
UNIT 13 COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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13.1 INTRODUCTION

**‘Freedom is indivisible
Peace is indivisible
Economic prosperity is indivisible.’**

Indira Gandhi

The end of the Cold War heralded an era of unprecedented peace and stability. International scholars termed it as the ‘End of history,’ the beginning of a ‘transformed world.’ Soon everyone was proved wrong. The classical notion of the unilateralist use of ‘force’ to defend national boundaries, gave way to much broader concepts of in(security)- threats emanating not only from ‘military clashes’ with rival states but also from other non-state actors and ‘untamed’ situations- environmental, cultural and economic. The time was ripe to make space for broader aspects of security- succinctly put under comprehensive and cooperative human security. As CIA Director, James Woosley, once rightly remarked, “We have slain a large dragon but now we find ourselves living in a jungle with a bewildering number of poisonous snakes. And in many ways the dragon was easier to keep track of” (James Woosley, 1996).

Aims and Objectives

This Unit would enable you to understand

- The discourse of human development, dating from its genesis and evolution
- The theories against facts existing around us with special emphasis on ‘Poverty Eradication and Underdevelopment,’ ‘Terrorism and Civilian Deaths,’ and ‘Environmental Degradation and Human Development’.
- The ‘myths’ and ‘facts’ that explain the ‘overall’ picture of ‘human development’.

13.2 COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: GENESIS AND EVOLUTION

The term comprehensive or ‘overall’ development/security was coined in Japan during the 1970s, primarily with a quest to move beyond its wartime role and consolidate its postwar place in international system. In 1978, in the *Report on Comprehensive National Security*, Japan identified six objectives: closer military and general cooperation with the United States; increasing Japan’s capacity to defend its own territory; improvement in relations with China and the Soviet Union; attainment of energy security; food security and measures for coping with major earthquakes.

According to David Dewitt, comprehensive development/security was not just a statement of goals, but ‘a chain of tautly balanced national power, including various factor such as economy, diplomacy and politics’ (David Dewitt, 1994). Unlike Japan, ASEAN made scope for a broader notion of development/security incorporating domestic as well as non-military threats. As Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohammad said:

‘National security is inseparable from political stability, economic success and social harmony. Without these all the guns in the world cannot prevent a country from being overcome by its enemies, whose ambitions can be fulfilled sometimes without firing a single shot’ (Muthiah Alagappa, 1988).

What is Comprehensive Human Development?

Like comprehensive development/security, a comprehensive notion of human development would entail broad responses to those ‘silent crises’ threatening individuals - underdevelopment, poverty, exposure to environmental hazards, civilian casualties, that fail to respond to any emergency relief.

The 1994 UNDP Human Development Report called it a ‘sustainable human development’- that not only generates economic growth but distributes its benefits equitably; that regenerates the environment rather than destroying it; that empowers people rather than marginalizing them. It is development that gives priority to the poor, enlarging their choices and opportunities and providing for their participation in decisions that affect their lives. It is development that is pro-people, pro-nature, pro-jobs and pro-women. (Chapter 1 Human Development Report 1994).

The Report, for the first time, included a section on human security. Called “Redefining Security: The Human Dimension,” the Report answers the question of “security for whom” as “legitimate concerns of ordinary people who sought security in their daily lives.” According to its chief proponent, Mahbub-ul-Haq:

‘Human security is a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not explode in violence, a dissident who was not silenced. Human security is not a concern with weapons—it is a concern with human life and dignity... It is concerned with how people live and breathe in a society, how freely they exercise their many choices, how much access they have to market and social opportunities—and whether they live in conflict or in peace.’ (Human Development Report, 1994).

It listed seven “components” or seven specific values of human security— economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security. It also pinpointed two sets of threats harping individuals. First, those threats which are more localised. These are threats that are particular to different societies or regions of the world and seemingly vary by level of economic development and geographical location.

Second are those threats that are global in nature because “threats within countries rapidly spill beyond national frontiers.”

