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AN ENQUIRY INTO THE EFFECT OF INDICATORS ON HDI

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ABSTRACT

In this paper an attempt is made to find out which of the indicators of Human Development affects the Human Development Index to the maximum extent and to what extent the life expectancy in the nation depends on the percentage of its urban population on the basis of the data published in Human Development Report 2015 for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The result of the analysis by Spearman's Correlation Coefficient shows that GDP per capita affects the HDI to the maximum extent followed by Life expectancy, Population (Urban), Public expenditure on education and Employment to Population ratio and Life expectancy in the nation significantly depends on the percentage of its urban population.

KEYWORDS
HD, HDI, Life expectancy.

1. INTRODUCTION

Human development is "a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy" (Sen 1999: 3). Therefore, widening of people's choices should be the goal of the public policies aiming at human development promotion. In order to assess the level of human development, to compare it with other countries' achievements, or to evaluate different policy proposals, decision-makers have to rely on an accurate indicator of human development. Since Gross National Product (GNP) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could not serve this function, the Human Development Index (HDI) has been introduced as a more adequate measure. The United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) has been preparing Human Development Report (HDR) from the year 1990. According to HDR 2015, Human development is a process of enlarging people's choices — as they acquire more capabilities and enjoy more opportunities to use those capabilities. But human development is also the objective, so it is both a process and an outcome. Human development implies that people must influence the process that shapes their lives. In all this, economic growth is an important means to human development, but not the goal. Human development is development of the people through building human capabilities, for the people by improving their lives and by the people through active participation in the processes that shape their lives. It is broader than other approaches, such as the human resource approach; the basic needs approach and the human welfare approach. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index focusing on three basic dimensions of human development: to lead a long and healthy life, measured by life expectancy at birth; the ability to acquire knowledge, measured by mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling; and the ability to achieve a decent standard of living, measured by gross national income per capita. ***In this backdrop,*** our main focus is to find out which of the indicators affects the HDI to the maximum extent and to what extent the life expectancy in the nation depends on the percentage of its urban population.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Anand and Sen (2000)[2] make an attempt to integrate the concern for human development in the present with that in the future. In arguing for sustainable human development, it appeals to the notion of ethical ``universalism'' - an elementary demand for impartiality of claims - applied within and between generations. Economic sustainability is often seen as a matter of intergenerational equity, but the specification of what is to be sustained is not always straight forward. The addendum explores the relationship between distributional equity, sustainable development, optimal growth, and pure time preference. Neumayer (2001)[3] proposes to qualify a country's human development as potentially unsustainable if the net depreciation of its manufactured and natural capital stock is bigger than its investment. Linking the Human Development Index with sustainability in this way would allow the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to check whether a country is 'mortgaging the choices of future generations'. An analysis for 155 countries leads to the conclusion that the indicated human development of 42 countries is potentially unsustainable. Most of these countries have a low HDI, which means that even this low achievement is not sustainable into the future. The results make a case for both a policy reform within these countries and for external assistance to help maintain at least this low level of human development. Alkire (2002)[4] develops an account of dimensions of human development, and shows its usefulness and its limitations—both in general and in relation to Amartya Sen.'s capability approach. The second half of their paper surveys other major ''lists'' of dimensions that have been published in poverty studies, cross cultural psychology, moral philosophy, quality of life indicators, participatory development, and basic needs, and compares and contrasts them with the account sketched here. Akçay (2006)[5] explores the relationship between corruption and human development in a sample of 63 countries. In order to test the impact of corruption on human development, three different corruption indexes are used. Test results reveal that there is a statistically significant negative relationship between corruption indexes and human development. Empirical evidence of the study suggests that more corrupt countries tend to have lower levels of human development. In brief, this study extends the list of negative consequences of corruption and argues that corruption in all its aspects retards human development. Bhardwaj, Ansari, Rajput (2012)[6] make a conceptual study on human development. According to them, the political leadership of modern states has a primary objective of improving the quality of life of their people. This they attempt to realize through putting in place economic and social programs that will address the needs of their people. For developing economies, the objective is usually to improve living standards and have as many of their people as possible above and beyond the poverty line. For already developed economies, the political leadership endeavors to sustain the level of development already attained while striving to improve in those areas in which the Human Development Index (HDI) indicates a need for improvement. The issue of human development, therefore, is of critical concern since it can be perceived as a measure of how well the ship of state is steered in identifying and meeting the needs of its people. It is also an indication of the level of participation of the people in governance in terms of articulating their needs and in developing policies and programs for improved living standards. Divya (2013)[7] attempts to find out the impact of financial inclusion on daily wage earners located in autonagar, Tenali considering a sample size of 210 wage earners. After analysis of the data collected with the help of a questionnaire she says that financial inclusion is very useful for daily wage earners. Kumar and Venkatesha (2014)[8] make an attempt to discuss the overview of financial inclusion using PMJDY in India. According to them financial inclusion through PMJDY is one of the greatest steps ever taken to eradicate poverty and this scheme indeed helped many to come into the main stream of economy and reduce financial untouchability. Dangi and Kumar (2013)[9] focus on the RBI and GOI initiatives and policy measures, current status and future prospects of financial inclusion in India on the basis of facts and data provided by various secondary sources. They conclude that financial inclusion shows positive and valuable changes because of change in strength and technological changes. Therefore, adequate provisions should be inherent in the business model to ensure that the poor are not driven away from banking. This requires training the banks forefront staff and managers as well as business correspondents on the human side of banking. Garg (2014)[10] gives a note to bring out issues and challenges for reducing financial exclusion. She concludes that banks should take a step forward to formulate specific plans to enhance Financial Inclusion of unbanked section of the society. At the same time, they should device the strategies to reduce their transaction cost to actively participate in the process of Financial Inclusion treating it as Business Opportunity and Corporate Social Responsibility. Sarania and Maity (2014)[11] examine the impact Self-Help Groups (SHGs) on financial inclusion of rural people in the district of Baksa, Assam. They select a total of 180 respondents [(90 participants) and (90 nonparticipants)] for the purpose of the study and the overall results reveal that the SHG-Bank linkage programme increased the degree of financial inclusion among SHG households as compared with non-participant's households. Sharma and Kukreja (2013)[12] highlight the basic features of financial inclusion, and its need for social and economic development of the society. They focus on the role of financial inclusion, in strengthening the India's position in relation to other countries economy.

