

Long Answer Questions

Q. 1. What is the criterion used by the UNDP for classifying countries?

Ans. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has used the criterion of Human Development Index to measure the development of countries. HDI is calculated on the basis of:

(i) Per capita income: When the total national income of the country is divided by its population, we get the per capita income.

(ii) Life expectancy: It measures the average age of a person in a country. It helps us to know the health facilities of a country.

(iii) Literacy rate: Education is also one of the most important criteria for the development of a country.

(iv) Gross enrolment ratio: It measures the education gained at three levels—at the primary, secondary and higher education level.

Per capita income is also calculated in dollars for all countries so that it can be compared easily. HDI has been calculated for about 177 countries. According to it, the rank of India is 131 and the rank of Sri Lanka is 73, which is much better than that of India. We are required to make progress in the education and health sectors as yet.

Q. 2. Explain the meaning of HDI. Mention three components of measuring HDI.

Ans. HDI stands for Human Development Index. It may be defined as the process of widening people's choice as well as raising the level of well-being. The concept of HDI goes beyond income and growth to cover all human choices. It puts the people at the centre stage and covers all aspects of human development with the object of improving the conditions of people from all angles. It is a broader approach to development.

Components of Measuring HDI

(i) Life Expectancy: It is the average expected length of life of a person at the time of birth.

(ii) Per Capita Income: Mean income of the people is an economic unit. It is calculated by dividing the total national income of a country by population. It is calculated in dollars for all the countries so that it can be compared.

(iii) Gross Enrolment Ratio for Three Levels: It means enrolment ratio for primary schools, secondary schools and higher education beyond secondary level.

Q. 3. Why is literacy essential for the economic development? Explain.

Ans. Literacy is an essential element for the economic development since:

- (i) Education only gives us vast knowledge.
- (ii) A literate person is eligible to get suitable employment.
- (iii) Education develops the ability to implement modern technology.
- (iv) With the knowledge of professionals, technology can develop and help in the development of the country.
- (v) Literate people understand the importance of remaining healthy and stay away from the deadly disease.

Q. 4. What do you understand by sustainability of development? What can be done to make development sustainable?

Ans. Sustainability of development means economic development without any damage to the environment.

However, since the second half of the twentieth century, a number of scientists have been warning that the present type, and levels of development are not sustainable.

To make development sustainable, non-renewable sources of energy are to be saved for the future generation. The development of the country would continue but the technology has to be made eco-friendly so that it does not harm the environment.