0.938	0.943	14.06	28.49	0.53
CV (%)	46.86	32.72	9.01	9.12	--	--	--

Source: Compiled from various Human Development Report (1995-2020)

Fig. 3.4 shows that the GDI index for the period 1995, 2005, 2015 and 2019 are more or less same for very high and high human development countries. The Fig. also reveals that there has been considerable improvement of GDI in less developed and developing countries of the world indicating convergence trend between the high and low human development countries.

Table 3.5 indicates that GDI vary largely across the different development groups of the world as shown by the estimated CV. Estimated CV shows that there has been a gradual decrease in the variation of GDI among the countries indicating the trend of convergence between high and low human development countries; CV being 46.86 percent in 1995 to 9.12 percent in 2019.

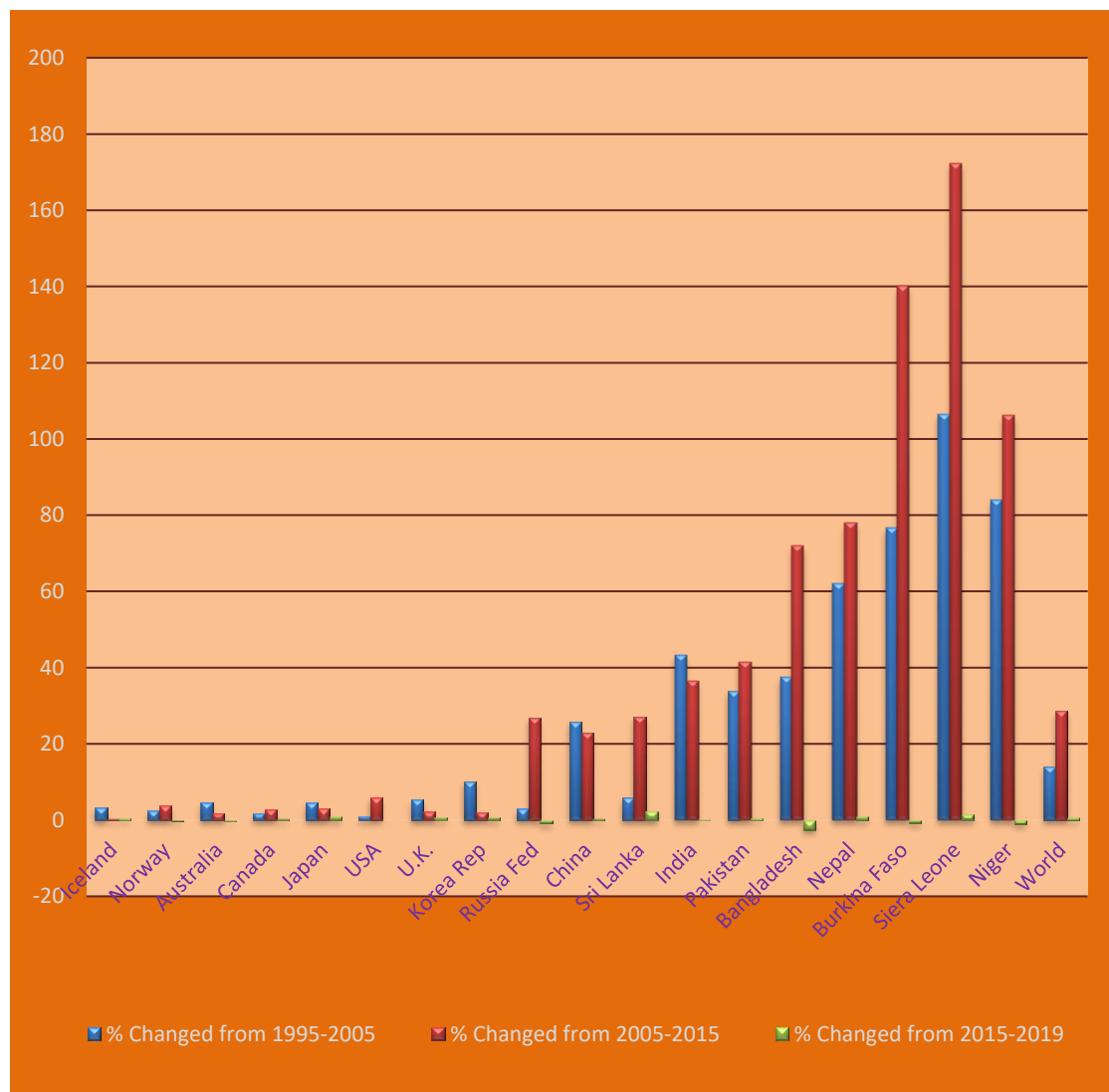
Fig 3.4 GDI for selected countries of the world: 1995-2019



Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report 1995 to 2020

The percentage change of GDI from 1995-2005, 2005-2015 and 2015-2019 is shown in the Fig. 3.5. It has been observed that the percentage change for high human developed countries is comparatively much lower than the least developed and developing countries. However, more initiative is required by the least developed and developing countries for better distribution of opportunities between the males and females section of the society.

Fig 3.5 Percentage Changes of GDI for selected countries of the world (1995-2019)



Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report 1995 to 2020

1.4 Disparity in Gender Inequality Index (GII) at Global Level

Gender inequality remains a major barrier to human development. Girls and women have made major strides since 1990, but they have not yet gained gender equity. The GII has been introduced in UNDP Human development Report as another experimental series. The GII is unique and it represents an important advance on existing global measures of gender equity. In this section we review GII at the global level and the position of India.

