

## Exploring the Variation of Human Development in SAARC Countries

- Shanta Gautam\*

### Abstract

*Human development should be seen as an extensive, innovative, appreciative and community procedure, rather than the simple expansion of health, education and income. The countries in this globe should have strong 'human development policies and strategies to attained the better outcome in the sector of income, health and education. In this condition all state should focus to build basic human capabilities and should be related to attained peace, security and community participation for resource mobilization and for social dynamics. These necessities can be seen in a range of occurrence in past and present in different location. It is clear that low is the variation about the outcome of HDI with reference to time in a decade better are the strategies for the human development. In SAARC countries some examination of human development and its components were reviewed and use summary statistics found improved in the value of human development index. Similarly, the scale of variations indifferent statistics is found in decreasing order. The value of coefficient of variances were 15.64% in 2014, 14.33% in 2018 and 13.8% in 2020 respectively. Those figures show increasing in consistency in mean HDI with decreasing pattern in variation in value of HDI and progress in human development. The variation in these three components which is depending on strategies of the respective country. The peace, freedom with societal partnership, might be seen as a social democratic mission. The summary statistics reflect the situation of the variation in the SAARC countries. The variation in HDI is in decreasing order from 2014 to 2020. Similarly, five countries are found below the average HDI out of eight countries and found in progress. Among these eight countries Srilanka is in top position where as Afghanistan is in the lowest position. These statistics clearly explore the existing scenario of the human development status of SAARC region.*

**Keywords:** Variation, human development, range, scale, components

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## 1. BACKGROUND

Human Development Index (HDI) is the relative measure of development status of life expectancy, education and decent living. The various concept about the human development is drawn from the literature of different years in between 1990 to 2021. The report is associated with summary measure of data attained from the three years result with in 2014 to 2021 on HDI and its components about the SAARC countries. The HDI highlight its component for assessing the development of a country in different sectors such as economic, education and health which can be used to make policies and their choices as well as comparison of human development in different state and location. UNDP publishes the HDI report of all the member countries of UN individually, and continent wise, region-wise and group wise as well. South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) is one of such group which was established in 1985 with a broad objectives for promoting the welfare of the people of South Asia through regional co-operation. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka are the founder members of the organization from its establishment. The number of member states reaches eight when Afghanistan joined it in 2007.

Human development in the world became the key theoretical measure of health, education and socio-economic progress. It begins to move from simple economic measures such as growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Similarly the concept human development helps to make index which is used by development thinker, policy makers and planner to formulate rational policies for development in this globe (Fukuda-Parr, 2003a). The 'human capabilities', based on inputs associated to health, education and income provided by the state which cultivates in many components of human development. But its roots go back many decades, across the globe to see present human development components as separately from these historical processes and found weak in measurement of human development status. So it should link with concept, idea, knowledge, approaches and pillars of development to understand the human development in present context and explore the pertinent components from present to past experiences.

The realistic nature of community people to self-governance had been surrounded as the central principle of both the post-colonial era and the era of human rights, since the 1960s. 'Development' in the twenty-first century, even with stress by self-control, imagines a key role for the state, particularly in the arrangement and performs of human facility and successful human development realize supports to these understanding.

The condition is now described on agreement to important of human development. It is found the tools for global development the policies and strategies. Human development is

best understood concept as an emerging social process, rather than a laissez-faire assumption grounded in individual rights. This paper proposes the policies in local, regional and global context associated with human development and social process. The theoretical picture for the policies may useful to make rapid human development in local to global context. The social personality of human must be justified with social understandings concerning with the development procedure.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

In this study the task is related to determine the level of human development in selected years and its variation in SAARC countries with their position during (2014 to 2020) that period and variation in the level of HDI in this region.

## **3. DATA AND METHODS**

The study method is quantitative in nature using the secondary data. The data were collected from the Human Development Report. The judgment sampling was used to select those years' i.e. 2014, 2018 and 2020. The member of SAARC countries and their data were used to derive the result of the study. The MS Excel, SPSS and Simple statistical tools were used in data analysis process to find the variation and level of human development in south region of Asia.

