Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Despite Consistent experience of High growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2019	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

GDP growth; human development; inequality; education; healthcare; nutrition; regional disparities; employment; public expenditure; gender inequality; social exclusion; inclusive growth

Model Answer

Introduction

Economic growth expands national income, but human development depends on how effectively that income translates into health, education, dignity and opportunities. India's development challenge lies in ensuring that economic gains improve the capabilities of all citizens.

Factors Hindering Inclusive Development

- **Unequal distribution of income:** Growth benefits may concentrate among wealthier households and high-productivity sectors.
- **Inadequate public services:** Gaps in healthcare, education, sanitation and nutrition limit human capabilities.
- **Employment challenges:** Informal work, underemployment and insecure wages constrain household welfare despite rising output.

- **Regional disparities:** Differences in infrastructure, industrialisation and administrative capacity produce uneven development.
- **Gender inequality:** Unequal access to education, employment, property and decision-making restricts women's capabilities.
- **Social exclusion:** Caste discrimination, disability-related barriers and marginalisation of tribal and other vulnerable communities limit access to opportunities.
- **Weak implementation:** Leakage, staff shortages and poor coordination reduce the effectiveness of welfare schemes.
- **Environmental degradation:** Pollution, water scarcity and climate-related risks disproportionately affect vulnerable households.

Way Forward

India needs stronger public investment in health and education, employment-intensive growth, effective social protection, gender-responsive policies and improved delivery of essential services. Decentralised planning and outcome-based monitoring can make development more responsive to local needs.

Conclusion

High GDP growth is necessary but insufficient for human development. Balanced development requires growth that creates decent employment, expands basic capabilities and ensures that disadvantaged groups share in economic progress.

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