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POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOUR OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED



ESI Notes For NABARD Grade A Exam

Positive Discrimination in Favour of the Underprivileged

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Social Movements

A **social movement** is a loosely organized effort by a large group of people to achieve a particular goal, typically a social or political one. This may be to carry out, resist or undo a social change. It is a type of group action and may involve individuals, organizations, or both.

Indian Political System

- The politics of India works within the framework of the country's Constitution.
- India is a parliamentary democratic republic in which the President of India is the head of state, and the **Prime Minister of India is the head** of government.
- It is based on the **federal structure** of government, although the word is not used in the Constitution itself.
- India follows the **dual polity system**, i.e., federal in nature, that consists of the central authority at the centre and states at the periphery.
- The Constitution defines the organisational powers and limitations of both central and state governments; it is well recognised, fluid (Preamble of the Constitution being rigid and dictates further amendments to the Constitution) and considered supreme, i.e., the laws of the nation must conform to it.
- There is a provision for a bicameral legislature consisting of an upper house, the Rajya Sabha (Council of States), which represents the states of the Indian federation, and a lower house, the Lok Sabha (House of the People), which represents the people of India as a whole.
- The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary, which is headed by the Supreme Court.
- The court's mandate is to protect the Constitution, settle disputes between the central government and the states, settle inter-state disputes, nullify any central or state laws that go against the Constitution and protect the fundamental rights of citizens, issuing writs for their enforcement in cases of violation.



- There are 543 members in the Lok Sabha, who are elected using the Plurality voting (first past the post) system from 543 single-member constituencies.
- There are 245 members in the Rajya Sabha, out of which 233 are elected through indirect elections by a single transferable vote by the members of the state legislative assemblies; 12 other members are elected/nominated by the President of India.
- Governments are formed through elections held every five years (unless otherwise specified), by parties that secure a majority of members in their respective lower houses (Lok Sabha in the central government and Vidhan Sabha in states).
- India had its first general election in 1951, which was won by the Indian National Congress, a political party that went on to dominate subsequent elections until 1977 when a non-Congress government was formed for the first time in independent India.
- The 1990s saw the end of single-party domination and the rise of coalition governments.
- The elections for the 16th Lok Sabha, held from April 2014 to May 2014, once again brought back single-party rule in the country, with the Bharatiya Janata Party being able to claim a majority in the Lok Sabha.
- In recent decades, Indian politics has become a dynastic affair.
- Possible reasons for this could be the party stability, absence of party organisations, independent civil society associations that mobilise support for the parties and centralised financing of elections.

Human Development

- **Human development** involves studies of the human condition with its core being the capability approach.
- The inequality-adjusted Human Development Index is used as a way of measuring actual progress in human development by the United Nations.
- It is an alternative approach to a single focus on economic growth, and focused more on social justice, as a way of understanding progress.
- The United Nations Development Programme defines human development as "the process of enlarging people's choices," said choices allowing them to "lead a long and healthy life, to be educated, to enjoy a decent standard of living," as well as "political freedom, other guaranteed human rights and various ingredients of self-respect.



- Thus, human development is about much more than economic growth, which is only a means of enlarging people's choices.
- Fundamental to enlarging these choices is building human capabilities—the range of things that people can do or be in life.

Measurement

- One measure of human development is the **Human Development Index (HDI)**, formulated by the United Nations Development Programme.
- The index encompasses statistics such as life expectancy at birth, an education index (calculated using mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling), and gross national income per capita.
- Though this index does not capture every aspect that contributes to human capability, it is a standardized way of quantifying human capability across nations and communities.
- Aspects that could be left out of the calculations include incomes that are unable to be quantified, such as staying home to raise children or bartering goods/services, as well as individuals' perceptions of their own well-being.
- Other measures of human development include the Human Poverty Index (HPI) and the Gender Empowerment Measure.
- It measures many aspects of development.

Pillars

- There are six basic pillars of human development: equity, sustainability, productivity, empowerment, cooperation, and security.
- **Equity** is the idea of fairness for every person, between men and women; we each have the right to education and health care.
- **Sustainability** is the view that we all have the right to earn a living that can sustain our lives and have access to a more even distribution of goods.
- **Productivity** states the full participation of people in the process of income generation. This also means that the government needs more efficient social programs for its people.



- **Empowerment** is the freedom of the people to influence development and decisions that affect their lives.
- **Cooperation** stipulates participation and belonging to communities and groups as a means of mutual enrichment and a source of social meaning.
- **Security** offers people development opportunities freely and safely with the confidence that they will not disappear suddenly in the future.

Human Rights

- In seeking something else, human development shares a common vision with human rights.
- Therefore, human development is interconnected with human rights and human freedom, because in well-managed prisons life expectancy and literacy as measured by the Human Development Index could be quite high, and in pursuing capabilities and realizing rights, this freedom is vital.
- People must be free to exercise their choices and to participate in decision-making that affects their lives.
- Human development and human rights are mutually reinforcing, helping to secure the well-being and dignity of all people, and building self-respect and the respect of others.
- In the days of fast globalization, human rights issues surface in relation to multilateral corporations and poverty issues.
- The idea of human development stipulates the need for education, better conditions for work and more choices for individuals.
- The idea goes with human rights.
- The two concepts are simultaneously promoted first by good governance, implementation of human rights policy and a formation of participation of the community in decision-making processes, and second by the promotion of civil and political rights and economic and social rights, which are components of the level of development.
- For instance, the right to education relates to intellectual development and political rights related to the level of the political development of that society.



Human Development Report

- The Global Human Development Reports (HDR) is an annual publication released by the UNDP's Human Development Report Office and contains the Human Development Index.
- Within global HDR there are four main indexes: Human Development Index, Genderrelated Development Index, Gender Empowerment Measure, and the Human Poverty Index.
- There are not only global Human Development Reports but there are also regional and national reports.
- The Regional, National, and subnational (for portions of countries) HDRs take various approaches, according to the strategic thinking of the individual authorship groups that craft the individual reports.

Human Development Index

- The **Human Development Index** is a way for people and nations to see the policy flaws of regions and countries.
- Although the release of this information is believed to encourage countries to alter their policies, there is no evidence demonstrating changes nor is there any motivation for countries to do so.
- The Human Development Index (HDI) is the normalized measure of life expectancy, education, and per capita income for countries worldwide.
- It is an improved standard means of measuring well-being, especially child welfare and thus human development.
- Although this index tries to simplify human development, it is much more complex than any index or set of indicators.

Human Poverty Index

- To reflect gaps in the Human Development Index, the United Nations came out with the Human Poverty Index (HPI) in 1997.
- The HPI measures the deficiencies in the three indexes of the human development index: long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living.



• The HPI is meant to provide a broader view of human development and is adapted to developed countries to reveal social exclusion.

Social Progress Index

- The Social Progress Index is published by the non-profit Social Progress Imperative.
- It combines indicators related to social welfare, equality, personal freedom, and sustainability.

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