## **3. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

The selected data (See Annexes) from the report of HDI is collected from the secondary sources which were related to different components presented as below:

The level of the human development and variation is reflected in 2014, 2018, 2020. These indicators, ideas, knowledge and concept were used to formulate rational policies for the development in their proposed areas. Without having the knowledge about the level of the development in different sectors It is difficult to organize the rational policies and strategies for the development. The development level of the community people in the country is associated with different component. It's difficult to formulate the rational policies of the country without the knowledge and their values. The consistency of those data can be measured and link to make policies and strategies. The simple statistical tools and statistics as given below were useful to find the existing condition of the human development and their variation level is presented in ANNEX-1, and draw different statistics reflect the existing scenario of the SAARC countries in the sectors of Human Development. It is found that five countries were found below the average value with high consistency scale i.e. coefficient of variance 15.6493% of average HDI (0.6265). The range value of HDI is 0.292

with standard error 0.033183 which reflect the variation scale and consistency of HDI in SAARC region.

The derived statistics reflected the little bit improvement in the level of human development in SAARC region with reference to 2014. The variation scale is found decrease in 2018 and 2020 respectively as compare to 2014. The consistency level of mean HDI is slightly increased 0.54 (2014) to 0.602 (2020) and variation scale is decreased from 0.29 to 0.28. Which is the indicator of improvement in HDI in SAARC region. The maximum value of HDI in SAARC is 0.78 belongs to srilanka and the minimum value of HDI is 0.496 belongs to Afghanistan where as average value of HDI is 0.6265 nearly related to Bangladesh and Nepal. From the statistics in Annex-1 it is found that four countries were found below than average value of HDI i.e. 0.640375 and the countries such as Srilanka, Maldives, Bangladesh and India were found above than the average value with consistency scale i.e. coefficient of variance 13.89496% of average HDI in 2014. The range value of HDI is 0.271 in 2014 to 2020 with standard error 0.03145 which reflect the variation scale in SAARC region. The scale of variation is found regularly decreasing order and increasing the consistency level of HDI. The consistency about the HDI is found better with the value of 13.89% with the range value 0.271 in 2020.

### **Result and Discussion:**

The data during the period of 2014 to 2020 reflect the situation of human development in SAARC region. The reports recommend some policies and strategies related education, health and income for the poor and other vulnerable groups. The rates of poverty, inequality and natural disasters threaten the progress of socio-economic and human development in SAARC region. The extreme poverty, hunger, unemployment impact on GDP of this region. The report calls for strong social protections such as pension's unemployment and insurance for countries at all stages of development. In many countries of this region, youth unemployment is found high as compare to other Asian countries. This report recommends to all countries and their government to make fast-track education reform policies for improving the capacity building process. In addition, food insecurity, violence against women, and civil conflict and disaster threaten the security of millions of people with in this region. It is hoped that by addressing vulnerabilities, all people may share in development progress, and human development will become increasingly equitable and sustainable. The exploration on health, education, living standard, income and their level are useful indicator for the policy makers in this region. The average HDI value for this regions are 0.599,0.6265 and 0.64037 respectively in the years of 2014,2018 and 2020. Srilanka deserves the high human development level as compared to all south Asian countries. The

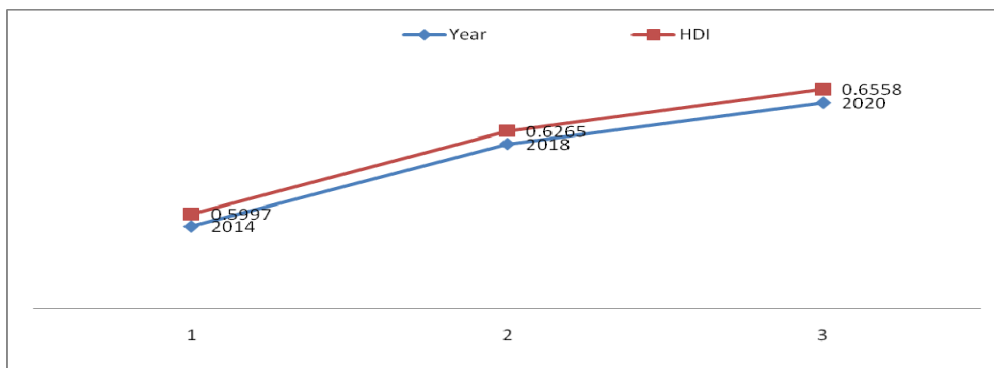
policies and strategies followed by Srilanka is found the best way to copy for the development model in this region.

