

CHAPTER - 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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2.1

This chapter is related to the review of literature. However, literature on human development is vast and varied. When some literature dealt on the concept of human development while some others dealt on the methods of measurement, construction of HDI for various states and sub states; and of different sections of the society.

In the following section, a brief review of literature is carried out on both theoretical and methodological aspects of human development.

2.2 Review of Literature: Theoretical Aspects

The credit for constructing an internationally acceptable Human Development Index goes to Prof. Mahbub-UI-Haq and Prof. Amartya Kumar Sen. Prior to their effort, one of the earliest attempts was conducted by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). In 1966, the UNRISD published “level of living index” considering 20 countries for its study; and released its second study in 1972 and developed a “Development Index” with nine economic and nine social indicators. In 1973, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published a report in which six social variables were used to form a “predicted GNP per capita index” for 82 developing countries. In 1976, the International Labor Organization (ILO) began publishing its work on the ‘basic needs’ approach to development that includes an adequate level of both consumption and essential services like health care and primary education.

Sen (1977) in his paper “Human Capital and Human Capability” explained the conceptual meanings of both Human Capital and Human Capability. Human Capital concentrates on skill Knowledge and productivity while Human Capability helps the individuals to live the lives they choose and increases the choices they have. Human

Capital need not be understood in the form of physical capital; rather it enhances the human capabilities. Education, health care and other factors enrich economic prosperity along with freedom and wish of the people. Human beings are not just means of production; rather it is also ends of production. The UNDP Human Development Reports have motivated over the years by this broader view and capability approach. Human capabilities promote well being and freedom of the people; and influence social changes, as opined by the author.

Sen (1989) the Nobel Laureate in economics, in his paper entitled ‘development as capability expansion’ states that it is a mistake to view expansion of real income or growth as successful economic development. The author had taken the per capita income of six countries along with life expectancy and maintained that the China and Srilanka with low per-capita incomes have higher life expectancy than the other four countries; Brazil, South Africa, Mexico and Oman. His capability approach for the evaluation of quality of life is explained as “Doings and Beings”, and also called as functioning. The roots of the capability approach date back to Aristotle, Adam Smith and Karl Marx; development is seen as a combination of distinct processes. The paper stated that the people should have freedom to choose in their life; and emphasis needs to be given on education which helps in exercising freedom and acts as the foundation to capability approach. In his paper, the author also stressed on sound health conditions as it increases productivity of human being. Human capabilities, as author states, are the yard sticks to judge human development, and social changes are needed in the context of human well being.

The Human Development Report (1990) correctly recognizes that “development is much more than just the expansion of income and wealth”; and defined human development as the ‘process of enlarging people’s choices (**UNDP, 1990**). The first chapter of the report, entitled “Defining and Measuring Human Development”, opens with famous words: “People are the real wealth of a nation. The basic objective of development, as report maintained, is to create an enabling environment so that people can lead long, healthy and creative life in the society. This may appear to be a simple truth; but it is often forgotten in the immediate concern with

the accumulation of commodities and financial wealth. Thus, the expansion of output and wealth is only a means; and the end of development must be human well-being.

The paragraph of the report (1990) also reads: Human development is a process of enlarging people's choices. The most critical aspect is how to achieve a life with a long and healthy life, to acquire knowledge becoming 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". Thus, the report says that human development denotes both the process of widening people's choices and the *level* of their achieved well-being.

Human Development Report (UNDP 1991) elaborates the concept of human development in the lines that people must be at the centre of human development. Development has to be woven around people, not people around development, that is, people should be at the centre while formulating plan and policies for development. As stressed by the report, human development should aims at development of the people, by the people and for the people.

Dalal (1991) in his edited volume brought together the contributions made at a National Symposium held in New Delhi in March 1991; and reflections on human development as conceived by the UNDP report from the Indian perceptive. The contributions were leading personalities from the various fields with vast experience and knowledge of political affairs, science, economics, education, culture, business, industry and administration. The common consensus of the symposium was that Indian development goals have been in tune with the Human Development Report. However, there has been a significant failure in implementation of well-constructed policies. The discussion of the symposium considered lack of political will and administrative inefficiency as major causes of the failures of implementation.

Human Development Report (UNDP 1992) maintained that the previous concepts of development often given exclusive attention to economic growth on the assumption that the benefits of growth would trickle down to various sections of the society. The report says that the past experience does not support this hypothesis;

higher growth rate in an economy does not necessarily bring higher degree of welfare for every section of the society. Growth needs to be translated into improvements in people's lives, expansion in human capabilities need to be enhanced by the growth process. The report maintained that economic growth is not the end of human development, it represent just one of the important means of achieving human development. Human development and economic growth are closely connected; and people contribute to economic growth, and growth contributes to human beings.

Anand and Ravallion (1993) focused on the role of private incomes and public services within the human development approach in attaining some very basic human capabilities and also tried to explore their implications for development policy. To them, average income matters, but only so far as it reduces poverty and finances key social services for development. This conclusion has an important policy implication if social expenditures and the reduction in income poverty are the main forces driving human development, rather than economic growth; then the policy intervention can play a role in promoting human development independently of the promotion of aggregate affluence.

Human Development Report (UNDP 1994) stressed on the points that the human development also encompasses elements that constitute the critical issues of gender and its development. The report maintains that there are four major elements in the concept of human development such as productivity, equity, sustainability and empowerment; besides empowerment is an important aspect of human development. People must participate in the decision making process that can shape their lives and maintain 'quality of life'. Human development cannot be achieved without gender equity in the society; and so long women are excluded from the development process, development will remain weak lopsided, as report maintained.