Table 1
Direct and Indirect Threats to Human Security

Direct Violence Violent death/disablement: Victims of violent crime; sexual assault, terrorism, inter-group riots/pogrom/genocide; killing of government officials/agents; war casualties	Indirect Violence Deprivation: Levels of basic needs and entitlements (food, safe drinking water, primary health care, primary Education).
Dehumanization: Slavery and trafficking in women and children; use of child soldiers; abduction; unlawful detention of political opponents+ rigged trials.	Diseases: Incidence of life-threatening illness (infectious, cardiovascular, cancerous)
International disputes: Interstate tensions/crises+ great power tensions/crises.	Population displacement (national, regional, global): Refugees and migration
Most Destructive Weapons: The spread of WMDs+ advanced conventional, small arms, landmines.	Environmental degradation (local, national, regional, global)
Drugs: Drug addiction	Natural and man-made disasters

Source: Kanti Bajpai’s paper on ‘Human Security: Concept and Measurement’

Table.2
National Security and Human Security

	National Security	Human Security
Security for whom	Primarily the state	Primarily the individual
Security for what values	Territorial integrity and national independence	Personal safety and individual freedom
Security from what threats	Direct threats from other state	Direct and indirect threats
Security by what means	Force as the primary instrument of security, to be used unilaterally for a state’s own safety	Force as a secondary instrument; sanctions, human development as key instruments of individual security
	Balance of power is important; power is equated with military capabilities	Balance of power is of limited utility; soft power is important
	Cooperation between states is tenuous beyond alliance relations	Cooperation between states, INGOs and NGOs can be effective
	Norms and institutions are of limited value	Norms and institutions matter; democratization and institutionalism enhance effectiveness

Source: Kanti Bajpai’s paper on ‘Human Security: Concept and Measurement’

The Report proposed a new framework of development cooperation that brings humanity together through a more equitable sharing of global economic opportunities and responsibilities; a world social charter, a 20:20 compact for human development aimed to meet the most important targets of:

- a) Universal primary education;
- b) Adult illiteracy rates to be halved;
- c) Primary health care for all;
- e) Family planning services for all willing couples;
- f) Safe drinking water and sanitation for all.

It suggests that the major arm suppliers (86% of arms originating from the 5 permanent members of the Security Council) agree on a targeted reduction in military spending to 3% a year and the right of every child to food as sacrosanct as the right to vote.

Indeed, comprehensive human development reflected a much broader concept than human security, as it referred to a “process of widening the range of people’s choices,” while the latter implied “people’s right to exercise these choices freely and safely—and that they can be relatively confident that the opportunities they have today are not totally lost tomorrow.” Haq, in 1994, rightly pointed out that “the human development paradigm is the most holistic development that exists today. It embraces every development issue—including economic growth, social investment, people’s empowerment, provision of basic needs and social safety needs, political and cultural freedoms and all other aspects of people’s lives. It is neither technocratic nor overly philosophical. It is a practical reflection of life itself” (Human Development Report, 1994).

Human Security	Human Development
Vital core of freedoms	All freedoms
Protect from threat/risk	Expand
Participation	Agency & Participation
Protection	Many roles/institutions
Multidimensional	Multidimensional
All countries	All countries
Include all people	Include all people
Needs political will	Needs political will
People not territory	People not economy

The basic objective of human development is to consider the multiple dimensions of human wellbeing and “create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives.” It is contrary to what mainstream economists have long believed that economic growth is the surest way to increase choice and freedom and create happiness; that “money” alone is absolutely good because it is the abstract satisfaction of every wish- everything else can only satisfy one wish.

Numerous studies demonstrated that happiness eludes those who commit themselves wholly to the path of economic growth. For instance, despite over a century of profound material growth in America, surveys show that Americans are not noticeably happier; not happier than a bondless *fakir* trudging the temple areas of Benaras; or a penniless beggar on the streets of Vietnam.

“To achieve development,” Amartya Sen says, “requires the removal of poverty, tyranny, lack of economic opportunities, social deprivation, and neglect of public services and the machinery of repression.” The ‘good life’ is partly a life of genuine choice and not one in which the person is forced into a particular life- however rich it might be in other respects (Amartya Sen, 1999).