The report (2020) related to HDI shows that Nepal climbed up and placed to 142th among 187 countries in the areas of life expectancy, education and income level. Nepal is in sixth among the SAARC countries. Sri Lanka leads the SAARC countries at 73<sup>rd</sup> positioned in global context and followed by Maldives (104), India (130), Bhutan (132), Bangladesh (133), Nepal (142), Pakistan (147) and Afghanistan (171) in 2020. It is found that the average values of life expectancies, expected year of schooling (EYS), Mean Year of Schooling (MYS), and Gross National Income(GNI) of SAARC regions are 71.61 years, 11.8 years, 6.06 years and \$7902 respectively. Srilanka and Maldives both countries deserving high human development situation as compare to all others SAARC countries. Hence other countries should flow the policies and strategies implemented by these two countries for the better human development policies and strategies.

The above data depicts that all eight countries of SAARC have shown continuous progress in HDI in selected three years respectively i.e., 2014,2018 and 2020. Among all SAARC countries, Sri-Lanka is at the top and Afghanistan has lowest value in HDI in all those years. The consistency of mean HDI in 2014, 2018 and 2020 are 15.64%,14.3% and 13.8% respectively. It is clear that the variation pattern is in decreasing order. The HDI values of Afghanistan are 0.465 (2014), 0.496 (2018) and 0.511 (2020) respectively in those consecutive year. Nepal has higher pace about the value of HDI as compare to other SAARC countries. The rank of Nepal is 142 in 2020 having the value of HDI is 0.602 and this value has slightly increased from the value 0.548 in 2014 and 0.56 in 2018.

The following figure clearly reflected about the progress rate in HDI.

Figure: The Trend Line of Average Values is in Progress in HDI in SAARC Region:



The average value of HDI in SAARC countries were found 0.6558 in 2020, 0.6265 in 2018 and 0.5997 in 2014 those values were derived from the secondary data given below in Annex-1. Out of those eight countries it was found that five countries were below the

average value of HDI whereas Srilanka, Maldives and Bhutan achieve the good progress in HDI as compared to other countries in SAARC region.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The data depicts the real situation of HDI in SAARC region. It has shown the relative and continuous progress in HDI since 1990. Among SAARC countries Sri-Lanka is at the top position having the value of 0.782 and Afghanistan has lowest value of 0.511 in all those years. Sri-Lanka is leading SAARC countries being 72rd position whereas Afghanistan has been continuing its history of being lowest in SAARC with positioned in 169th rank in global spectrum among 187 countries included in the formal report. Nepal with tiny progress stands at the top of the countries of low human development index in 2020. It is found that that five countries were found below the average value with consistency scale i.e. coefficient of variance 15.6493% of average HDI (0.6265). The range value of HDI is 0.292 with standard error 0.033183 which reflect the consistency of HDI in SAARC region. Out of eight countries, five countries are found below the average value of HDI where as Srilanka, Maldives and Bhutan achieve the good progress in HDI as compared to other countries. The rank of Nepal was 142 in 2020, 147 in 2018 and 145 in 2014 but the value has slightly increased which is not capable to alter the rank. It was 147 in 1990, with the value of 0.428 in 2010 and reached 0.463 in 2012, 0.548 in 2014, 0.579 in 2018 and 0.602 in 2020. The overall fluctuation of HDI value of SAARC countries is found scattered with range of 0.271 in 2020. The policies and strategies for the human development of Srilanka should be followed by other members' countries of SAARC.