For analysing such facts, they gather data for the study through secondary sources including report of RBI, NABARD, books on financial inclusion and other articles written by eminent authors. After analysing the facts and figures they conclude that undoubtedly financial inclusion is playing a catalytic role for the economic and social development of society but still there is a long road ahead to achieve the desired outcomes. Uma and Rupa (2013)[13] highlight the role of SHGs in financial inclusion. After analysis the primary data collected through random sampling method they conclude that there is a positive relationship between SHGs membership and financial inclusion. According to them after the membership to SHGs there is enormous increase in the number of bank accounts by members to the extent of 82.7 percent from 17.3 percent before membership. With that, the credit availed by the members and annual repayment of the loan also shows positive trend. Thus SHGs help the deprived section of people to enter into formal financial sector and through that social and economic empowerment. Garg and Agarwal (2014)[14] make an attempt to understand financial inclusion and its importance for overall development of society and Nation's economy. They focus on approaches adopted by various Indian banks towards achieving the ultimate goal of financial inclusion for inclusive growth in India and analyses of past years' progress and achievements. They collect the relevant data for this study from various secondary sources. According to them the regulator has to create a suitable regulatory environment that would keep the interest of all the stakeholders. Regulatory bodies, banks and Government should intensively work on creation of awareness by educating people about finance. They also conclude that thus, Innovative products, out of the box service models, effective regulatory norms and leveraging technology together could change the landscape of the current progress of the much needed and wanted, Financial Inclusion Program. Deepak and Prakash (2014)[15] try to identify the various initiatives of the RBI in crafting & delivering financial products, oriented towards those groups who are financially excluded. On the other hand they also comprehend the policy schemes of the government considering factors such as poverty, illiteracy (financial illiteracy) and human development index. They make this attempt to outline the fact that financial inclusion is contemplation unless inclusive growth is achieved. They conclude that the RBI despite making significant improvements in all the areas relating to financial viability, profitability and competitiveness, there are concerns that much needed banking services have not reached a vast segment of the population, especially the underprivileged sections of the society. They also opine that development of a country like India is possible only when there is an inclusive growth where the poverty & the financially illiterate are brought to the main stream by the RBI & Government through its policies & schemes. Bagli and Dutta (2012)[16] seek to examine the achievement of the Indian states regarding the financial inclusion. They compute a comprehensive measure of financial inclusion for each state applying the methodology of Rotated Principal Component Analysis. For this analysis they consider ten indicators of financial Inclusion. They use the data published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government of India. According to them ranks of the states in accordance with the composite score show that although the state of Goa is the best, most of the states in southern region have performed better in terms of financial inclusion. However, the levels of financial inclusion of the states in India have a low mean and high disparity. This study reveals a strong positive association between the human development and the financial inclusion of the states in India. Sarkar (2016)[17] makes an attempt is made to make a conceptual discussion on financial inclusion. Discussion is made on financial exclusion, financial inclusion, approaches adopted by banks, measures taken by other regulatory bodies and various government initiatives for promoting financial inclusion, the impact of financial inclusion on social development. At the end an attempt is also made to make some concluding remarks.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is based on the secondary data collected from the published Human Development Report 2015 (HDR 2015) for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In this study we have taken into consideration some indicators of Human Development Index (HDI) such as Life Expectancy, GDP per capita, Population (Urban), Public expenditure on education and Employment to population and we have taken HDI rank of some countries like Norway, Germany, United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Brazil, China, South Africa, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. (Table1). Our objective of this study is to know which of the indicators affect the HDI to the maximum extent and the effect of urban population on Life expectancy. To meet the objective, we have used Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient measure.

