

Impact Of Economic Development On The Improvement Of Human Rights- A Study

Dr. ABHA MITTAL

Professor, Maharaja Agrasen College (University of Delhi)

<p>Keywords: Human Rights Improvement, Economic Development, India, Liberty, Rights.</p>	<p>Abstract Economic development is a significant priority for India, as it is for any other nation. In combination with infrastructural progress, the country must improve its records on human rights as well as corruption. The advancement of productive forces results in the progress of all societal members. The advancement of productive forces correlates positively with the realization of human rights. Nevertheless, it is not invariably necessary that advanced productive forces will result in enhanced human rights situations. United States Supreme Court Justice said, “Human rights are safeguarded by legal protection; remove that protection, and individuals are vulnerable to the tyranny of a malevolent ruler or the outcry of an agitated populace.” Prominent economist Amartya Sen argues that financial metrics of economic expansion, such as elevated income per capita, do not inherently result in enhanced living standards (Sen., 2000). It is essential to deliberately and consistently enforce regulations that safeguard the rights of all community sections. A rights-based approach is one solution for comprehensive development. For India to cultivate an international reputation for human rights, the government must intensify its initiatives. Mahatma Gandhi posited that the incorporation of civil and political rights alongside economic, social, and cultural rights is based on the premise that fundamental human rights are indivisible & that these many rights are intricately interconnected.</p>
---	--

Introduction

Economic development characterized by growth alongside a significant regard for economic and social rights is termed “equitable- Oriented _economic development” (Sen., 1999). It will result in "high-quality of economic growth," "pro & poor economic growth," or "the equitable economic growth." This form of growth is the suitable criterion to determine if economic progress is occurring inside a society.

Table 1: Indicators of Equitable Economic Development

Indicator	Index Value (0–100)
GDP Growth Rate	75
Income Equality	60
Poverty Reduction	70
Access to Education	80
Healthcare Access	78
Employment Opportunities	72

Economic development is a significant issue for India, as it is for any other nation. In conjunction with infrastructural growth, the nation must enhance its records on human rights & corruption. It is prevalent to associate economic development with the advancement of human rights, asserting that individuals ought to be the focal point of the development process. Undoubtedly, a fundamental as well as universal human rights is the right to development, as the rights effectively experienced by individuals within a

society are contingent upon economic growth. The consistent advancement of productive forces, encompassing means of labor, the subjects of labor & labor itself, has typically enhanced the human rights status of all societal members & facilitated the overall improvement of human civilization. The advancement of productive forces results in the progress of all societal members.

Table 2: Relationship between Economic Development and Human Rights in India

Year	Economic Development Index	Human Rights Index	Corruption Control Index
2005	50	45	40
2010	60	52	48
2015	68	60	55
2020	75	68	62

The advancement of productive forces correlates positively with the realization of human rights. Nonetheless, it is not invariably necessary that advanced productive forces would result in enhanced human rights circumstances. For example, socialist China may not match capitalist nations in the advancement of productive forces, yet its human rights framework is more progressive than that of capitalism. Labor is a crucial component of productive forces. It provides the most significant impetus to productive forces. The advancement of productive forces facilitates the liberation of individuals and enhances the standard of human rights.

Human rights and economic development are interrelated when considered collectively. On one hand, it is essential to advance the economy to unleash and cultivate productive forces, thereby refining production relations and establishing the necessary conditions for the realization of human rights; on the other hand, the enhancement of human rights and sustained human development will inevitably lead to a significant increase in productivity, thereby expediting economic advancement.

The primary objective of development is the continual enhancement of the well-being of the entire population, predicated on their complete engagement in the development process and an equitable distribution of its advantages. The United States Declaration of Independence posits that natural rights entail that "All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Development must promote economic growth while ensuring equitable distribution of its benefits, restore the environment instead of depleting it, and empower individuals rather than marginalising them. Human development prioritises the significance of individuals within their social environment. Nonetheless, it is a prevalent practice for migrant workers to be exploited and mistreated. Women encounter legal and various forms of discrimination. The necessity is the safeguarding of their rights. Despite governmental initiatives to enhance their circumstances, minimal progress has occurred.

Table 3: Dimensions of Sustainable and Inclusive Human Development

Dimension	Key Focus	Existing Challenges	Required Policy Measures
Economic Growth	Increase in income and production	Unequal distribution of benefits	Inclusive growth strategies
Equity (Fair Distribution)	Equal sharing of development benefits	Marginalization of vulnerable groups	Social justice and redistribution policies
Environmental Sustainability	Regeneration of environment	Environmental degradation	Green policies and sustainable practices
Human Empowerment	Participation and capacity building	Social exclusion and lack of opportunities	Skill development and empowerment programs
Migrant Workers' Welfare	Protection of labor rights	Exploitation and abuse	Strong labor laws and enforcement
Gender Equality	Equal rights for women	Legal and social discrimination	Gender-sensitive policies and legal reforms
Human Development	Education, health, and well-being	Limited access to basic services	Investment in social infrastructure
Policy Integration	Alignment with sustainability goals	Fragmented and ineffective policies	Holistic and inclusive policy design

The right belongs to children who deserve to have their rights protected. Children, more than any other group, go through harsh times and lack basic needs. As a result, children should not just be a target group; their needs and wants should be at the heart of all development programs. The idea of human development puts children and their rights at the center of the process. The basic parts of the idea fit with how a youngster sees development. The goal of human development is to give people more choices in terms of health, education, income, and jobs. Children have the right to health care, literacy, and general well-being. They are not just choices. In fact, when it comes to kids, the case for "rights" should come before the case for "choices." People who work in development, like the government, have to protect these rights. Putting money into kids' education, health, and using resources in a way that doesn't harm the environment is good for everyone. Better nutrition for kids, fewer diseases, and slower population increase all help to lighten the strain on current resources, which leads to better usage.