Table 3.6 GII for selected countries of the world: 2008-2019

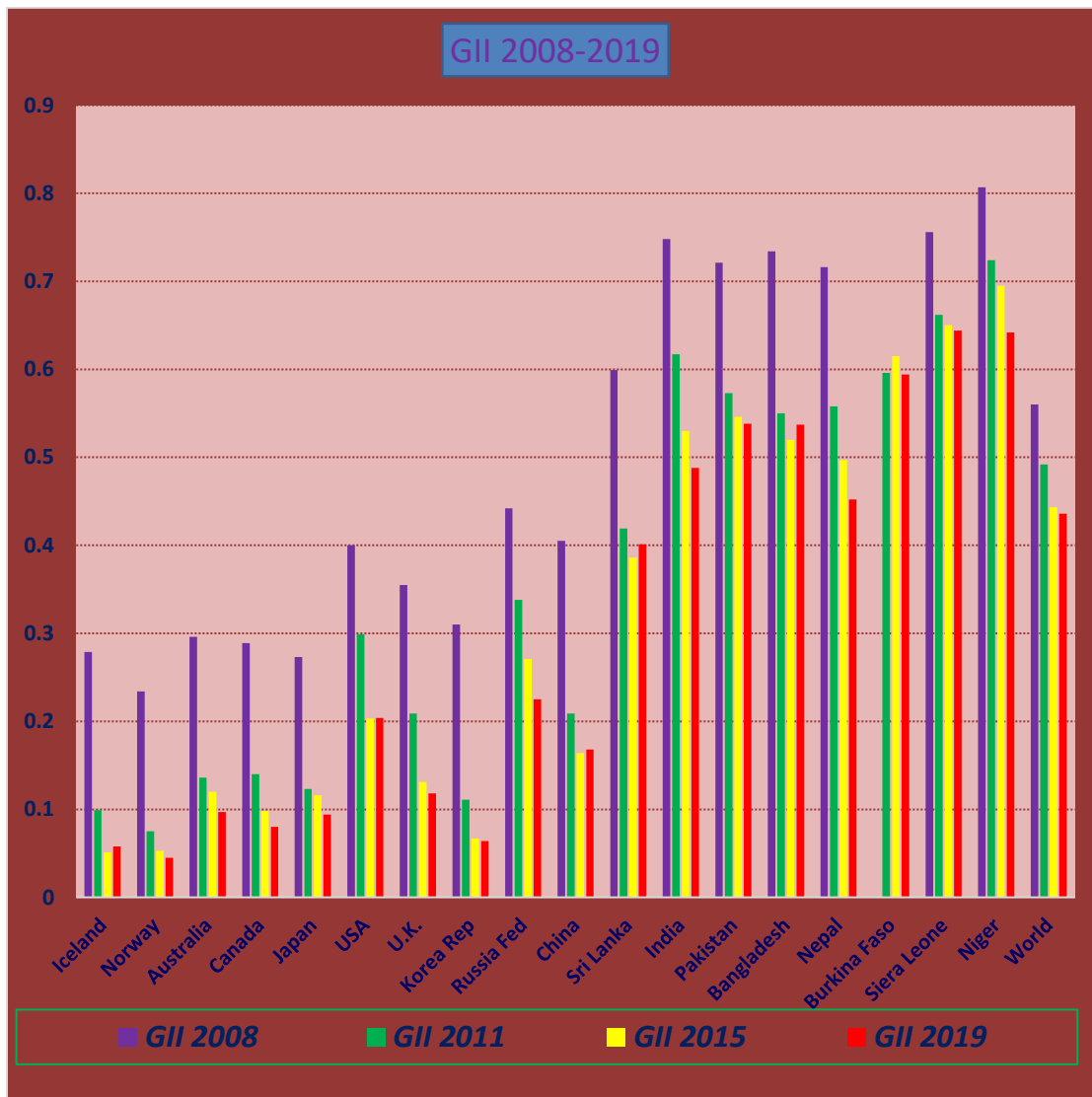
Countries	GII 2008	GII 2011	GII 2015	GII 2019
Iceland	0.279	0.099	0.051	0.058
Norway	0.234	0.075	0.053	0.045
Australia	0.296	0.136	0.120	0.097
Canada	0.289	0.140	0.098	0.080
Japan	0.273	0.123	0.116	0.094
USA	0.400	0.299	0.203	0.204
U.K.	0.355	0.209	0.131	0.118
Korea Rep	0.310	0.111	0.067	0.064
Russia Fed	0.442	0.338	0.271	0.225
China	0.405	0.209	0.164	0.168
Sri Lanka	0.599	0.419	0.386	0.401
India	0.748	0.617	0.530	0.488
Pakistan	0.721	0.573	0.546	0.538
Bangladesh	0.734	0.550	0.520	0.537
Nepal	0.716	0.558	0.497	0.452
Burkina Faso	NA	0.596	0.615	0.594
Sierra Leone	0.756	0.662	0.650	0.644
Niger	0.807	0.724	0.695	0.642
World	0.560	0.492	0.443	0.436

Source: Compiled from various Human Development Report (2010-2020)

Table 3.6 and Fig. 3.6 illustrate the gender inequality index for selected countries of the world, including India from 2008 to 2019. The data reveals that developing countries, including India and least developed countries have much greater

gender inequity. India's GII of 0.748 for the year 2008 is much higher than even world average of 0.560. However, the table shows that the gender inequity has been decreasing gradually for the countries; and the percentage decrease of GII in case of higher inequity countries are much higher than the low gender inequity countries. India's GII has decreased to 0.488 in 2019; however gender inequity of India is much higher than world average 0.436.

Fig. 3.6 GII trend for selected countries of the world (2008-2019)



Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report 2010 to 2020

From Fig. 3.6, it can be seen that the GII has been decreasing gradually, basically for the least developed and developing countries, again indicating convergence trend like HDI and GDI between the high human development and low human development countries. Table 3.6 indicates that, GII vary largely across the different human development groups as shown by the estimated CV. Estimated CV shows that there has been an increasing trend in the variation of GII among the countries; CV being 47.94 percent in 2008 to 75.15 percent in 2019. Extent of GII which presence among the countries is to be addressed by incorporating the policy of differentiated approach.

