

# **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

## **(Unit I)**

Human development summarizes development as a process of enlarging people's choices, allowing them the opportunity to live longer, to acquire knowledge.

The term 'human development' is accepted in the development economics literature as expansion of human capabilities, a widening of choices, an enhancement of freedom and a fulfilment of human rights.

Rising incomes and expanding outputs in the human development 40 framework are seen as the means and not the ends of development.

Indeed, defining people's well being as the end of development and treating economic growth as a means have been central messages of the annual Human Development Reports published by the UNDP since 1990.

Political freedom and human rights are also important concerns of human development. Human Development is a holistic concept of development as it covers all aspects of development.

In its Human Development Report 1990, UNDP developed Human Development Index (HDI), which is a comparative measure ranking countries by poverty, literacy, education, life expectancy, and other factors of human well-being.

The dimensions of well-being are related to:

- i. Longevity — the ability to live long and healthy life.
- ii. Education — the ability to read, write and acquire knowledge.
- iii. Command over resources — the ability to enjoy a decent standard of living and have a socially meaningful life.

Mahbub-ul-Haq, the main architect behind the publication of UNDP's Human Development Report of 1990 emphasized that the basic purpose of development is to enlarge people's options.

He further says "In principle, these options or choices can be infinite and can change over time. Income is only one of those options but not the sum total of human life. Health, education, physical environment and freedom are among other choices as important as income."

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**Institution: DSPMU, Ranchi**  
**Teacher's Name: Sumedha Chaudhury**