

Teaching Human Development

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Contents

- Brief history and overview of the Human Development (HD) approach
- Human Development (HD): a multidisciplinary, holistic perspective
- Key features of the Human Development paradigm vis-à-vis to economic growth

**The following slides are an adapted version of the “Course Introduction to Human Development”
produced by HDRO, NY.**

**Development is about
improving people's
quality of life**



But public policies and development programs are often designed, implemented, and evaluated only for their **ECONOMIC IMPACT.**



Development policies have traditionally focused on indicators of economic wellbeing

The success of development programs is often judged using economic indicators that **say little**, if anything, **about** the impact the policies have on **people's lives**.



INCOME



EMPLOYMENT



TRADE



COMPETITIVENESS



INFLATION

WHY THE DISCONNECT?



Widespread
acceptance of
traditional economic
development **theories**



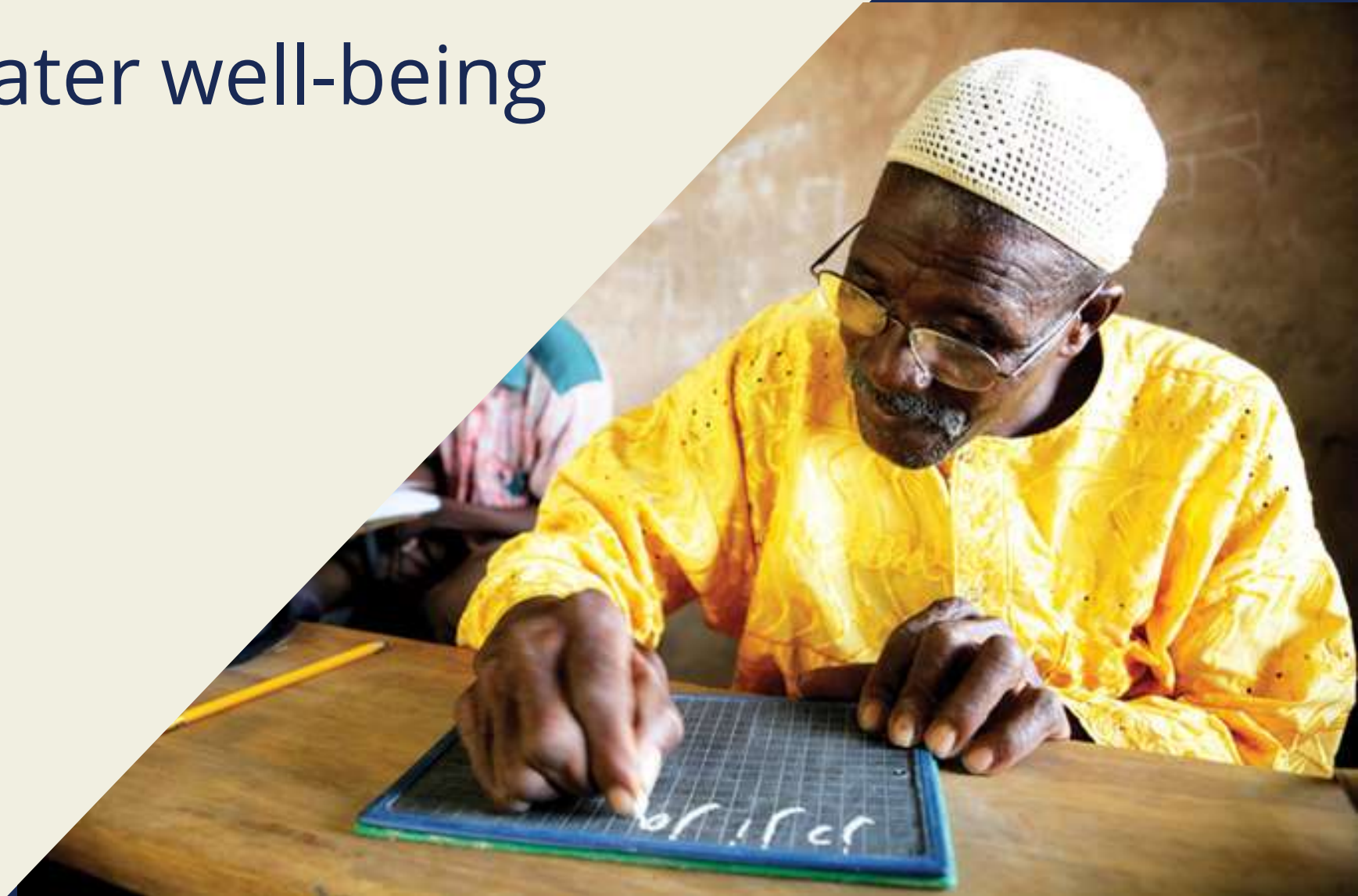
Tendency to confuse
development “**ends**”
with the “**means**” to
achieve them.

2. The Human Development approach

Human development focuses on **improving the lives people** lead rather than assuming that economic growth will lead, automatically, to greater well-being for all.



Income growth is seen as a **means** to development, rather than an end in itself.



Human development

grew out of discussions on the links between economic growth and development in the **1960s-80s**, especially the increasing challenges to the notion that economic growth was synonymous with development.

Mahbub Ul Haq



Amartya Sen



Human development is multidimensional and is about people and their **opportunities** and **freedoms**

- It is an **economic paradigm** and **social philosophy** that discusses questions of well-being, justice, and freedom.
- Sees each life as valuable.
- Policies should help people to have a **wider set of opportunities** and **abilities**, to help them make the most of their lives.

The process of Human Development provides the foundation and **tools** for men and women to become the people they want to be, living the lives they choose to live.

The **HD approach** is about **opportunities** and **choices** for all people

Is about expanding the richness of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live.



People are the driving force of development. Each person is the **subject** and **object** of development.

Opportunities and choices

HD is about giving people more opportunities and choices to live lives they value. This means developing people's **abilities** and giving them a **chance to use** them



Market-based approach

- Objective
- Focus of concern
- Guiding principle
- Emphasis
- Trend focus
- Poverty definition
- Key indicators



Market-based approach

- Maximization of economic welfare
- Markets
- Economic efficiency
- Means
- Economic growth
- Population below the minimum income line
- GNP, GNP growth, % below the income poverty line

Human development approach

- Objective
- Focus of concern
- Guiding principle
- Emphasis
- Trend focus
- Poverty definition
- Key indicators



HD Approach

- Expansion of opportunities and capabilities
- People
- Equity and justice
- Ends
- Poverty reduction
- Population in multidimensional deprivation
- HDI, GDI, IHDI, MPI, and their components (eg life expectancy)

Economic growth matters but...

There are **5** types of **unwelcome growth**

Jobless

which does not increase employment

Ruthless

which is accompanied by rising poverty and inequality.

Voiceless

which denies the participation of the most vulnerables

Rootless

which weakens people's cultural identity

Futureless

where we squander resources needed by future generations.

There are at least **4 ways** to create **links**
between **economic growth** and **HD**

1) Investing in
people's health
and education



2) More
equitable
distribution of
income and
assets

3) Empower
people
especially
women

4) Social
Expenditure

Self-reflection # 1



- How would you explain the importance of choosing a normative framework (e.g., HD or economic growth or basic needs approach or human rights approach) when you analyze a case study?



- How might this case study differ if evaluated from the perspective of income vs. the human development lens? Reflect on possible gains and losses from the two perspectives