Human Development Report (UNDP 1995) maintained that the process of economic and human development must be sustainable one. The concept of human development has gone beyond its basic premises to emphasize the sustainability of the development process; and the issue of sustainability has three dimensions - capacity, environment and institutions. If the development process does not create institutions

fully supportive of people's right, it cannot be sustainable in the long run and this would hamper expansion of human capabilities. Human development thus emphasizes strengthening the institutions of both government and civil society so that the entire development process becomes internally and externally sustainable one.

Tilak (1997) observed that during the post Independence period India made substantial progress towards building up of a large educational edifice and network of scientific and technical institution in the country; and still half of the population in the country was illiterate. The goal of universalisation of elementary education still eludes and vocational and technical education at secondary level did not progress much so as to employ graduates in different fields. The study stressed that investment in human capital in India has to be significantly increased in three essential purposes: (a) to meet the challenge of poverty and to meet the aspiration of the people for better levels of living, (b) to eliminate or at least to reduce technological dependence on other countries and thus to make the country free from colonial dominance, and (c) to enter the international market in the field of industry and trade on a competitive basis to reap the benefits of economic liberalization and globalization.

Human Development Report (UNDP 1997) described clearly the concept of human development. The report states that people wants income as a means and Human Development is the end. A long and healthy life, acquisition of knowledge and access to resources for a decent standard of livings are the three essential choices for people corresponding to three indices of human development. The report maintains that 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 aspect.

Zaidi and Salam (1998) in their study on human development using UNDP methodology tried to enumerate and correlate various indices denoting life expectancy, educational attainment and real GDP per capita to other parameters of the economies of 15 major states of India. The study finds out the causes of varying values of these indicators in different states in the country. The study revealed that public expenditure is more closely associated with educational attainment in the society than it has with life expectancy as the latter is influenced by multiplicity of

factors like heredity, race, climatic and environmental factors apart from public expenditures on health, nutrition, sanitation etc. The study also revealed that high literacy rate is necessary but not sufficient condition for economic growth. Though literacy rate was highest in Kerala in 1991, the state was ranked in the 6th position among these 15 major states in terms of combined enrolment ratio.

Nepal Human Development Report (UNDP 1998) reported that Nepal is still a very much a rural country and there are serious disparities between the urban and the rural areas in terms of human development aspects. Both public and private investments are concentrated in the urban areas and the urban population has much better access to social infrastructure and higher income per capita than the people in the countryside. The report also revealed that the Human Development Index (HDI) value for rural areas is approximately two thirds of that of the urban areas. The report also maintained that the disparities would become even more evident when the country is divided into regions, as was done in the Nepal Human Development Report (NHDP 1998).

National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD 1999) conducted a study on human development for the major states of India for the years 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1987-88. The report indicates that human development scores in all the states had gone up. However, as per the report, performance of the states like Bihar and UP was very poor, and the states of Gujarat made considerable strides of development. Rankings of the states during the period of study changed significantly indicating that the growth rates in human development indices across the states are not in the same magnitude. The study also reveals that the gender discrimination was common in 14 states except Kerala and Karnataka.

Viswanatham (1999) in her study for Madhya Pradesh pointed out that higher incomes do not always lead to high human development. High human development, at the same time, does not mean equal benefit to both men and women population. The study questions the relationship between incomes and human development on one hand and gender equity on the other which need to be addressed by incorporating

proper policy. The study further maintained that equal opportunity between the two sections of the society is important for the expansion of human capabilities.

Kurian (2000) in his article “Widening Regional Disparities in India” Published in EPW (Feb 2000), has analyzed regional disparities in the post reforms period in India. The study revealed that increased participation by the private sector has aggravated regional disparities in the country. The better off states have been preferred by the private sector as the socio-economic infrastructure in these states is well developed, and can support the investment in better way. Poor infrastructure and lack of resources have become handicaps to the backward states in attracting more investment for developmental purposes. The author concludes that the backward states are confronted with vicious circle due to lack of flow of private sector investment.

National Human Development Report (2001) prepared by Planning Commission of India (PCI) showing state-wise as well as all-India human development indices for the years 1981, 1991 and 2001; the report, for the analysis of human development indicators in the country used the same development indicators of the UNDP Human Development Reports. But weightage were given with slight modifications in the indicators; however, span of life, education and economic attainment are the basic indicators considered by both the computations.

Datt (2002) in his study examined the improvement in human development index in India vis-à-vis other countries of the world. The study found that the population growth rate has begun to decline and it is estimated to be at 1.3 percent per annum during 1999-2015. The study maintained that this will release quite a significant proportion of the resources being currently used to support a higher growth rate of population for other areas of development. The public expenditure on education was found to be stagnant at 3.2 percent of the GDP during the last 25 years from study year. The youth literacy at 72 percent in the country is much lower than the achievement of a majority of medium human development countries, which is around 90 percent and above. The study also revealed that there has been continuous improvement in health indicators - life expectancy, infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate though they do not commensurate with the levels attained in several

medium developed countries of the world. Gender related development indicators revealed the gap between male and female population in terms of adult literacy, gross enrollment ratio and earned income as being too wide indicating the existence of a strong gender bias development.

Ravallion and Datt, (2002) in a cross – state study of poverty in 15 major states in India, concluded that various states have different capacities for poverty reduction due to variety of reasons in the concerned states. They argue that there exists a substantial difference of the elasticity of poverty index to non-farm output between the states. The difference between Bihar and the state of Kerala is due to the difference in the literacy rates that exists between these states. The study suggested differentiated approach of the policy initiative for the reduction of poverty in the states with different conditions.