3.5 Regional Disparities in Human Development: South Asian Scenario

It is worth mentioning that the disparities in human development not only present at the global level but it also exists among the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) countries including India. In this section, an attempt has been made to discuss regional disparities in human development in SAARC countries. India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan are popularly called as SAARC nations. South Asia is one of the most unique regions in the world in the sense that there is a yawning gap among the SAARC Nations. With the great potentiality in all respects such as fertile lands, fresh water resources, diverse climate and a dynamic people, this region could have done much better in economic and social development fronts. In these regions with more than 1.5 billion people, in the global context, human deprivation in South Asia is colossal in scale. Nearly, 45 per cent of the world's poor live in South Asia, round 500 million people live in absolute poverty, surviving on less than one US \$ per day; more than one and half adults are illiterate and over one quarter of the total population lacks access to safe drinking water or sanitation facilities. Further, 45 per cent of the world's illiterate female population lives in South Asia, and 50 percent of all malnourished children are in South Asia. Even among the developing countries, South Asia's share of human deprivation is almost twice as much as its share in the population (**MHDRC, 2001**).

Table 3.7 Human Development Index for SAARC countries: 1990 -2019

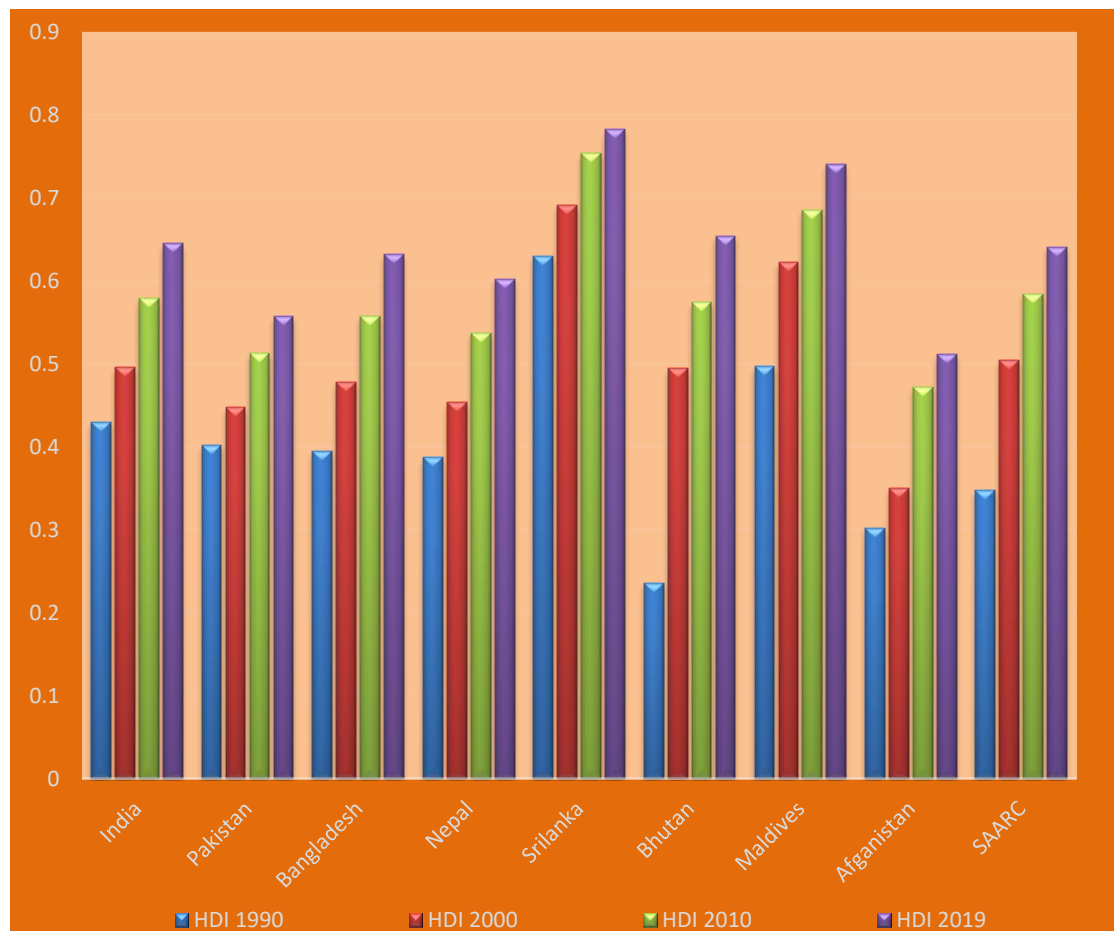
Name of the Countries	HDI				Average Annual HDI Growth (in %)			
	1990	2000	2010	2019	1990-2000	2000-2010	2010-2019	1990-2019
India	0.429	0.495	0.579	0.645	1.44	1.58	1.21	1.42
Pakistan	0.402	0.447	0.512	0.557	1.07	1.37	0.94	1.13
Bangladesh	0.394	0.478	0.557	0.632	1.95	1.54	1.41	1.64
Nepal	0.387	0.453	0.537	0.602	1.59	1.72	1.28	1.54
Sri Lanka	0.629	0.691	0.754	0.782	0.94	0.88	0.41	0.75
Bhutan	0.236	0.494	0.574	0.654	7.67	1.51	1.46	3.58
Maldives	0.497	0.622	0.685	0.740	2.27	0.97	0.86	1.38
Afghanistan	0.302	0.350	0.472	0.511	1.49	3.04	0.89	1.83
SAARC	0.347	0.504	0.584	0.641	3.80	1.48	1.04	2.14
CV (%)	28.07	19.76	14.82	13.00	--	--	--	--

Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report 1990 to 2020

Table 3.7 and Fig. 3.7 illustrate that Human Development Index (HDI) of SAARC Nations; HDI increased from 0.347 in 1990 to 0.641 in 2019. Sri Lanka the highest achiever, improved her HDI from 0.629 to 0.691 from 1990 to 2000 and then to 0.754 and 0.782 in the year 2010 and 2019 respectively. HDI of India improved from 0.429 to 0.495 from 1990 to 2000 and then increased to 0.579 and 0.645 in 2010 and 2019 respectively; and on the other hand, Bhutan which had the lowest HDI of 0.236 in 1990, increased to 0.494 and 0.574 in 2000 and 2010; and then to 0.654 in 2019. However, when the annual average growth rate in HDI for SAARC is concerned, it is seen that it declined in the second and third period as shown in the Fig. 3.8; in the first phase 1990-2000, it was 3.86, where as in second phase 2000-2010, it was only 1.48 and then declined to 1.04 in the third phase 2010-2019. India had higher

average annual growth rate in HDI in comparison to neighboring country Pakistan; the growth rate in 1990-2000 was 1.44, and then increased to 1.58 during 2000-2010 and then decreased to 1.21 during 2010-2019.

Fig. 3.7 Human Development Index for SAARC countries: 1990 to 2019



Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report 1990 to 2020

Table 3.7 indicates that, HDI vary largely across the SAARC countries as shown by the estimated CV. Estimated CV shows that there has been a decreasing trend in the variation of HDI; CV being 28.07 percent in 1990 to 13.00 percent in 2019 indicating convergence trend of HDI among the SAARC countries. Policy execution with differentiated approach for respective countries is necessitated to reduce the gap further among SAARC countries.

Fig. 3.8 Average Annual HDI Growth for SAARC Countries: 1990 to 2019



Source: Compiled from UNDP Human Development Report 1990 to 2020

The annual average growth rate of HDI for SAARC countries from 1990-2019 is shown in the Fig. 3.8. Bhutan had the highest annual growth among the SAARC countries during 1990-2000; and also covering the whole period of analysis 1990-2019. The country had lowest HDI in 1990 among the SAARC countries.

3.6 Human Development Scenario in India: Interstate Disparities

The previous sections have discussed in detail, the global disparities in human development and disparities between South Asian countries. Now, in this Section, an attempt is made to discuss inter-state disparities in human development within the country and also to focus on the status and progress of human development in India. The basic concept of human development in India has come into force since the inception of first Five Year Plan. However, from the past three decades, human development began to receive utmost importance because of the fact that the benefits of economic growth did not necessarily accrue to all sections of the community. Apart from the basic necessities such as food, clothing and shelter, other human choices including long life, good health, adequate education and participatory decision-making remained unattainable for majority of the population. During sixties and seventies India remained in the group of 'weak link' countries characterized by slow progress of human development, constrained by low level of economic growth. The problem was different during eighties onwards as the country has been suffering from lopsided development with rapid economic growth and slow human development (**Naseem A, Zaidi & Abdul Salam, 2005**). A proper strategy is required carving this lopsided development with an utmost care to have effective strategies for social sector development.

3.6.1 Progress of Human Development in India

Being a welfare country, planning in India is to give more priority for widening people's choices and improve the well-being of the people. In this context, human development is the key issue so that people could lead a long and healthy life; they could acquire knowledge so as to have better vertical mobility in life and to achieve a decent standard of living. The country like India where the people with various cast and creeds are living, human development is as important as economic development; they are like the two faces of the same coin. Since independence, India has made considerable progress on the economic horizon; and economically has diversified significantly, food production has grown sufficiently to provide adequate

levels of food security, infrastructure development has preceded a pace, a vast pool of trained manpower has been developed, domestic savings and capital formation have increased substantially, a vast net work of development institutions has been nurtured and great degree of technological development has taken place.

Table 3.8 Human Development Index of India from 1990-2019

Years	Human Development Index (HDI)	India's Rank	Number of Countries Covered
1990	0.297	121	173
1991	0.308	123	160
1992	0.382	134	173
1993	0.436	134	173
1994	0.446	135	173
1995	0.451	134	173
1996	0.436	135	174
1997	0.545	138	175
1998	0.563	128	174
1999	0.571	115	162
2000	0.577	124	173
2001	0.590	127	175
2002	0.595	127	177
2003	0.602	127	177
2004	0.611	126	177
2005	0.619	128	177
2006	0.604	134	182
2007	0.612	134	182
2008	NA	NA	NA
2009	0.535	NA	NA
2010	0.519	119	169
2011	0.547	134	187
2012	0.554	136	186
2013	0.586	135	187
2014	0.609	130	188
2015	0.624	131	188
2016	0.640	129	189
2017	0.640	130	189
2018	0.647	129	189
2019	0.645	131	189

Source: Compiled from various Human Development Reports, UNDP, (1990-2020)

Though India has done well in human development indicators over the past six and half decades, necessary policy initiative is required to join the rank of 0.800 HDI value. Life expectancy was just 32 years in 1951 increased to 62.9 years in 2005, Infant Mortality Rate was 146 per thousand in 1951 and decreased to 56 in 2005, and then reduced to 40 in 2013. The Literacy Rate has gone up from 16.7 per cent in 1951 to 65.49 in 2001, and then further increased to 73.18 in 2011. As per the survey report of National Statistical Commission, IMR has decreased to 28.3 per thousand in 2019; Life Expectancy and Literacy Rate has increased to 69.73 years and 77.7 percent respectively in 2020.