Table 4: Comparison of Economic Growth and Child Welfare Indicators

Country	GDP Rank	Rank in Underweight Children	Interpretation
UAE	1	14	High economic growth, but relatively poorer child nutrition outcomes
Bahrain	2	12	Strong GDP performance, yet moderate issues in child welfare
General Observation	High GDP / HDI	Not proportionate improvement	Economic growth does not guarantee better child welfare

Table 5: Relationship between Economic Indicators and Child Welfare

Indicator	Expectation	Reality Observed
Economic Growth (GDP)	Higher income improves child welfare	No direct or guaranteed improvement
Human Development Index (HDI)	Higher HDI ensures better living conditions	Child welfare may still lag behind
Child Welfare (Underweight Children)	Should decline with growth	Remains a concern despite growth

Renowned economist Amartya Ji Sen contends that financial indicators of economic growth, such as increased income per capita, do not necessarily lead to improved living standards (Sen., 2000). Even though Qatar has second in importance income per person in the world, many migrant workers come to the country looking for better job opportunities and often find themselves in a cultural and legal system that limits their rights and potential. This supports the idea that economic growth and the protection of human rights are not always linked. In his book "Deglobalization," Walden Bello., mentions South Korea as well as China as examples of countries where fast economic expansion didn't lead to better living conditions. Advancement in the economy does not automatically guarantee the safeguarding of human rights. It is important to make sure that rules are followed on purpose and all the time to protect the rights of all members of the community. Peter. et.al., rights-based approach is one way to achieve holistic development. In his book "Human Rights and Development," Uvin argues that the many areas of human rights addresses the development practitioners can work together if they use development strategies based on the premise that everyone has the right to inalienable rights. A rights-oriented approaches to development simultaneously fosters economic growth, protects human rights, and improves social welfare.

Table 6: Shift in Development Paradigm (20th Century to Modern Approach)

Aspect	Earlier Approach (Growth-Oriented Model)	Modern Approach (Human Development Model)
Focus	Economic growth (GDP, income)	Enhancement of human capabilities
Development Goal	Increase in national income	Improvement in quality of life
Role of People	Means to economic growth	Central to development process
Policy Orientation	Growth-driven strategies	Human rights-based strategies
Outcome Measurement	Economic indicators	Human development indicators (health, education, welfare)

Table 7: Relationship between Economic Development and Human Rights

Dimension	Traditional View	Contemporary View
Relationship	Economic development and human rights seen as mutually exclusive	Economic success depends on respect for human rights
Priority	Material growth over equality	Balance between growth and equality
Policy Implication	Separate focus on growth and rights	Integration of development policies with human rights
Impact on Society	Unequal development outcomes	Inclusive and sustainable development

Table 8: Integration of Development and Human Rights

Component	Description	Expected Outcome
Human Development	Enhancing capabilities (education, health, skills)	Improved human condition
Human Rights	Ensuring equality, dignity, and freedom	Social justice and inclusiveness
Policy Integration	Combining development strategies with human rights policies	Sustainable and equitable growth
Overall Impact	Holistic development approach	Better quality of life for all

Research Findings

For India to build a good name for itself around the world when it comes to human rights, the federal government needs to work more.

Mahatma Gandhi asserted that the amalgamation of civil & political rights with ESG is founded on the principle that fundamental human rights are inseparable and that these many rights are deeply intertwined. India has a long way to go when it comes to fighting corruption. This is because of certain changes in society that are happening in the name of human rights, like laws that give workers the right to strike, set minimum standards for work, and either ban or restrict child labor. The movement for women rights helped women get the right to vote. The UDHR urges member nations to support a range of human, civil, economic, and social rights, claiming that these rights have the right to grow economically and socially.

A Report (1975) has defined this kind of participation as: Involvement and considerable participation of the public at different levels in a) the decision-making process for setting social goals and allocating resources to reach them; and b) the voluntary execution of resulting programs and initiatives.

People should have the right to enjoy the benefits of growth. These collective rights especially concern children, as the existing allocation of resources and formulation of societal objectives significantly impact their future rights and opportunities. They thought that development issues were not political. This was, without a doubt, pointless, because no choice has such far-reaching political effects on a country and, in fact, on the human rights of its people as choosing a growth plan. On the other hand, the right to development means that development policies shouldn't only be based on macroeconomic models. They should also take into account the needs of the individual, who is the main subject of the rights of people law. Rich 1988

Conclusion

ESG's not only enhance one another but also advance the development and safeguarding of civil and political rights. Various political entities, UN agencies & federations & NGOs are focusing on financial & social rights. These claims are supported by a growing conviction that economic and social rights are increasingly being compromised by the substantial disruptions resulting from economic globalization. Prioritizing human rights promotes the elimination of discriminatory regulations & practices related to gender, race, or religion, while also encouraging a reallocation and redistribution of resources. The rights-centric approaches to development defines situations not solely by human needs or developmental requirements, but by society's obligation to uphold the fundamental rights of all individuals. It empowers individuals to claim justice as an entitlement rather than a benevolent gesture & furnishes communities with an ethical basis to pursue external assistance when required.

References

1. David Cingranelli (2007): Human Rights and Structural Adjustment
2. Marks, Stephen P. & Bård A. Andreassen (2010): Development as a Human Right: Legal, Political and Economic Dimensions
3. National Archives: The Declaration of Independence
4. https://www.archives.gov/founding_docs/declaration
5. Wikipedia: Human Rights- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights
6. Wikipedia: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Declaration_of_Human_Rights
8. Yemi Osinbajo (1994): Human Rights and Economic Development in Developing Countries