

# Human development and economic sustainability

## Outline

### 1) Introduction:

Human development brings educated youth, healthy population and gender equality which increases the overall productivity and eventually leads to economic sustainability.

### 2) Understanding the relationship between human development and economic sustainability

### 3) The dimensions through which human development contributes in economic sustainability

3.1) By improving education standards

3.2) Through creating a healthy population

3.3) Through reducing gender gap

3.4) By nurturing intellectual leaders

3.5) By upskilling the population ✓

3.6) Through population control:  
~~proper~~ resource management ✓

4) Road blocks in human development that disturb economic sustainability

4.1) Meagreness of focus on education sector ✓

4.2) Lack of investment in health sector ✓

4.3) Scantiness of skill enhancement ✓

4.4) Dearth in population control

5) Ways and means to reduce the hurdles in human development to ensure economic sustainability

5.1) Incentivising education to increase literacy rate ✓

5.2) Launching programs for health awareness and improvement ✓

5.3) Focussing more on skill development ✓

5.4) Enhancing awareness regarding family planning ✓

6) Conclusion

It is believed that manpower of a country is a country's greatest wealth. Although, when most of the population is uneducated, unhealthy and unskilled then that population becomes a burden rather than an asset. A developed population brings innovation, creativity and coordination which results in ~~the~~ great productivity.

There are many aspects of human development that eventually lead to economic sustainability. It brings greater productivity through improved education standards and a healthy population. It not only reduces gender gap but it also creates a way for intellectual leaders. Looking at the other side of the coin, there remain some serious hindrances in the way of human development. For instance, irregularity of focus on education and health sector. Having said that, there still are some practical and pragmatic ways to encounter those challenges. One can address those challenges by incentivising the education sector and/or launching programs for ~~be~~ a greater health awareness and ~~an~~ improved health service. Accordingly, human development brings educated youth, healthy population and gender equality which increases the overall productivity and

eventually leads to economic sustainability.

Before diving into the dimensions through which human development contributes in economic sustainability; it is important to get familiar with the nexus between human development and economic sustainability. Human development acts as a catalyst in the growth of any country. A country is a collection of a permanent population in a permanent territory. Therefore, developed population means a developed and economically sustainable country. Human development enhances the productivity of the population. Greater productivity leads to greater quality production. Similarly, a greater quality production increases exports of a country which resultantly bring economic sustainability.

Human development increases economic sustainability by improving ~~the~~ education standards. Education is one of the basic requirements for a nation to prosper in the modern world. Education empowers the population with creativity and compatibility. Educated youth invests its energy in research and

development which leads to greater productivity. Furthermore, education brings technological advancement which is one of the greatest powers of a country in 21<sup>st</sup> century. Hence, human development brings economic sustainability by uplifting education standards.

Moreover, it plays its part in creating a healthy population. There is a very famous saying that "health is wealth". Health is indeed a wealth, when a nation is not healthy there are very little chances for that nation to prosper. Compromised health reduces the productivity of an individual. It further leads to more complications like sick leaves, increased health expenditure and other costs. Moreover, an unhealthy nation is a burden on the national exchequer. Human development solves most of these problems because human development focuses on primary, secondary and tertiary health care to all the population. Further, it creates awareness about healthy routines and their benefits. All in all, human development helps in economic sustainability by improving health of a nation.

By the same token, human development ensures economic sustainability by reducing gender gap. In a world where half of the population is female. How, on earth, can a nation prosper if half of its population does not play active role in economy. Human development increase women participation in economic activities. Moreover, healthy, educated and skilled women become confident to come out of their homes into the market. ~~For example~~ According to analysts **gender inequalities are reducing** in the world, thanks to human development. Ergo, human development plays its part in reducing gender gap and in turn ensures economic sustainability.

Moreover, human development plays a vital role in nurturing intellectual leaders. For a country to become economically sustainable; it is imperative that it has the quality leaders that can take the necessary decisions. Human development provides just that. It uplifts the intellectual level of the population. They, as a result, become aware about policies and long term interests of a country. An intellectually sound population votes for intellectually

Strong leaders. Those leaders eventually make policies in the larger interest of the nation. Therefore, by creating a sensible population human development bring intellectual leaders which eventually leads to economic sustainability.

In addition to that, human development upskills the population. Skill is one of the most important quality of an individual for one's economic sustainability. An unskilled person has nothing to offer which results in one being a burden on a the nation's exchequer. Human development focuses on skills development through <sup>establishing</sup> technical colleges and national level skill development workshops. People are encouraged and incentivised to learn productive skills. It leads to skilled population which leads to greater productivity. Furthermore, skilled population becomes an asset for a nation instead being a burden. Therefore, human development as a tool to upskill the population leads to economic sustainability.

What is more that human development brings to the table? It creates awareness about family

planning and population control. Resources of a country are always limited i.e. they can only be used for a specific number of people for a specific period of time. When there is an unbridled growth in population it increases burden on the limited resources and resource management becomes a herculean task. Human development addresses this issue quite effectively. Human development increases awareness about family planning by nationwide programs like "Bachay do hi achey". Two children are more than enough. It focuses on sensitization about the pros and cons of ~~not planning~~ family planning. To sum it all up, human development contributes to economic sustainability by increasing family planning awareness.

Previous paragraphs shed light upon contributions of human development in economic sustainability. Next paragraphs will spell out the challenges faced by human development.