Guha (2003) in his article “Human Development in India – A Study of Interstate Disparities” has deviated from the established Human Development Indices and considered access to safe drinking water, electricity connections, two meals a day throughout the year, permanent houses and availability of beds in public hospitals to measure human development in 15 major states of India. The study worked out Quality of life Index for rural and urban for these 15 major states in the country. He stressed on active role of the Central Government in removing interstate disparities in human development. In his opinion, a nation cannot develop without adequate provision for public health, education, food, clothing and shelter. The study clearly indicated that there are glaring disparities in human development among the states in India. This article is thought provoking in terms of concept, content and results of the study in the area of human development aspect.

Pant (2003) made an empirical study on the performance of states in education during 1995-96. The study showed that the academic standards of the students were very low in the U.P primary schools. The reasons for school drop outs were examined in this study; and the most important one was that school children need to attend household duties. On the part of teachers, the study revealed that proper in- service training was not properly conducted. Schools were not attractive, confronted with lack

of infrastructures; and even amidst dirt and dust with stray animals freely roaming about. The author feels that backwardness of elementary education limits the freedom and well being of the people in the society. The author concludes that the system of education should become an instrument of social change to ensure well being and freedom of the people in the society.

Bhatt (2003) in his article “Human Development Profile a study of primary education standards in Uttar Pradesh” stated that human development can be considered as the expansion of human capabilities. Human development, as a process of widening people’s choices and the level of well being they attain has got important implications. The author maintained that basic objectives of the development process should be directed to remove illiteracy, ill health and social deprivation to ensure individual freedom and capabilities of human beings. Primary education facilitates with rapid participation in developmental process is required so as to improve human development and expansion of human capabilities. The author has enumerated the backward scenario of the state of U.P and deplors at the low literacy rate of 41.6 percent against the national average rate of 52.1 percent.

Khan (2003) in the article “Human development in India” a study of inter-state variations stated that human development is multidimensional aspect involving political, social, and economic elements. The article revealed that countries do not have identical ranks on income and human development scales. He has quoted the “Asian Development Report 1996-97” where it is maintained that India still lags behind most Asian countries in terms of social indicators though there is a trend of improvement. The author measured inter-state variations in the human development in India by taking 1991 as the year of study by adopting UNDP methodology. Urbanization is added as the fourth indicator for the computations of HDI for 15 major states in the country. The study revealed that Kerala, Maharashtra, and Punjab have higher than 0.50 HDI values and can be categorized as states of medium human development; and HDIs for Orissa, Bihar, U.P. and Assam are less than 0.3 indicating a very low level of human development. Kerala has achieved the top position in human development among the states of India even with a low per capita domestic

product (9th Rank) in the country. As felt by the author, initiative taken by the Non-Government organizations (NGOs) has contributed much for Kerala's achievement in higher level of human development.

Padmanabham and Nagarjan (2003) in their paper "Measures of Human Development and Related concepts, a case study of Tamilnadu" have reviewed the Human Resource Development strategies of the Neo classicalists. The authors, in their study, have reviewed different kinds of Human Development Indices put forward by UNDP and other research studies; and the components of HDI in assuring human well being are discussed in the paper. The study pointed out that Tamilnadu ranked 7th on the basis of per-capita income where as the state is 3rd among the Indian States in 1991 on the basis of HDI. The authors have reviewed the stands of Armugum where HDIs for the districts in Tamilnadu were worked out; Per-capita District Domestic Product, life expectancy and female literacy are the indicators chosen by Armugum. It is stated that 8 districts in Tamilnadu have 0.5 to 0.8 HDIs representing medium Human Development category; and remaining 21 districts are in the low Human Development category with HDIS at below 0.5. The authors have presented an overall view of HDI and analyzed the relative position of the districts in Tamilnadu in terms of Human Development.

Dholakia (2003) examined the trends in regional disparity in the economic and human development in India over the last two decades of time. The study indicated that the per capita income (PCI) did not show any significant improvement in the trend of regional disparity over the last two decades; rather seven out of nine human development indicators display a declining trend. Further, the study revealed that twelve out of other sixteen related social and human development indicators showed a marked decline in regional disparity during 1981-1991. The study also examined the question involved in connection with direction of causality between economic development and human development.

Mohanty, Nayak Chatterjee (2004) examined Human Development in the state of Orissa by taking districts as units of study. The study is divided into five sections; and analysis was done based on secondary data. HDI values for the districts

are computed for 1993-94; 1997-98 and 2003-04 along with index values of the components considered in the study. The study maintained that the Tribal districts lag behind in all dimensions of human development. The study indicated that availability of quality infrastructure, both economic and social is a key factor for human development aspects; infrastructure in the form of health, education, transportation, communication, electricity, irrigation and banking facilities is measured with composite index. The state was divided into (3) clusters, developed moderately, developed and less developed. The districts with poor infrastructure showed less developed over the entire three periods of analysis. The study suggested that the state of Orissa needs to develop quality infrastructure, both social and economic, to attain better level of human development.

Devi (2004) in the Article the current scenario of human poverty in India examined the trend of poverty in the country India. The study considered the census data of 1991 and 2001 for analysis. It is seen that there was a declining trend in the decadal growth rate of population by 2.52%; an improvement in sex ratios from 927 to 933; overall literacy rate at 65.38% in 2001. However, from the study, it is seen that in 2001, 25% of men and 45% of women were illiterate. The data also indicated that the country was confronted with gender bias in terms of school enrollment; 70% of the tribal people were illiterate as per 2001 census data. Outlay of the Government expenditures on education for both centre and the states between 1993-94 and 1998-99 showed almost stagnant. The study also analyzed the percentage of people below the poverty line for the period of 1973-74 and 1999-2000. It is noted that the decline in urban poverty is greater than the decline in rural poverty. Employment growth in the public and private sectors had been examined for the period 1991-1999; and there was a stagnant trend in the overall growth of employment during the period. The author concludes that economic reforms have resulted in adverse effects on poor and rural sections of the population in the country. The study suggested for the improvement of primary education, health care facilities, gender equity, growth in employment, food security and absence of discrimination to promote human development and social progress.