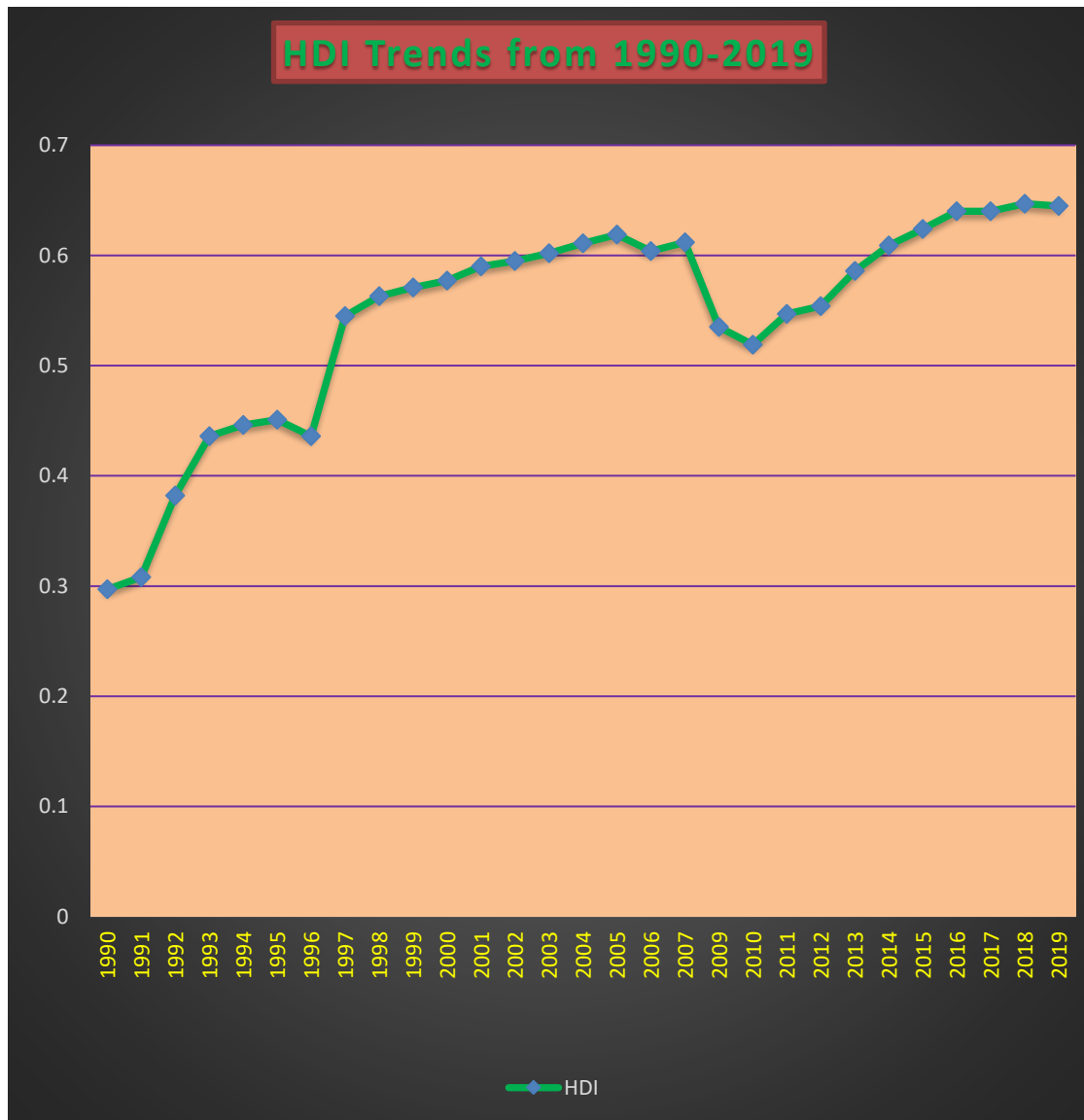
India has been categorized by the various global human development reports as a medium human development country. The human development index has increased gradually from 0.297 in 1990 to 0.577 in 2000; and then to 0.519 in 2010 and 0.645 in 2019. The Table reveals experiences of lower HDI for some years from 2010; however, this decrease in HDI value may be ascertained partly to changes in the method of HDI calculation. India will takes a long time to cross the mark of 0.800 in HDI to join the rank of high human development index countries (UNDP, 2007).

Table 3.8 and Fig. 3.9 depicts the progress of Human Development Index of India from 1990 to 2019 with its ranks at the global level and number of countries covered while preparing report for human development. The HDI value for India was 0.297 and its rank was 121 out of 173 countries in 1990. It means that 120 countries were above India and 53 countries were below them in the descending order of HDI obtained by the various countries. In 2000, HDI value has increased to 0.577 and its rank was 124 out of 177 countries. Further, the HDI value decreased to 0.519 and then increased to 0.645 in the year 2010 and 2019 respectively. However, in terms of HDI rank, India improved from 128th position in 2005 to 119th in 2010; and then deteriorated to 131st in the year 2019.

Fig.3.10 depicts classification of the states in India in terms of their level of human development index. In the case of India, classification was done by considering three separate HDI groups – high, medium and low human development states according to their levels of human development for 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011. No

state was in the high human development position while except Kerala (medium human development index) rest of the 14 states were in the low human development

Fig. 3.9 HDI trends of India: 1990-2019



Source: Compiled from various Human Development Reports, UNDP, (1990-2020)

in 1981 and 1991. These states constitute a large proportion of India’s geographical area and population, but situation was slightly different in 2001 - Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Haryana also joined with Kerala in the medium human development group. Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Punjab accounted for highest

HDI value. On the other hand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan have registered lowest achievement in the country. However, in 2011, the states of Kerala and Delhi, for the first time attained high human development; the states of Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Punjab, North East (other than Assam), Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat and Karnataka being placed in the medium human development states group. The states of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, Uttarakand, Jharkand, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Chhattisgarh remained poor in the aspect of human development and placed in the low human development category.

