

The investigation of the solutions of improving Human Development Index in Iran during fifth development plan

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Abstract: Generally Human Development Index (HDI) is "the process of developing the selections in capability space for achieving a better life". Based on this definition, we can investigate the changes of HDI in a definite time period. The current study attempts to investigate and present effective solutions in improving HDI in fifth development plan. The results of this investigation showed that HDI in Iran during 1975 to 2005 increased from 0.571 in 1975 to 0.759 in 2005. This increase is due to the increase of life expectancy and literacy index increase. The results of this study showed that in the recent 40 years, the capital income compared to two mentioned indices had fewer shares in improving development level. To achieve high development level in terms of humanity during the fifth development plan, the change of economical, social structures is necessary in the society. To achieve the goals of 20-year vision and fifth development plan, some solutions with the comparison between the countries in the region and the Islam world was presented.

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1. Introduction

The first article of third chapter of fifth development plan of Islamic Republic of Iran defined the aim of this article improving the human development index to the countries with high human development level and consistency of education, health and employment indices and identification of the ways to increase of HDI levels is necessary and it is the purpose of this paper.

In the first universal report of human development in 1990, human development is defined as the process of developing the human selection. The comparison of this approach with three views of economical welfare, removing the main needs and the human resources development helps for better understanding of human development (the first national report of human development, 1999, 34).

Generally, economical welfare approach considers consuming the goods and services as the basis of better life and as real income determines the consumption amount of people of the services and goods, economical welfare index is the real income while human development approach knows the consumption of goods and services as one of the elements of better life and considers fulfilling mental

needs and developing mental capabilities as another element of better life that is achieved via developing mental ability namely with education. Thus, it shows the academic achievement besides capital income in measuring human development (Davoodi, 1998, 97).

The approach of removing the basic needs aims providing the minimum material and non-material needs but it follows this aim via giving a set of goods and services and from one hand due to the lack of considering the development of spiritual and materialistic capacities and on the other hand due to the emphasis on minimum things, instead of emphasis on better life is different from human development approach. Although, in human resources development approach, we emphasize on creating the capacities and developing the capabilities, the aim is not having access to better life (Hosseini, 1996, 12).

Thus, the emphasis on the concept of developing human selections is a holistic approach to better life and it emphasizes on creating the capacities instead of emphasizing on the consumption of the goods and services and it guarantees the stability of human development. Thus, such approach as the concept of human development is the basis of

measurement. HDI by relying on this approach attempts to measure three main capacities of literacy, access to materialistic facilities for better life and long life with health. This index to measure the first capacity applies adults literacy rate based on two third of the general value and combinational rate of being registered in various academic levels based on one third of general value and to measure the second capacity, applies the real purchase power and to measure the third capacity, applies life expectancy at birth time (Hayati, 1996, 45). The current study aimed to present effective solutions in improving human development during the fifth plan in Iran. One of the strengths of this issue is the uniform comparison and the introduction of similar and standard position among other countries. Also, the facility of doing the calculations is the important issue in investigating human development index. One of the weaknesses of this issue is more emphasis on quality issues. Also, in the calculation process of this index, due to its presentation by western countries, the share of religious factors in human development process is less emphasized. Increasing human improvement of the society is including various indices in which the value of each society should be considered.

Review of literature

In 1990, for the first time in UN organization report, the condition of the countries was published based on HDI. In 1998, Farhad Nourbakhsh in Glasko University investigated the HDI and his proposed index had some modifications and ranked the selected countries and Canada has the first rank (Noorbakhsh, 1998, 28).

Hanham in 2000 investigated HDI in western Virginia State in USA including the investigation of income, education, poverty and life expectancy for various parts of western Virginia (Hanham, 2000, 1-70).

In Iran, management and planning organization in Iran presented its report titled "The first national report of human development of Islamic Republic of Iran) as the most complete report. According this report, HDI in recent decade was developed and its condition was inclined to the increase of human development level and was developed compared to HDI of Turkey, Egypt, Arabia and Iraq but was developed less compared to southern Korea and Malaysia (First national report of human development of Islamic Republic of Iran, 200, 50).

2. The execution stages of human development index

HDI was applied for the first time in 1990 by UN (UNDP, 1991). This organization was used for grading the countries in terms of human development model and by considering the similar importance of the indices was used for ranking. The civil plan of UN in this model applied life expectancy index, literacy percent and per capital income for grading the countries. But in regions, cities to investigate the development degree, we can apply many indices (Hekmatnia, 2006, 212). By the above model to apply various indices (even by valuating the applied factors) we can provide combined index (including structural, economical and social) for the regions and provinces for the required goals and determine the priorities (Ziari, 1999, 136). The stages of this method are as following:

After the variables were selected, in the first stage:

Its matrix table is drawn and for each of the regions in Iran in the columns, the indices are defined in the rows.