Reddy, Murthy and Sarojini (2004) in their article “components of Human Poverty Index: comparative study of Indian states” stated that people are both the means and ends of economic development. Economic growth gives importance to economic choice while human development embraces all human choices - economic, social, cultural, and political and the like. The study worked out achievement in education, health and tax effort indices by considering 1980s and 1990s as time periods and compared the achievement indices of 15 major states in India. The study indicated that the state of Kerala was at the top in 1980s and improved at higher rate in the 1990s; Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa had low level of achievement in 1980s and the rate of improvement was also very low. It is also seen that the states with higher tax effort index had higher per-capita expenditure on education.

Leela (2004) in the paper entitled “Gender Inequalities and Human Poverty” states that the world of the 21st century still faces huge backlogs of deprivation, poverty, inequality and gender disparities in the society. The study quoted some earlier studies by eminent authors to narrate the poverty and gender discrimination. The basic objective of this paper was to examine the gender dimension of poverty; and for the analysis, 2001 census figure was taken by the author. The study showed that 76.7% of the population living below the poverty line was being women and children. Poverty of the women can be mitigated by employment and income for which training and literacy are important. The paper reviewed Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) of the U.N. Development Report and 73rd constitutional amendment providing 1/3rd reservations and the schemes of the central and state governments. The author lamented at the low literacy rate of the women (32.72%) in the state of Andhra Pradesh, which was the lowest among the southern states as revealed by the 2001 population census. Positive changes in social, cultural attitudes of the society towards the role of women; and elimination of gender bias in development policies were suggested by the author while removing poverty.

Subrahmanyam (2004) in his paper “Poverty in India” measurement and trends reviewed the problem of poverty in India and focused on eradication of poverty during the plan period. The author, in his study, elaborated different types of poverty,

the poverty line and the measures of poverty. He analyzed Human Development Index (HDI) and the method of its calculation by taking the development indicators of the UNDP; Human Poverty Index (HPI) and Gender Empowerment Index (GEI) have also been analyzed by the author. The paper reviewed poverty in Indian for the years 1950, 1960; and it is found that rural poverty declined to 39% in 1987-88 from 56% in 1973-74. The author, in his paper stated that the economic reforms have no positive impact on poverty reduction. The study also indicated one major concern for the policy makers that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at the same rate in the 1990s as in 1980s indicating stagnancy of GDP.

Chakraborty (2006) in the (ed) volume of Human Development: Experiences of North East India, examined the relationship between the human development and inhuman growth. The analysis showed that the scenario in North Eastern Region of the country India was different from other states; though the region represents certain healthy trends, particularly in enrolment of students at primary level along with lesser gender disparities in comparison to other states. The author suggested that a major area of focus should be on creating sustainable socio-economic infrastructures in rural areas without which, to the opinion of author, all the states in the region will have higher dropout rates, higher illiteracy, lower health standards, higher infant and child mortality, and lower life expectancy. However, while trying to achieve these desired goals, the traditional wisdom, participatory tribal ethos and historical patterns of occupational specialization should be taken into consideration.

De (2006) in the (ed) volume of Human Development: Experiences of North East India examined the circular linkage between the human development and the environment; and concludes that like income and human capital circular linkage; there exists circular linkages between the natural resources, environmental quality and human development. Despite of availability of natural resources, the region with poor environmental quality may result to low productivity, low income and output; and in turn it provides people with less scope to achieve standard and quality education and health care facilities. The study maintained that the poor human resource development

leads to further mismanagement and more rampant use and degradation of environmental quality.

Nayak and Thamas (2007) conducted an in-depth study on human development in Meghalaya by working out HDIs for all the seven districts in the state; and the status and trend of human development and deprivation in Meghalaya were compared with other leading states of India. For their study, both primary and secondary data were used. The study revealed a low level of human development in the state, inequalities between rural and urban areas among the districts. The study also revealed development pattern with gender gap, between males and females across the districts of Meghalaya.

Choudhury and Mitra (2008) had used panel data from 138 countries from all over the world to describe the relationship between attainments of school education and economic development. The study examined the effect of other macro economic variables such as government expenditure on education and political instability on school attainment and completion of the schools by children. The results showed that income levels, government expenditure on education and political instability all generally have statistically significant effects on school attainment and completion rates. However, the direction and significance varies across the different levels of school attainment and completion as revealed by the study.

Daimari (2008) while studying the structure of the rural economy of BTAD followed the Marshall-Fisher-Clark-Kuznets schema of structural analysis, basically, to find out the relative contributions made by different sectors to the total income. Based on 182 sample households, the study found that the economy of the study area is basically an agricultural one in which about 52 percent of the regional income is generated from primary sector, about 42 percent from tertiary sector and only around 6 percent from secondary sector in BTAD area.

Jordon (2008) constructed a human development index (HDI) for each of Georgia's 159 countries; and the indicators included education, employment and housing variables. The study considered the data from the 2000 census collected by the state of Georgia office of the planning and budget department. According to the

study, the construction of HDI for each of Georgia's states would help in further research in the area of community development strategies. The use of an HDI in the country broadens the scope of measurement of standard income and economy's well being. As revealed by the study, further step to investigate whether levels of social capital overheads are related to the HDI would be another milestone for Georgia's economy.