In 2009, the Legatum Prosperity Index took this development issue a step further by tabulating those ‘obscure corners of welfare’ that encompasses material wealth and quality of life. Rather than replicating other measurements that rank countries by their actual levels of wealth, this index produces rankings based on the foundation of prosperity. These are factors that help to make ‘happy citizens’ in a given country.

Assessing 104 countries accounting for 90% of the world’s population, the PI variables are built on nine blocks of prosperity identified as:

- Economic Fundamentals
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Democratic Institutions
- Education
- Health
- Safety and security
- Governance
- Personal Freedom
- Social Capital.

The key findings of the Prosperity Index show that:

- a) Prosperous countries are strong across the board—they do well in all nine sub-indexes, indicating that the foundation of prosperity reinforces each other.
- b) Freedom cannot be divided. While some nations seek to allow one respect of freedom while restricting other aspects, prosperous nations reflect freedom in all its dimensions: economic, political, religious and personal;
- c) Sixteen of the top 20 most prosperous countries are in North America and Europe;
- d) Good governance is central to life satisfaction and economic progress;
- e) Happiness is opportunity, good health, relationships and the freedom to choose who you want to be
- f) Strong communities are better than weak governments;
- g) Money can not buy happiness. Only in the poorest countries do increases in income have a significant effect on people’s life satisfaction (Legatum Prosperity Index, 2009).

Table.3

The Top 10 Prosperous Countries	Bottom 10
1. Finland	95. Kenya
2. Switzerland	96. Algeria
3. Sweden	97. Tanzania
4. Denmark	98. Nigeria
5. Norway	99. Pakistan
6. Australia	100. Cameron
7. Canada	101. Central African Republic
8. Netherlands	102. Yemen
9. United States of America	103. Sudan
10. New Zealand	104. Zimbabwe

13.3 GROUND REALITY

Indeed, we have come a long way in discussing prosperity and development, ‘development and security,’ in our existing literature, Track II dialogues and in other decision-making processes. Along with figures, facts have apparently endorsed this long period of ‘peace and calm’ (with no major ‘continental wars’ fought after World War II), with people looking more prosperous, confident and interconnected and global situation more adaptable to ‘quick change’.

The present section is an attempt to examine these ‘myths’ and facts of ‘human development’ with special emphasis on underdevelopment and poverty eradication, terrorism and civilian deaths and environmental degradation as it exists around us in its most unabashed form.

13.3.1 Underdevelopment and Poverty Eradication

By the late 1990s, the fifth of the world’s people living in highest-income countries had:

86% of world GDP—the bottom fifth just 1%

82% of world export markets—the bottom fifth just 1%

68% of Foreign Direct Investment—the bottom fifth had just 1%

Income of the richest 5% of the world was 114 times that of the poorest 5%

The richest 1% had as much income as the poorest 57%. (Buddhadeb Chaudhury, 2008).

As many as 800 million people in the developing world and at least 24 million people in the developed and transition economies lacks access to enough food supply. These people suffer from daily hunger, malnutrition and starvation deaths, and the reasons for food insecurity arising from a number of factors- including inequitable distribution of food, environmental degradation, natural disasters and conflicts.

Natural disasters like drought has triggered famines and civil wars in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia and India (in August 2009, India declared 177 out of 626 districts as ‘drought-hit’

that resulted in starvation deaths, farmers committing suicide and many people taking to forced migration). Environmental degradation in the form of rapid deforestation, logging for trade has resulted in the elimination of 2.4% of the world's forest cover since 1990. War and conflicts have equally contributed to reduced food production with serious impact on the poorest households. The world's 35 million refugees and Internally Displaced Persons are among those who experience conflict-induced hunger. In some regions, where food might otherwise have been available, conflict made people food insecure, affecting their access to adequate food as well as their ability to lead healthy and productive lives. Somalia, Sudan and Darfur are some examples of such conflict zones. Many hunger-stricken denizens here have taken to piracy, terrorism and trafficking (both in arms and humans) as a means of their livelihood.