After the formation of data matrix table in the second stage:

Each of the variables are applied to use in statistical analyses by the following formula:

$$X_j = \frac{\max_j x_{ij} - \text{row}_j x_{ij}}{\max_j x_{ij} - \min_j x_{ij}}$$

It is standardized.

In the third stage:

All the standardized indices that are achieved in the second stage by the following formula:

$$xI_{ij} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n I_{ij}$$

The average of the data of first formula was calculated and for the regions in the country, average index was calculated. It can be said that the achieved average shouldn't be more than 1 or less than zero.

Fourth stage:

In this stage that is main stage, the development index is achieved by the following formula:

$$HDI = (1 - I_{ij})$$

It is calculated that as the value is close to one, it shows more development and as it approaches zero, it shows the lack of development and deprivation (Sepahi, 2009, 67).

The position of Iran human development among the countries in the world and Islam countries

In the most recent report of UN organization during 2007, 2008 of Iran among 177 countries in the world was in the rank of 94 all over the world. Among the countries in the region of United Arabia Emirate, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Arabia are in advanced group. In life expectancy index is in average row in rank 24 and in literacy index with 0.82 is among 20 countries with above 50% Muslim population is in the twelfth rank. The rank of Iran in achieving the per capita income among the Islam world as seventh rank.

The rank of Iran among the indices related to human development in the world

Iran in 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005 had figures 0.571, 0.578, 0.615, 0.653, 0.693, 0.722 and 0.759 of HDI that showed the development of this index in the recent 35 years.

Among the indices of HDI in Iran for each 100'000 physician had 87 physicians that were in Islamic countries and only 5 Islamic countries are lower than Iran. In terms of literacy index, it is located in row 13 of Islam world countries. In terms of the prevalence of AIDS it is in the fourth rank of Islamic countries with Jordan, Kuwait, Liberia, Oman, Maldives, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Arabic united Emirate, Uzbekistan and Yemen. In terms of mal-nutrition it is in high condition among Islamic countries as third rank that is at the same rank with Al-Jazayr, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt and Iran condition is better than 15 other Islamic countries. In access to healthy drinking water among Islamic countries is in the third rank and Iran condition is better than 17 other Islamic country. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kumer, Al-Jazayer, Gambia, Guinea, etc are in critical condition.

Effective solutions in improving Iran human development levels in the region and the world

Improving human development condition is associated directly with life expectancy indices, literacy, per capita income. As Iran was located in average row to Arabic countries, the difference of per capita income in the first degree and second degree is the difference of life expectancy index among Iran and Arabic neighboring countries. To improve the condition of human development in the fifth plan based on the following findings, we can refer to the following items:

- 1- Modification of comprehensive economical structure for productive employment, productive, reducing the dependency on the import of foreign products and increasing the export of manufacturing products.
- 2- Improving the health level of the society with the development of medical facilities as balanced and regional in the country.
- 3- Changing the acceptance method of medical fields and considering the regional and provincial needs for future years.
- 4- Providing special conditions to absorb Iranian experts in various fields for activity in Iran and the conditions are associated first with economical issues and research facilities of the experts.
- 5- Doing the organized cultural work in increasing the national capabilities to absorb Iranian experts in abroad.
- 6- The development of technology-oriented fields with effective manufacturing capability for domestic and foreign market.
- 7- Development of fossil fuel alternative energies and launching laboratories equipped with new technologies of healthy energy.
- 8- Increasing the acceptance in post-graduate fields with applied nature and balancing between theoretical and technical fields in BA level.
- 9- Special consideration of sport and developing the facilities based on regional requirements
- 10- The reduction of theoretical fields students to advanced countries and increasing applied fields to the required productive population in future years.
- 11- The exchange of information and knowledge between universities of Islamic and world countries.
- 12- Special consideration to regional capabilities to create balanced development in the country.
- 13- Basic change of education structure of Universities based on applied needs of the society.

The development of aerial domestic and foreign transportation and presenting good infrastructures of land, marine and air transportation.

3. Conclusion

This study was done with the aim of presenting effective solutions in improving human development in Iran in fifth development plan. After expressing theoretical basics of human development and scientific methods, the evaluation of Iran condition was investigated. The results showed that among the effective indices in improving HDI, per capita income index of Iran requires the improvement

of higher ranks. Also, two indices life expectancy and literacy in 40 years had the highest effect in improving the condition of human development in Iran. To achieve 20-year vision goals, it is required to consider Iran as the best regional country in terms of economy and development with Islamic foundation. It is required that in the existing conditions in economical, scientific, political and social condition as scientifically some progresses were made and the barriers of development in Iran were with the modification of economical, education, life, defense, political structure. Also, the establishment of regional balance is of great importance economically. Presenting development infrastructures in transportation, health and medical education is necessary.

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