Siddique (2008) used simultaneous equation model for identifying the relevance of primary needs of methodology for estimation of human development in Asia, Africa and rest of the countries in the world. It was found that the effect of human development on primary need for satisfaction is direct one, that is, the persons with higher income have higher capabilities which in return results to higher per capita income. The study revealed that though both the aspects, improvement in infant mortality rate and per capita income affect significantly; but the role played by income for meeting the basic need is more important. The study maintained that the results may vary from region to region but the conclusion drawn remains the same; gainful expenditure always an edge over the other aspects of human development.

Mishra and Biswa (2009) considered two basic approaches which are complementary for variations in human development across the states and regions. First, growth oriented to promote public and private incomes; and second, aims at public support in education, health care, employment, asset redistribution and social assistance. The paper examined the economic performance and social insecurity across the major states with more emphasis on lagging states showing the interstate variations in human development. The study worked out economic performance by taking the shares of the state population and gross state domestic product of the country for selected years 1993-1994-2001. The study covered all the 15 major states of India, including BIMARU states. Per capita Income and growth rates of these states for the selected years were taken for ranking the states. The study revealed that the social security provision in most of the states, except in Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Kerala was not encouraging; Governments in richer states have more funds to take care of

social security. They suggested private sector participation in creating favorable infrastructure and environment for the improvement in human development.

Dutta (2009) in the (ed) volume of Human Development: Dimensions and Strategies examined the disparities in human and economic development in the North Eastern Region of India. The study concludes that HDI is not a comprehensive measure of human development; high HDI value need not necessarily guarantee access of human beings to other basic amenities of life such as drinking water, electricity, sanitation, health care etc. which are essential components of economic development. The study revealed that the disparities of economic development were much higher among the districts of Assam in comparison to other states of NER.

Bensahes, Colssard and Benzrak (2009) in their paper “Gender and Human Development” made an attempt to show the importance of reducing gender disparities to promote human development. The paper stressed on the study of current situations, roles, social functions and the roles of the man and woman for analyzing gender disparity aspect. Women in the society have an important role to play in strengthening human development aspects. The authors have considered Beijing Conference in China in which the status of women, at length, was discussed. The paper discussed the Tunisian women and the progressive measures they enjoy in life; success of women entrepreneurs, women’s rights; and how employment in Tunisia uplifted the women’s position in the society. They conclude that “To be Happy” gender discrimination must be eliminated so that both men and women together can think, feel and act properly.

Mahapatra and Raj (2009) in their paper entitled “Human Development in India: Issues and Challenges” begins with the fact that India is in the 127th position with HDI score 0.602 among 177 countries as estimated by the HDR of UNDP for 2006. The paper examined the level of human development in India in comparison with other countries between 1975 and 2005 by taking different points of time. The paper also made an assessment of the variations in human development across the states in the country. The paper focused on health care scenario; and basically, BIMARU states were not in a position to give priority to health care when compared

to middle and high Income states of the country. The study revealed that health infrastructure, safe drinking water and sanitation, besides maternal and child health care were not effective in some states which may have affected HDI. The authors concluded that the Government of many states in the country suffers from funds shortages to increase expenditure on social sector including health care facilities; and they suggested public-private partnership pattern of investment in promoting health infrastructure.

Chand and Punam (2009) in their paper entitled “A Study of Human Development Indicators and Declining Child Sex Ratio in Himachal Pradesh” examined the relationship between human development and declining trend of child sex ratios in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The paper is based on the census and NFHS II data in the country. The state witnessed increasing trend in the sex ratios between 1901–1991 as the no of females per 1000 males rose from 912 to 976 (next to Kerala in India); however, the girls in the 0-6 age group in 2001 decreased to less than 900 per 1000 boys: (in 1971 girls were 982 per 1000 boys). The study revealed that in the urban areas, the ratio was alarming at 844 only even though the state has achieved a lot of development in terms of education, female, literacy and female work participation; the districts with high literacy levels have lower child sex ratios. In the rural areas in which literacy rate was very low, child sex ratios was comparatively higher. To the opinion of authors, the declining trend in the girl child sex ratio in the state will have adverse effects on the socio-cultural base of the nation; and this aspect is to be viewed seriously while formulating plan and policies for development.

Nayak (2009) in his paper entitled “Status and Trend of Human Development in North East Region of India” discussed the nature of HDR and examined the construction procedure of HDI. The paper reviewed the literature on the subject, both from the methodological aspects and empirical evidences. For analysis purpose, general scenario of the 8 states in the North Eastern Region was considered; four of these states have majority tribal population, ranging between 64-94 percent. Human development of these states was examined for the years 1981; 1991 and 2000. The author estimated HDI for 2000, and for the analysis of other two points of time 1981

and 1991, Government of India figures were taken for analysis. The paper revealed considerable magnitude of rural-urban disparity in human development in the region. The status of women in the region was contrary to popular perception; gender disparity was very high in the state of Assam and Tripura. The author concluded that India has not been able to achieve desired level of human development; HDI in India is below 0.62 and it is much below in the North Eastern Region. The author stated that increasing gender disparities, growing rural-urban gaps in human development and uneven human development levels in the states of the NER calls for urgent appropriate action.

Sakiko, Rawanth and Shivakumr (2009) in their article “Using the HDI for policy analysis” examined the GDP per capita and HDI values of (8) countries. The paper revealed that there is no exact relationship, in nature, between these two variables, GDP per capita and HDI values. Costarica, Srilanka and Jamaica with low levels of per capita incomes had higher HDI values (2001) indicating that income and HDI need not always have close correlation. The paper also indicated that during 1991, HDI values in UP and Bihar were less than half of Kerala; and rural – urban and ethnic disparities within the states were present. The paper was a summary measure to guide and reorient policies; development from human capability point of view. The authors concluded that other indicators like political freedom, personal security and public participation helps the short run policy.