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## Annexes:

### Data of HDI in 2014

#### Values of HDI and its components in 2014

Countries	Rank	HDI	LE	EYS	MYS	GNI
Srilanka	73	0.757	74.9	13.7	10.8	9779
Maldives	104	0.706	76.8	13	5.8	12328
India	130	0.609	68	11.7	5.4	5497
Bhutan	132	0.605	69.5	12.6	3	7176
Bangladesh	142	0.57	71.6	10	5.1	3191
Nepal	145	0.548	69.6	12.4	3.3	2311
Pakistan	147	0.538	66.2	7.8	4.7	4866
Afghanistan	171	0.465	60.4	9.3	3.2	1885

Source: HDI Report, 2015

**Result based on above table:**

<i>Different statistics of HDI in 2014 of SAARC countries</i>	
Mean	0.59975
Standard Error	0.033183
Median	0.5875
Coefficient of Variance	15.6493
Standard Deviation	0.093857
Sample Variance	0.008809
Kurtosis	-0.07924
Skewness	0.516444
Range	0.292
Minimum	0.465
Maximum	0.757
Sum	4.798
Count	8

*Data of HDI in 2018*

**Values of HDI and its components in 2018**

Countries	Rank	HDI	LE	EYS	MYS	GNI
Srilanka	71	0.78	76.8	14	11.1	11611
Maldives	104	0.719	78.6	12.1	6.8	12549
Bhutan	134	0.617	71.5	12.1	3.1	8609
India	129	0.647	69.4	12.3	6.5	6829
Bangladesh	135	0.614	72.3	11.2	6.1	4057
Nepal	147	0.579	70.5	12.2	4.9	2748
Pakistan	152	0.56	67.1	8.5	5.2	5190
Afghanistan	170	0.496	64.5	10.1	3.9	1746

**Source: HDI Report, 2019**

Summary statistics of above data:

<i>Different statistics of HDI in 2018 of SAARC countries</i>	
Mean	0.6265
Standard Error	0.031762
Median	0.6155
Coefficient of variance	14.3394
Standard Deviation	0.089836
Sample Variance	0.008071
Kurtosis	0.065269
Skewness	0.470355
Range	0.284
Minimum	0.496



Maximum	0.78
Sum	5.012
Count	8

Data of HDI in 2020

**Values of HDI and its components in the year 2020**

Countries	Rank	HDI	LE	EYS	MYS	GNI
Srilanka	72	0.782	77	14.1	10.6	12707
Maldives	95	0.74	78.9	12.2	7	17417
Bhutan	129	0.654	71.8	13	4.1	10746
India	131	0.645	69.7	12.2	6.5	6681
Bangladesh	133	0.632	72.6	11.6	6.2	4976
Nepal	142	0.602	70.8	12.8	5	3457
Pakistan	154	0.557	67.3	8.3	5.2	5005
Afghanistan	169	0.511	64.8	10.2	3.9	2229

Source: HDI Report,2020

<i>Different components of statistics of HDI in 2020</i>						
<i>Values of different Statistics</i>						
Mean						0.640375
Standard Error						0.031459122
Median						0.6385
Coefficient of variance of HDI						13.89496
Standard Deviation						0.088979833
Sample Variance						0.007917411
Kurtosis						-0.35209321
Skewness						0.278471529
Range						0.271
Minimum						0.511
Maximum						0.782
Sum						5.123
Count						8
Anova: Single Factor						
SUMMARY						
<i>Groups</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Sum</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Variance</i>		

Column 1	8	4.798	0.59975	0.008809		
Column 2	8	5.012	0.6265	0.008071		
Column 3	8	5.123	0.640375	0.007917		
ANOVA						
<i>Source of Variation</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>P-value</i>	<i>F crit</i>
Between Groups	0.006823	2	0.003411	0.412705	0.66711	3.4668
Within Groups	0.173579	21	0.008266			
Total	0.180402	23				