Table 3.9 Classification of Human Development in India: 1981 - 2011

Years	Level of Human Development Index			
	Very High	High	Medium	Low
1981	Nil		KER	PU, MAH, GUJ, HAR, KAR, TN, WB, AP, AS, OR, RAJ, UP, MP, BIH
1991	Nil		KER	PU, MAH, GUJ, HAR, KAR, TN, WB, AP, AS, OR, RAJ, UP, MP, BIH
2001	Nil		Ker, PU, TN, MAH & HAR	KAR, WB, RAJ, AP, OR, MP, UP, AS & BIH
2011		KER, DEL	HP, GOA, PU, NE, MAH, TN, HAR, J&K, GUJ, KAR	WB, UTT, AP, ASS, RAJ, UP, JHR, MP, BIH, OR, CHA

Source: Planning Commission (2002) National Human Development Report 2001, GOI

Note: Andhra Pradesh (AP), Assam (AS), Bihar (BIH), Gujarat (GUJ), Haryana (HAR), Karnataka (KAR), Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra (MAH), Orissa (OR), Rajasthan (RAJ), Tamil Nadu (TN)

While considering the relationship between income growth and human development in Indian states, classification was done into four groups – category one, two, three and four; Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh come under the First Category, which have achieved highest level of human development despite relatively modest level of income. The Second Category includes the states like Punjab, Haryana

where substantial increase in income has taken place but human development has been lesser in comparison to first category of the states. In the Third Category states such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh; neither economic nor human development has been realized. Whereas, Fourth Category comprises states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka where the differences in their economic and human development are not too large and their achievements from the point of view of human development are also somewhat moderate (**Prabhu, 1996**). However, the third category states accounted for more than 45 percent of the country's population and their performance in the field of human development is far behind the national average. The first and fourth category of relationship is to be encouraged to attain human development in the society.

3.6.2 Inter-State Disparities in Human Development in India

India's human development trajectory is characterized by great diversity and deep disparities between states and regions. Much of the diversity and many of the disparities have historical roots, and the geographical condition has a strong influence. While cultural diversity should be cherished, wide disparities in human development are inconsistent with the egalitarian aspirations of the Indian Union. The various empirical studies have also shown inter-state disparities in human development which have followed more or less UNDP methodology to construct human development index based on three important indicators and try to identify inter-state and inter regional comparisons within the Indian States - Shivakumar, 1991, NPC Research Foundation 1992, Dutt et al 1997, Ram and Mohanti 1999, Sarma 1999, Deshpande et al 2002, Pradhan and Bhattacharya 2005 have observed inter-state disparities in human development in India. The Planning Commission, Government of India took the lead in the preparation of the NHDR 2001 for the first time in the country. At the state level there are wide disparities in the level of human development. In the early eighties, states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa has HDI close to just half of the Kerala. The situation has drastically changed in recent time; while Kerala rapidly increased its HDI values, the above-mentioned states could

Table 3.10 Human Development Index (HDI) Across States in India:1981-2011

States	1981		1991			2001			2011		
	HDI	Rank	HDI	Rank	% change from 1981-1991	HDI	Rank	% change from 1991-2001	HDI	Rank	% change from 2001-2011
Kerala	0.500	1	0.591	1	18.2	0.638	1	7.95	0.790	1	23.82
Punjab	0.411	2	0.475	2	15.57	0.537	2	13.05	0.605	5	12.66
Tamil Nadu	0.343	7	0.466	3	35.86	0.531	3	13.94	0.570	8	7.34
Maharashtra	0.363	3	0.452	4	24.50	0.523	4	15.70	0.572	7	9.36
Haryana	0.360	5	0.443	5	23.05	0.509	5	14.89	0.552	9	8.44
Gujarat	0.361	4	0.431	6	19.39	0.479	6	11.13	0.527	11	10.02
Karnataka	0.346	6	0.412	7	19.07	0.478	7	16.01	0.519	12	8.57
Assam	0.272	10	0.348	10	27.94	0.336	17	-3.44	0.444	16	32.14
West Bengal	0.305	8	0.404	8	32.45	0.472	8	16.83	0.492	13	4.23
Rajasthan	0.256	11	0.347	11	35.54	0.424	9	22.19	0.434	17	2.35
Andhra Pradesh	0.298	9	0.377	9	26.51	0.416	10	10.34	0.473	15	13.70
Orissa	0.267	10	0.345	10	29.21	0.404	11	17.10	0.362	22	-10.39
Madhya Pradesh	0.245	13	0.328	13	33.87	0.394	12	20.12	0.375	20	-4.82
Uttar Pradesh	0.255	12	0.314	12	23.13	0.388	13	23.56	0.380	18	-2.06
Bihar	0.237	14	0.308	14	29.05	0.367	14	19.15	0.367	21	0.00
All India	0.302	-	0.381	-	26.15	0.472	-	23.88	0.467	-	-1.05
CV (%)	22.57	-	19.02	-	-	16.3	-	-	10.28	-	-