Kenchalgor (2009) in the paper entitled “Recasting Human Development Indices: A look into the state of Gender Empowerment in Karnataka” examined the status of women in Karnataka. The paper evaluated the human development as well as gender development by following methodology of UNDP Human Development Report 1995 and the methodology of Karnataka’s Human Development Report 2005. The study, while using secondary data, elaborated the HDIs for Karnataka for the period 1991 and 2001; and to estimate Gender Empowerment in the districts of Karnataka, index of political participation; knowledge and decision making index and earned Income Index were worked out. Accordingly, index wise gender empowerment aspect was analyzed for the districts of Karnataka. Gender empowerment was

examined for the year 2001, combining the index with the ranks for the districts. Karnataka was placed in the second position among the states in India, after Madhya Pradesh as published in the state level Human Development Reports. The author concludes that women, still suffer from male dominance while exercising human choices; the patriarchal mind set curbs their freedom and gender inequalities prevail in some of the district over the years. To the opinion of the author, more micro level research in this direction is warranted.

Mishra (2009) in the paper entitled “A note on Human Development indices with Income Equalities” analyzed the computations of HDI by taking the methodology used by UNDP 2004 and **Sarker et al** 2006. In his paper, the author argues for the inclusion of income equality as one of the indicator along with health, education and income indices to obtain HDI, and relative weights to these indices are also be assigned. HDI by all these methods were compared and the egalitarian method of giving weights is supported by the author in his study. Further, he argued that Human Development Reports assigned weights to the indices of life expectancy, education and income arbitrarily; and it is observed that the HDI of HDR suffers from an excessive bias to pragmatism. The method suggested by the author takes care of weakly correlated indices and gives them proper representation in the composite Human Development Index.

Datta (2009) in the Paper entitled “Human Development and Economic Development: the case of Assam” indentified the poorer regions in the state of Assam with the help of selected indicators. Regional disparities have been widely examined by researcher both theoretically and empirically. The study had taken (8) variables as indicators of economic development, and districts were taken as a unit of study. Composite Developments Scores (CDS) of the districts for the year 2001 were worked out, and district rank was assigned by considering the data from Assam Human Development Report (2003). Dimension Index of development for each district is calculated by using a simple formula on the basis of considered 8 variables. It is observed that the disparities in economic development are higher in the state of Assam in comparison to human development aspects. The author considered CV of HDI to

analyze regional disparities. It is concluded that Brahmaputra valley region is more developed than the other two regions, Karbi Anglong and Cachar Hills region. The study revealed that the regional disparities of economic development are glaring; it calls for a proper developmental planning.

Nayak (2009) in the (ed) volume “Human Development: Dimensions and Strategies” while evaluating the status and trend of human development in North Eastern States from his primary survey concludes that the Indian economy in spite of a fast growing developing economy; and pursuing the policy of liberalization and globalization since early eighties, has not been able to achieve much on account of human development and welfare in the region. Human Development Index is bellow 0.62 in India and it is much bellow in North East Region of India. Rural-urban disparity and uneven human development across the states in the region were quite significant. Trend of increasing gender disparity in Nagaland and escalating rural-urban gap, particularly in the states of Assam and Meghalaya is a matter of great concern; has got a further policy implications.

Human Development in India Analysis to Action (2010) is a publication based on reports from the State Governments in the country India. Planning commission and UNDP, in collaboration initiated two projects. First, capacity building for preparation of State Human Development Reports (1999 – 2005); under this project State Governments was given support to prepare State Human Development Reports for their respective state. 21 States have already prepared such reports by creating data base at the district levels through suitable methodology of data collection. Madhya Pradesh is the first state to prepare State Human Development Report (SHDR). Second, is the project 2004–2009 which aimed at using human development data as an integral tool of planning process at the state and district level. The experiences of India in promoting human development action were shared by countries like Indonesia.

Kanakachary (2010) in his paper “Regional Disparities in Andhra Pradesh; A Spatial Study” analyzed the regional disparities and their increasing trend by dividing the districts into 6 sub regions in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The study considered

secondary data in the form of statistical abstract 2007 and Andhra Pradesh economic survey 2006-07. Sixteen variables were chosen and grouped into 4 categories to represent the economic development in the state for the year 2005 – 06. Agricultural activity and social activity are the two important dimensions in which the 16 variables were grouped. It is revealed in the study that 10 districts in the state were developed in agriculture of which 6 are in Telangana, 3 in Andhra and only one in Rayalaseema region; North Telangana was at the top while North Coastal Andhra was at the bottom. Telangana occupied 1st place in agriculture followed by Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema.

India Human Development Report (2011) the second report was released in 2011; and the first one was released in the year 2001 by the Planning Commission. The Institute of Applied Manpower Research of the Planning Commission prepared the report for the period 2000 –2007. The report revealed that the HDI for India gone up by 21 percent against 17 percent in China during the period under reference. As per the report, poverty, unemployment, child labor and inter – state disparities had a declining trend; health and education indices have raised by 13 percent and 28.5 percent respectively. Kerala, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh Goa and Punjab were in the top 5 positions, and Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Assam had HDI values which were less than the average HDI of the country. The report maintains that, health, nutrition and sanitation were the key challenges in front of the country; and the 12th five year plan (2012 – 2017) had to concentrate on these issues pertaining to Human Development as suggested by the report.