Even the economic recession that hit the globe last year has further accentuated the gap between the rich and the poor and their accessibility to food. The astronomical rise in prices of the basic necessities of life (food, clothing and housing), rampant joblessness and unemployment (By May 2009, the United States itself had lost nearly six million jobs since December 2007, with its total number of jobless rising to 14.5 million) has literally pushed the globe to a 'no-solution' situation.

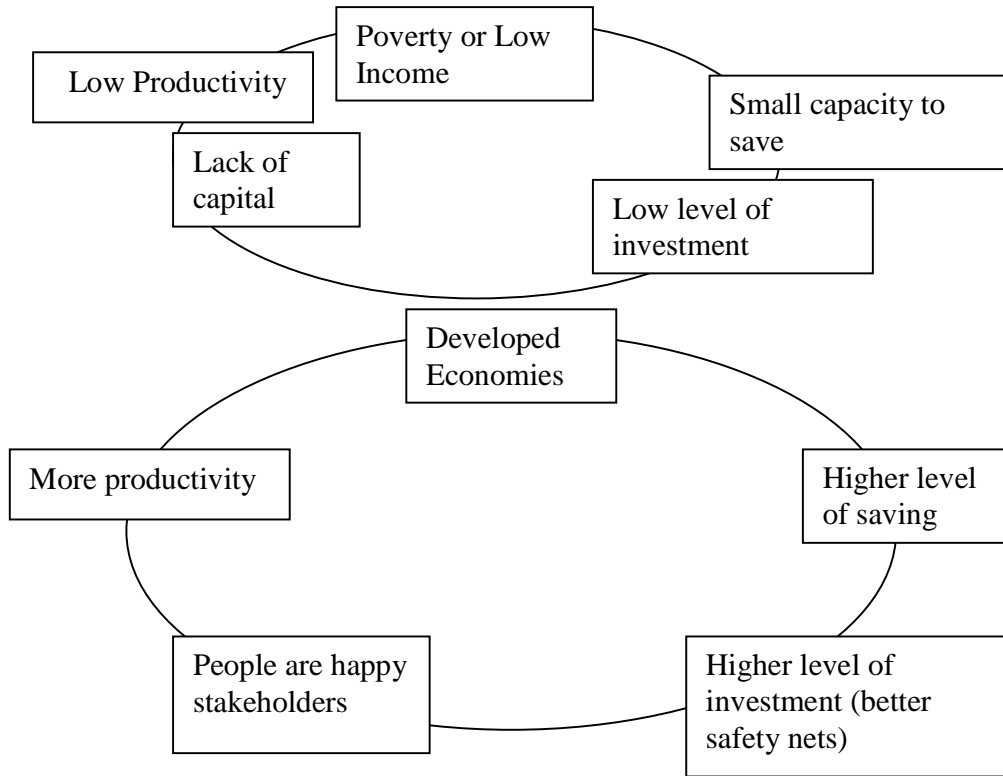
While most post Cold War scholars heralded the new era of 'globalization' 'interconnectedness' as the beginning of a 'homogenous liberal' state with broadening scope for a 'homogenous classless society,' (Francis Fukuyama 1989), a distinct school of thought saw nothing 'new' about globalization, even nothing 'global' about globalization (Peter Sutch and Juanita Elias 2007). For them the highest levels of interconnectedness are between the most developed states in North America, Europe and East Asia, while the poorest areas of the world remain marginal to this. Taking foreign direct investment as an example (when multinational firms decide to establish factories in foreign locations), Hirst and Thompson show that very little of the beneficiary goes into the states in the developing world, while the maximum profit goes to the triad of industrialised states (North America, East Asia and Europe). In fact, the foreign investment that does go to states in the developing world tends to be concentrated in a few states like Mexico, Brazil and China—states in Africa receive hardly any foreign investment, further marginalizing some of the poorest countries in the world from the global economy (Hirst and Thompson, 1999).