TABLE 1: SHOWING THE STATUS OF HDI WITH SOME OF THE INDICATORS ON 2015

	HDI Rank	Life Expectancy	GDP per capita	Population (Urban)	Public Expenditure on Education (% of GDP)	Employment to Population (% 15 years and Older)
Norway	1	81.6	62448	80.2	6.6	62.6
Germany	6	80.9	43207	74.3	5	56.7
United States	8	79.1	51340	83.1	5.2	57.8
United Kingdom	14	80.7	37017	80	6	57.4
Japan	20	83.5	35614	93	3.8	56.8
Russian Fed.	50	70.1	23564	74.3	4.1	60.1
Sri Lanka	73	74.9	9426	15.3	1.7	52.6
Brazil	75	74.5	14555	85.4	5.8	65.6
China	90	75.8	11525	54.4	N/A	68
South Africa	116	57.4	12106	63.3	6.2	39.2
India	130	68	5238	32.4	3.8	52.2
Bangladesh	142	71.6	2853	29.9	2.2	67.8
Pakistan	147	66.2	4454	37.2	2.5	51.6

Source: HDR 2015

4. ANALYSIS

From the analysis we find that correlation coefficient between HDI rank and Life expectancy, between HDI rank and GDP per capita, between HDI rank and Population (Urban), between HDI rank and Public expenditure on education and between HDI rank and employment to population are 0.82, 0.95, 0.57, 0.54 and 0.19 respectively. From this we can say that GDP per capita effect HDI rank to the maximum extent followed by Life expectancy, urban population, and Public expenditure on education and Employment to population respectively. On the other hand, the analysis also shows that the correlation coefficient between Life expectancy and Population (Urban) is 0.58. So we can say that Population (urban) has significant effect on Life expectancy. (Table 2)

TABLE 2: SHOWING VALUE OF SPEARMAN'S RANK CORRELATION COEFFICIENT

HDI	Indicators considered	Correlation Coefficient
HDI Rank	Life expectancy	0.82
HDI Rank	GDP per capita	0.95
HDI Rank	Population (Urban)	0.57
HDI Rank	Public expenditure on education	0.54
HDI Rank	Employment to Population	0.19
Life expectancy	Population (Urban)	0.58

Source: As per analysis of the secondary data.

5. CONCLUSION

Human Development should be the ultimate objective as it is a source of empowerment that allows people to participate more effectively in the economic and social process. Though there is an increasing trend in the HDI from 1980 to 2014, India's HDI value for 2014 is 0.609, positioning the country at 130 out of 188 countries and territories which is the lowest among the BRICS countries, with Russia is at 50, Brazil is at 75, China is at 90, and South Africa is at116, and India is slightly ahead of Bangladesh and Pakistan. While China improved its ranking by thirteen places between 2009 and 20114, India's position improved by just six ranks. Thus a lot remains to be done. (Table3 and Table4). As result shows that GDP per capita effect HDI rank to the maximum extent followed by Life expectancy, urban population, and Public expenditure on education and Employment to population respectively and Population (urban) has significant effect on Life expectancy (Table 2). We have to have to take into consideration these indicators seriously to increase as increase of these factors will help increase in Human Development Index

TABLE 3: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX TRENDS

Year	HDI value
1980	0.369
1990	0.431
2000	0.483
2005	0.527
2008	0.554
2010	0.570
2011	0.581
2012	0.583
2013	0.586
2014	0.609

Source: HDR for UNDP

TABLE 4: CHANGES IN HDI RANK

Country	HDI 2014		Change in Rank	
	Value	Rank	Over 2013-2014	Between 2009 and 2014
Norway	0.944	1	0	0
Germany	0.916	6	0	3
United States	0.915	8	-3	-3
United Kingdom	0.907	14	0	-2
Japan	0.891	20	-3	-3
Russian Fed.	0.798	50	7	8
Sri Lanka	0.757	73	0	5
Brazil	0.755	75	4	3
China	0.727	90	1	13
South Africa	0.666	116	2	4
India	0.609	130	5	6
Bangladesh	0.570	142	0	0
Pakistan	0.538	147	-1	0

Source: HDR for UNDP

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