Ranabothu (2011) in his paper “Telangana Development: Regional Imbalances in Human Development in Andhra Pradesh”, to find out the regional disparities in Human Development in the state of Andhra Pradesh considered the Human Development Report prepared by Center for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) in 2008. The basic objective of the paper was to find out regional imbalances between Telangana, Andhra and Rayalaseema regions in terms of development and human capability. Apart from Human Development Indices many aspects of general well being and capabilities were analyzed in the paper by considering CESS data

pertaining to early 1990s to early 2000s; Human Poverty Index, General Development Index, Income Dimension of HDI, growth of District Domestic Product, Health Dimensions of HDI, including health facilities available per 10 lakh population during the period 2004 – 05. The paper also worked out education dimension of HDI, adult literacy, dropout rates, agriculture dimensions (2004 – 05) and other aspects of development in the form of Infrastructure Index (2004), urbanization and percentages of households with basic amenities in 1991 and 2001. The study concludes that the growth rate in the Andhra region was more than Telangana during the reference period; however, in terms of electricity facilities condition was better in Telangana. The paper revealed regional disparities in human development and individual well beings in the state.

Basumatary (2012) examined the status of human development of Bodo population living in the rural areas of Bodoland Territorial Areas Districts (BTAD) through primary survey on the basis of sample drawn from the four districts. Adopting the similar methodology of Human Development Report of Assam (2003), the author constructed the Human Development Index for each of the sample villages. The study revealed that the Tribal inhabited districts of BTAD are lagging behind the other districts of Assam in terms of human capabilities. The author, by examining various components of human development in BTAD area on the basis of both primary data and secondary data rightly pointed out that “despite the fact that Assam is a poor performer in the country, the Bodo inhabited districts are lagging significantly behind in terms of education, human health and standard of living as compared to the state average”.

Human Development Report (UNDP 2015) maintains that the human development aims at enlarging human choices in the society. Human development, instead of focusing richness of the economies, it stresses on human lives; and it directly enhances human capabilities and indirectly creates the conditions for human development. The report views that critical to this process is work, which engages people all over the world in different ways and takes up a major part of their lives; of the world’s 7.3 billion people, 3.2 billion are in jobs, and others engage in care work,

creative work, voluntary work or other kinds of work or are preparing themselves as future workers. Some of this work contributes to human development, and some does not; and some work even damages human development. Focusing on work agenda, the report concludes that work can enhance human development when policies expand productive, remunerative and satisfying work opportunities, enhance workers' skills and potential and ensure their rights, safety and well-being. The Report also pursues an action agenda based on a New Social Contract, a Global Deal and the Decent Work Agenda for enhancing human capabilities.

Human Development Report (UNDP 2020) maintains that the people of present generation are at an unprecedented moment in the history of humankind and in the history of our planet; and which, as the report argues, as warning lights—for our societies and the planet—are flashing red. The report focuses that the Covid-19 pandemic is the latest harrowing consequence of imbalances writ large. Scientists have long warned that unfamiliar pathogens will emerge more frequently from interactions among humans, livestock and wildlife, interaction that have steadily increased in scale and intensity, ultimately squeezing local ecosystems so hard that deadly viruses spill out. The novel corona virus may be the latest to do so, and unless we relax our grip on nature, it will not be the last, the report argues. The report concludes that the human development approach has much to contribute in addressing our collective paralysis in the face of alarming planetary change; and calls for a just transformation that expands human freedoms while easing planetary pressures.

2.3 Review of Literature: Methodological Aspects

Ganguli and Gupta (1976) used three sets of composite indices to measure levels of living in Indian states. First, it covers the primary components of the levels of living, namely nutrition, housing, medical care and education. Second, covers the secondary components such as leisure, security and environment. Third, is an overall index of the level of living which was constructed by taking into accounts both the primary and secondary components of the level of livings in the society. The study found that while the levels of per capita domestic product and the levels of living have

a close relationship, it was not so when the levels of per capita consumption expenditure were considered. The study shows that the states with high levels of living did not show high rates of growth of the domestic product.

Morris, (1979) released the Physical Quality of Life Index (PQLI) with the objective of measuring whether a minimum set of human needs was being met by the world's poorest people. Later, he made an attempt to construct a measure of social welfare which includes Camp and Speidel's International Human Suffering Index, which combined ten measures including income, infant mortality, nutrition, adult literacy and personal freedom.

The first Human Development Report (1990) presents a comprehensive set of human development indicators to develop HDI. But for the knowledge dimension, the choice of the indicator was limited to adult literacy. For the standard of living dimension, the report used the logarithm of (purchasing power parity adjusted) income for the calculation, with a zero weight being given to income above the average poverty line of a selected set of industrialized countries. For the knowledge dimension, Human Development Report, 1991 combined adult literacy with mean years of schooling (giving 2/3 weight to the former and 1/3 to the latter). A less drastic utility adjustment was applied in this report, utilizing the Atkinson adjustment formula for taking into account diminishing returns of higher incomes (based on PPP, GDP per capita).

Tilak (1991) by applying the methodology of estimating human development indices constructed by UNDP, made inter-state comparisons for 17 major states in India, and compared the states with other countries of the world. In the case of Indian states, his analysis revealed high correlation between human development and economic growth. Moreover, his study indicated weak linkages between poverty and human development.

The Philippine Human Development Report5 (1997) examines changes in the Human Development Index (HDI) across various provinces in Philippines for the period 1990 to 1994. The study found a change in HDI, ranging from an increase of nearly 25 percent; and a decrease of nearly 4 percent indicating that Human

Development across its provinces is influenced by the past biases “absolute stand outs are few and far between and geographical concentration of development is still evident”.

Haq (1997) the book “Human Development in South Asia, 1997”, covered only limited areas of human development aspect. Many important aspects of human development were neglected and a clear cut state-wise picture was not provided by this works in the opinion of the author. He has enlarged the parameters to work out more effective measure of human development aspects. Life Expectancy Index, Per capita Income Index, Education Index, Quality of Life Index, Poverty Eradication Index, and Index of Urbanization have been calculated state wise. Quality of Life Index numbers for rural and urban, along with spatial disparities were worked out in the article. Besides inter states disparities, the indices showed significant levels of correlation between ‘0.86 to 0.97’, and the study takes 1988-1994 as study period.