Some scholars have even termed globalisation as a 'necessary myth' that states in the developed world have utilised to protect their own interests. These 'imagined economies' represent a kind of hyperglobalized zone of the global economy in which MNCs roam the globe looking for cheap labor, enabling global finance shift across the global money market at the push of a button, and use internet technologies for the fast dispatch of data and information (Cameron and Palan, 2004).

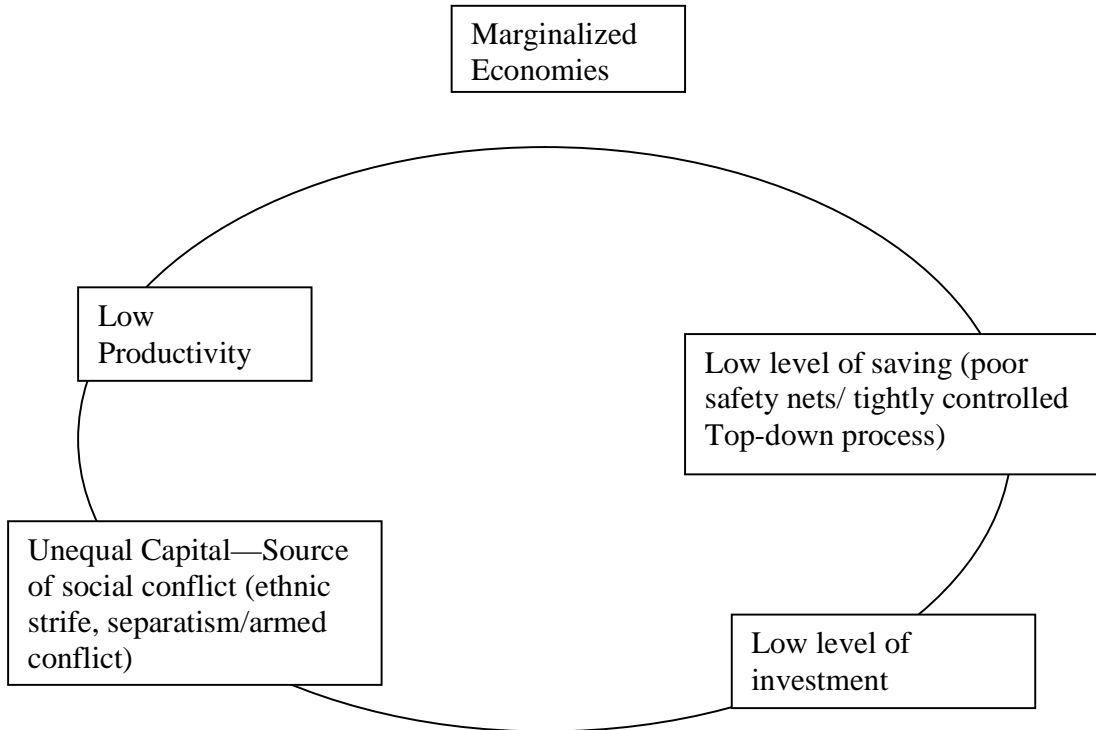
In this transformed economic space, there's no alternative to the rising tide of globalisation. It naturally culminates to a third imagined economy- that of social exclusion that concerns the way in which groups within societies have been excluded and marginalised from globalisation. The important point here is that all these economies have been 'imagined' - they are purely 'mythical' - but powerful myths/imaginings that have played a damaging role in shaping the world in which we live today.

Like the vicious circle of poverty, here we have a vicious circle of 'disparity' that actively works both at the domestic and international level:

Vicious Circle of Poverty



Domestic



Vicious Circle of Disparity Diagrams Conceived by the Author herself

Intellectual challenges to mainstream globalisation therefore calls for anti-globalisation movement (this term is applied to the groups and networks of campaigners who seek to challenge the dominance of neo-liberal economic ideas in global politics and what they see as a multi-national corporate driven global capitalism) which was overwhelmingly linked to the 1999 “Battle for Seattle” to protest against the injustices of the neo-liberal economic order unleashed by the World Bank, IMF and the WTO.