Source: Compiled and estimated from National Human Development Report 2001, 2011

Note: Rural and Urban Combine

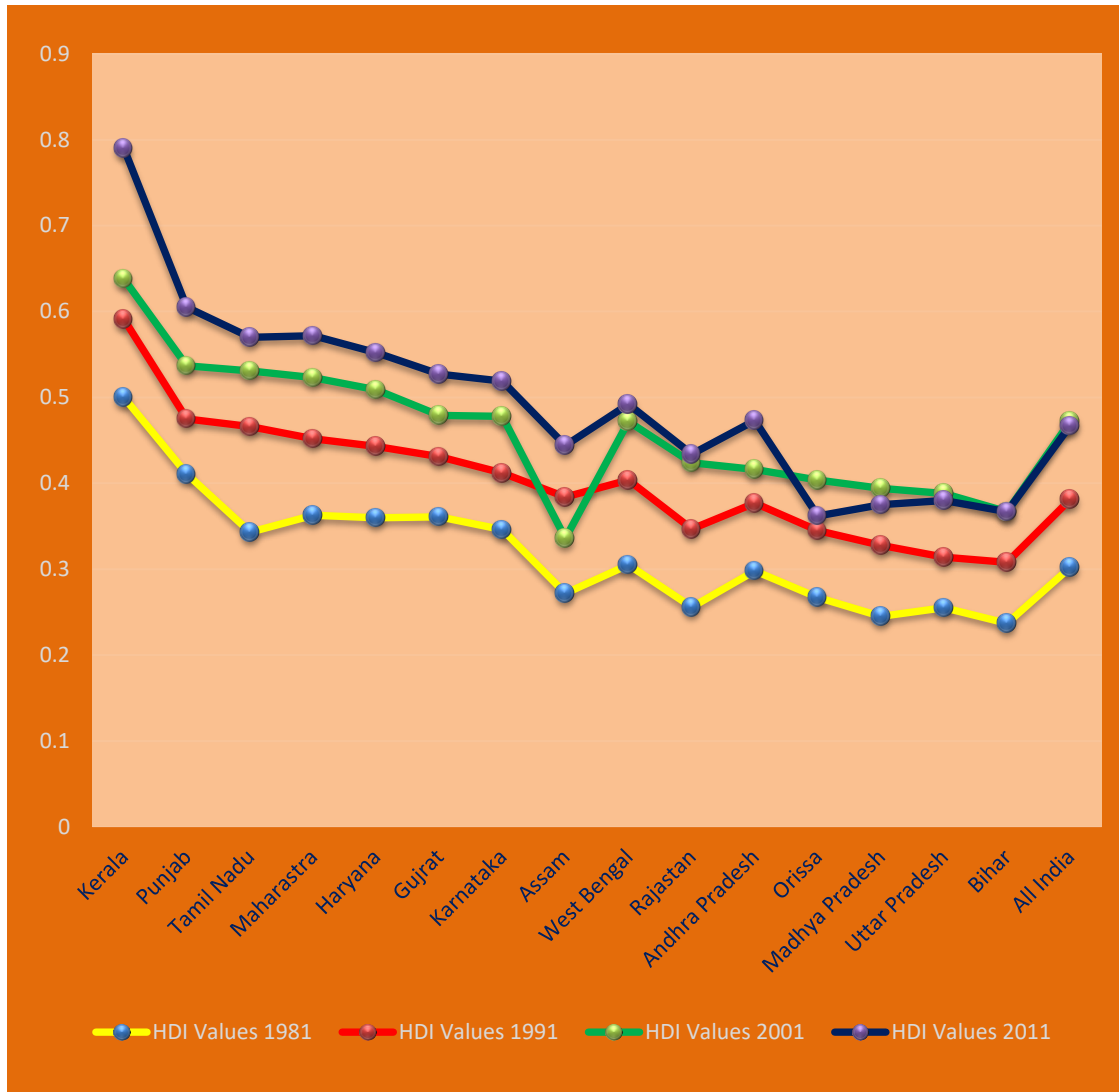
not maintain the pace and have trailed behind considerably. Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Haryana have also done well on the HDI in 2001. Thus some of the Indian states are in a virtuous cycle of achievement, with growth of resource supporting improvement in human development, which, in turn, reinforced economic growth. Conversely, a majority of the Indian states, especially those having larger

populations, appear to be in a vicious cycle, with failures in both human development and economic growth.

Table 3.10 and Fig. 3.10 depicts human development index trend across the states of India from 1981-2011. There has been a wide inter-state variation in the performance of HDI. The estimated value of HDI varies from 0.237 to 0.500 in 1981; 0.308 to 0.591 in 1991; 0.367 to 0.638 in 2001; and 0.467 to 0.790 in 2011. The data indicates that the better off states – Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Haryana had a HDI above 0.500 and the worst-off states like Bihar, Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh had a HDI less than 0.400 in 2001. Although, seven states – Bihar, Haryana, Kerala, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal could manage to maintain their relative position. The three states Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra experienced deterioration in 2001 relative to 1981. However, the NHDR, 2011 shows a remarkable change. In terms of human development, Kerala, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Goa could represent first, second, third and fourth position respectively. On the other hand, the states such as Chatisgarh, Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh had the position from bottom respectively.

Table 3.10 indicates that, HDI vary largely across the states of India shown by the estimated CV. However, CV shows that there has been a decreasing trend in the variation of HDI; CV decreased from 22.57 percent in 1981 to 19.02 percent in 1991, and then to 16.3 percent in 2001; and further decreased to 10.28 percent in 2011 indicating convergence trend of HDI among the states of India. Existing inter-state disparities in terms of human development and capabilities is a serious concern for the country. Policy execution with differentiated approach for respective state is necessitated to reduce the gap further so that the people in the country could be developed with same level of human development and economic status. This aspect represents one of the major challenges in front of the Government policy and initiative.