Vyasulu and Vani (1997) used district level secondary data of the state of Karnataka to measure the status of human development of the state using Human Development Index (HDI). Subject to data limitations, they constructed a set of six indices to estimate HDI, and the ranking of the districts were found to be more or less stable. However, the study showed that there was a high degree of variation within each state reflecting greater intra-state disparity in development. While making the concluding remarks, they suggested that sustained political support across-the board for the improvement in each district was essential, if HDI was to show improvement.

The UNDP Report (UNDP-IDF 1998) reflecting on disparities in human development between the states and districts in the country India. The report identified 13 most backward districts in the country in terms of female literacy in the 7+ age group on the basis of 1991 census data. The districts in question were all located in the five states: Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh indicating that some effective policy is required for the correction of deprivations in the enlisted district in particular.

Annapurani (2003) in the article, “Concept and Estimation of Human Development Index” worked out Physical Quality of Life Index (PQLI) by taking

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Life Expectancy (LE) and basic literacy as indicators of PQLI. For analysis, she had taken 16 states in India and worked out the Human Development Index (HDI) and Gender Development Index (GDI). Further, the author considered fourteen countries for comparison of ranks in Human Development Index and Per Capita Income. In her opinion, each state of development requires new packages to stimulate further higher level of development. Satisfactory level of human development needs suitable packages relevant to social, economic and technological conditions of the region, as stressed by the author.

Kundu, Sheriff and Ghosh (2007) in their article “Index of Human Development in India : Indicators, Scanning and Composition” stated that the concept of human development can be traced to oriental societies as Kautilya’s Arthashastra and Adamsmith’s Wealth of Nations which can be referred as good for the common man. Methodological issues, weightages and the like adopted by various studies in the construction of HDI are questioned; and they worked out Human Development Indices with alternative methods. To them, planning bodies, policy makers and the academicians are to interact among themselves to find out better tools and methodology. The paper also maintained that no single method of HDI construction is superior or inferior; and HDI depends on the conditions of development of the region; and choice of indicators and methodology used in the study. The planning commission and other bodies should obtain larger acceptability in the selection of indicators and methodology while constructing Human Development Index.

Haq (2009) in his book “The Birth of the Human Development Index” states that GNP as a measure of human welfare is incomplete; GNP is just one dimension and does not include social, political cultural and other choices that the people make in the society. Human Development Index (HDI) has emerged as a new composite index of socio-economic progress. The author has narrated the guiding principles in the constructions as well as methodology for analyzing HDI. The validity of HDI in comparison to GNP has been elaborated in the paper; ranks in GNP and HDI were examined and it is found that the HDI ranks is better than GNP ranks with regard to countries like China and Srilanka (1994 HDR). National priorities potential growth,

disparities between people, early warning system and choice over time are revealed by the HDI as elaborated by the author; criticisms and possible refinements in HDI over the years were also described vividly in the paper. The author, in conclusion, admits that HDI is neither perfect nor fully developed and it requires continuous analysis and refinement to represent human development aspect properly.

Human Development Report (UNDP 2010) brought major changes in regards to construction of Human Development Index (HDI). In this report (2010), the indicators of education and income index were modified. Knowledge dimension, earlier which was measured with adult literacy rate and gross enrollment ratio is now measured by two indicators – expected years of schooling and mean years of schooling. GDP per capita which was considered as indicator of standard of living has been replaced by GNI as it includes international remittances from and to by the citizens along with flow of aid from abroad. Life expectancy at birth is retained as health indicator. Method of aggregation was also changed from UNDP Human Development Report, 2010 onwards. Geometric mean of the three indices has been introduced to ascertain the performance indicator wise.

2.4 Conclusion

In the previous sections of the present chapter, an extensive analysis has been made on the available and relevant literature on human development aspect, in terms of both methodological and empirical aspect of literature. There are large numbers of studies of review of literature on human development which were undertaken in India and abroad on various aspects of human development. Some studies dealt with defining the concept of development, human development and their measurement for various nations and sub nations; while some others dealt either in the development of new methodology of construction for the measurement of human development index or refinement of the older methods. As analyzed in the above sections, there were studies debate relating to the selection of variables to be included in human development index and weights to be assigned to different variables under consideration in the construction of human development index. While some studies

dealt with disparities on human development between rural and urban areas; between males and females; and while others concentrated on trend of human development. Some scholars have made an attempt to study the relationship between human development and economic growth. There were also some studies which argued in favor of a balanced path of development, while some authors favor for increased allocation of resources on social sectors for improving human development.

The Planning Commission, Government of India through National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi prepared National Human Development Reports for the years 1981, 1991 and 2001. Human development indices were constructed for all the states and union territories of India for the year 1981 and 1991. In 2001 report, the HDI was constructed for major states only due to non availability of required data for smaller states and union territories. The Assam Human Development Report 2003 highlights human development explaining district wise construction of HDI and GDI in which performances of districts in BTAD area is not available. The Assam Human Development Report 2014 illustrates human development performances of the districts in the state along with districts in BTAD and after Assam HDR 2014, no study has been undertaken on human development aspects in the districts of BTAD; neither by any individual author nor by any institution. Therefore the present study is undertaken with an idea to generate data on human development aspect for the tribal inhabited district Kokrajhar of Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD). Block wise and village wise analysis in terms of human development indicators has been made in the present study. However, the study covers only rural areas of the district, keeping the room for other researchers to study human development aspect of the urban areas of the tribal inhabited district of Kokrajhar. Moreover, the present study is an indicative; more extensive study may be undertaken by the researchers in the days to come.