First and the foremost challenge in the way of human development is the meagreness of focus on education sector. Education is one of the primary aspects of human development



but there is lack of focus on education sector in many countries. Meager allocation of GDP for education is one of the most significant hurdles in the way of human development. For instance, Pakistan allocates only **1.7 percent of its budget** for the education sector. This results in lack of infrastructure, and scantiness of even the basic facilities in the educational institutes. Therefore, lack of focus on education sector is a major impediment in achieving human development.

By the same token, dearth of investment in health sector is also a roadblock in the way of achieving human development. Health is a major contributor in an individual's productivity. ~~Considering~~ the lack of investment in health sector - i.e. Pakistan allocates only **1.2 percent of its GDP (gross domestic product)** - results in lack of basic health services to the population. When there is limited access to even basic health facilities, how can one expect a healthy and a productive nation? Hence, meagreness of investment in the health sector serves as a major hurdle in achieving human development.

Along with that, lack of focus on skill enhancement hinders human development. In order to survive and thrive in twenty first century, it is essential to have the required set of skills. Unfortunately, many educational institutes focus more on providing the mere degrees rather than imparting the much needed skills. The focus of the government - specially of third world countries - is also lacking in terms of human development and skill enhancement of the youth. Resultantly, you an unskilled youth turns into burden instead of being an asset. Therefore, lack of skill enhancement is also another point to ponder in relation to human development.

Another bottleneck in the way of achieving human development is the minimal control over population ~~the~~ increase. There are about seven billion people on planet earth. In comparison, resources are limited. The way population is increasing, the resources are depleting in the same way. It is visible more clearly in developing nations where the governments have limited financial resources and ~~the~~ they have large populations to take care of. Moreover, the rate, at

which the population is increasing, is alarming. Rubbing salt into the wound, the governments are not doing anything concrete to control the augmenting population. As a result, it is becoming more and more difficult to manage resources and to focus on human development. Ergo, meagreness of control on population growth is another hindrance in the way of achieving human development.

Above paragraphs shed light upon the hindrances in the way of achieving human development. Upcoming paragraphs discuss the ways and means to minimize the hurdles to ensure economic sustainability.

First and the foremost thing, that can be done to improve human development is to incentivise education in order to increase literacy rate. Education is one of the most effective tools to improve human development, as it increases human consciousness and creativity. Unfortunately, millions of children are still out of school. For example in Pakistan, more than **24 million** children are still out of school. It is the need of the hour to take concrete steps in getting

The out of school children back to school. Accordingly, incentivising education encourages parents to send their children to schools. There should be <sup>more</sup> scholarships like **Ehsas Scholarship Program**. This should be taken up to primary level because it is important that the children get proper education. Hence, incentivising education improves literacy rate which in turn leads to better human development and eventually <sup>leads</sup> to economic sustainability.

By the same token, human development can be enhanced by launching programs for health awareness and health improvement. Health is one of the most precious assets of an individual. Moreover, a healthy society inevitably grows with leaps and bounds. Similarly, it is important to have focus on improving the health of people. There should be more awareness programs through social media, print media and electronic media. Campaigns regarding the benefits of exercise and proper diet should be run. Moreover, government should provide facilities like **Health card** and other similar steps should be taken. Health improves the productivity of a nation and eventually leads to human development. Ergo, spreading

health awareness and improving health awareness is a catalyst to achieve human development and economic sustainability.

Not only that but focussing more on skill enhancements of the youth can also be very helpful in reducing the hurdles in the way of human development and resultant economic sustainability. Skill is what makes people productive. People after learning and mastering new skills apply them to earn and start businesses. This results in overall enhanced wealth generation. Governments should focus on such areas. Nationwide skills enhancement programs should be launched. Incentivising those programs can be more effective in the cases of third world countries where most of the population is below poverty line.

Last but not the least, enhancing awareness regarding family planning is a way to reduce the bottlenecks in achieving human development and economic sustainability. Family planning is common in advanced countries due to the laws and awareness regarding family planning. Again, the case is not the same in developing countries. Families tend to be

larger. The people should be sensitized about the ill effects of having a lot of kids. Moreover, they should be made aware about the benefits of smaller families. The myth regarding having maximum male children should be busted. This can be achieved through nationwide social campaigns, in the shape of addresses of religious clerics, media and ~~and~~ programmes on media. This would result in reduction in population growth rate. Then, the specified population can be worked upon to improve human development. Hence, propagating awareness about family planning can also be very helpful.

In conclusion, one can say that human development has a major role in economic sustainability. Human development results in better productivity and enhanced net worth of a nation. It does that by improving education standards and by creating a healthy population. Moreover, by upskilling the population and by managing and controlling the population control human development plays its part in better resource management and eventually in economic sustainability. Like almost every area in the world, there are

also some problems like lack of focus on education sector and dearth of investments in health sector. These problems can be sorted-out by taking steps in the right direction. Incentivising education, launching programs for health awareness and improvement in health sector being few of them. This essay spelled out the manifestations that showed that human development contributes in economic sustainability. It also pointed out some hindrances in the way of human development, and finally, it discussed about the possible and pragmatic wayouts to reduce the hinderances in the way of human development to achieve economic sustainability. All in all, it can be said that human development plays a vital role in achieving economic sustainability.

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Good attempt