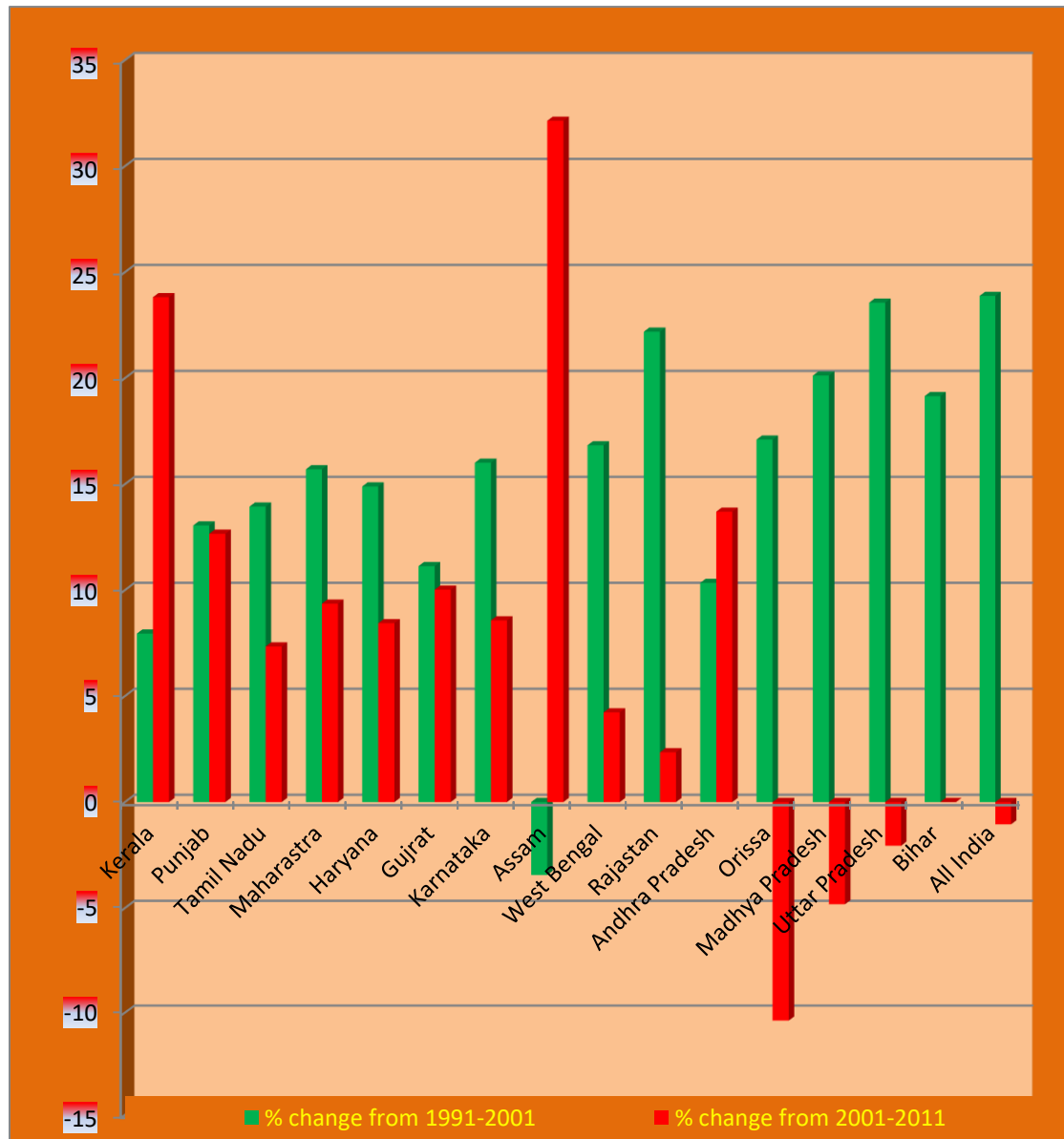
Fig. 3.10 Human Development Index (HDI) trends across States in India: 1981-2011



Source: Compiled from National Human Development Report 2001, 2011

While considering percentage changes from 1991-2001 and 2001- 2011 as depicted in Fig. 3.11, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh experienced negative percentage changes. The country also experienced negative percentage changes by (-.05) during 2001-2011. However, this negative percentage for the states may be attributed to the introduction of new components or indicators while measuring HDI values since 2010.

Fig.3.11 Human Development Index (HDI) Trends across States in India: 1981-2011



Source: Compiled and estimated from National Human Development Report 2001, 2011

3.7 Conclusion

In the previous sections of the present chapter, present scenario of human development disparity aspects has been analyzed at the global, OECD, SAARC context. The analysis reveals large disparity in terms of various indicators of human development. Human development indicators of the very high human development group countries are much higher than low human development groups; it clearly

reveals great disparities among countries in respect of human development indices. Norway occupied top position with 0.957 HDI value while Niger placed at the bottom with 0.394 HDI value. The UNDP human development report reveals that the position of India at the global level has been very low. The UNDP Human Development Report, 2020 ranked India at 131st place out of 189 countries with HDI value of 0.645; and India's human development position is lower than that of many of newly industrialized countries of South East Asia like Indonesia and Malaysia and also that of South Asian countries like China, Srilanka and Maldives. So long percentage change is concerned for HDI and GDI, they were higher in low human development countries such as Niger, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Nepal and medium HDI countries namely, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India compared to high HDI countries. It reveals that progress of GDI shows a convergence trend rather than divergence between high and low human development countries. The analysis reveals that developing countries including India and least developed countries have much greater gender inequity. India's GII of 0.748 for the year 2008 is much higher than even world average of 0.560. However, the gender inequity has been decreasing gradually for the countries; and the percentage decrease of GII in case of higher inequity countries are much higher than the low gender inequity countries. An attempt is also made to discuss inter-state disparities in human development within the country India and also to focus on the status and progress of human development in India. There has been a wide inter-state variation in the performance of HDI. The estimated value of HDI varies from 0.237 to 0.500 in 1981; 0.308 to 0.591 in 1991; 0.367 to 0.638 in 2001; and 0.467 to 0.790 in 2011. Though there has been gradual improvement of HDI in the country, from the data it can be said that India will take a long time to join high human development group (0.800) and above.