

Semester VIII
Human Development
ECODSC – 453
Total Credit: 4
Teaching Hours: 45 hours

Course Objectives: The objective of this paper is to make the students aware of various issues related to human development, including the genesis of human development reports and their significance in assessing performance of economies.

Course Outcome: After completing this course the students are expected to learn the meaning, significance and measurement of human development. They would also learn and apply various concepts and measurement tools in empirical research concerning various development issues such as poverty and inequality.

Unit 1: Approaches to Human Development

Earlier approaches to development – Redistribution with Growth Approach, Basic Needs Approach, Quality of Life Approach and Human Capital Approach; Capability Approach – Role and relevance, capabilities and freedoms, criterion for selecting capabilities, critique of the capability approach.

Unit 2: Human Development: Conceptual and Measurement Issues

Concept of human development and construction of Human Development Index (HDI) by traditional and new methodology; HDI vs. GNP and critique of HDI; Methods of computing other development indices related to human development like GDI, and GEM

Unit 3: Poverty

Concept of Poverty – Absolute and Relative, Measures of Absolute Poverty; Measurement of poverty from Human Development perspective – construction of HPI1 and HPI2; Multidimensional Poverty – Concept and Measurement.

Unit 4: Inequality

Concept of Economic Inequality and its Measures; Causes of economic inequality; growth and equality – empirical evidence; Economic inequality in India-recent trends, regional patterns; concept of shared prosperity.

Unit 5: Reporting Human Development

The emergence of Human Development Reports (HDRs), Types of HDRs, Themes of HDRs, Impact of HDRs and their limitations; Global and National Human Development Report (Latest One); State Human Development Reports with special reference to the NE states.

Suggested Readings:

1. Todaro, P. Michael and Smith, C. Stephan, Economic Development
2. Houghton, Jonathan and Khandker R. Shahidur, Handbook on Poverty & Inequality
3. Fukuda-Parr, Sakiko and Shiva Kumar, A. K. Shiva, Handbook of Human Development Concepts.
4. Sen, Amartya and Foster, E. James, On Economic Inequality.
5. Madhusudan H. S., T. C. Chandrashekar, Vijayashree S. C., Economics of Human Development, Himalaya Publishing House.