No doubt, Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom, President Nicolas Sarkozy of France and other heads of states have mentioned the need for ‘a new Bretton Woods’- even a ‘third generation of international institution.’ The present world body, urgently requires strengthening, to become in US President Obama’s own description a global institution that works, not the current G-7 and G-8 or an upgraded G-20 version to include emerging powers, not ad hoc coalitions of the willing or Robert Kagan’s ‘League of Democracies’ but a universal global body. Anything less constitutes wishful thinking to escape from the complexities of addressing daunting global challenges (Thomas G. Weiss, 2009).

It calls for a more dynamic UN with a refurbished ‘Security Council’ that allows ‘flexible engagement’ with benign power like India, better accommodation for weaker powers like the African Union to discuss and debate issues transcending national boundaries, precisely those dealing with ‘problems without passports.’ (Kofi Annan, 2002). At the domestic level, much of the causes of separatism, ethnic strife, and civil war are hidden in deeper economic deprivation of the periphery, where the richer few are more interested to cut the bigger slice of cake to suit their convenience. Although much has flown out of hand and little remains to be done, the call of the hour necessitates to: weigh quality over anything ‘else’; arrest the focal points of ‘systemic failure’; create state-sponsored and state-administered social safety nets that create self-reliant job opportunities for the ‘deprived’ section.

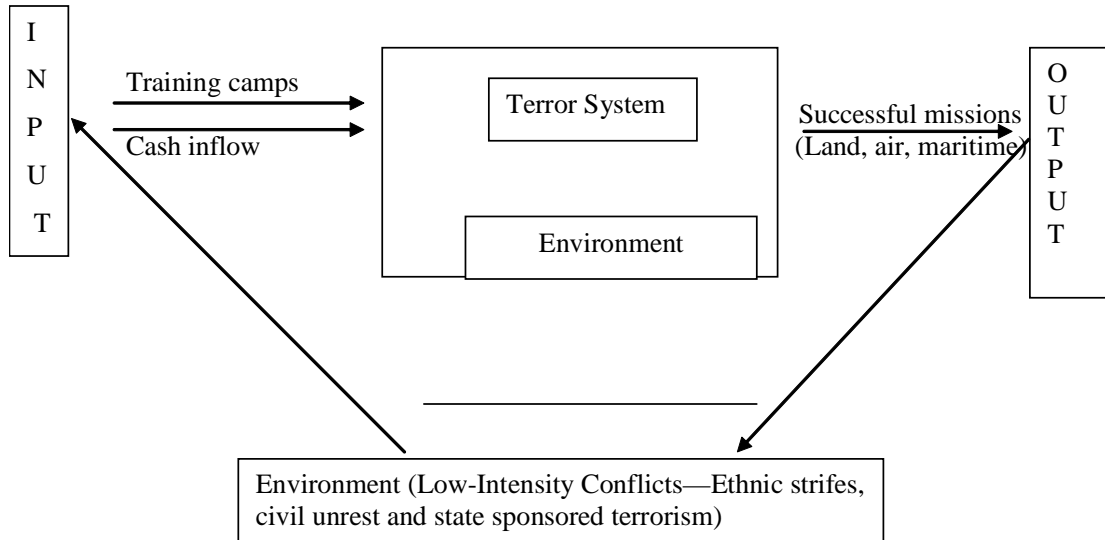
13.3.2 Terrorism and Civilian Deaths

The nuclear holocaust on Hiroshima and Nagasaki claimed some 150,000 lives, with many more left gravely maimed and injured. The ‘war on terror’ and ‘holy war’ by terrorists- have directly killed 6,20,006 people (according to an independent research carried on in 2006), created 4.5 million refugees and cost the West more than the sum needed to pay off the debts of every poor nation on earth.

The extraordinary scale of conflict, claiming lives from New York to Bali and London to Lahore, and from Lahore to India and Sri Lanka has literally brought to question, whether the ‘War on Terror Can Be Won?.’ For some scholars, like violent crime, deadly disease and other scourges, terrorism can be reduced and contained, but it cannot be totally eliminated (Philip H. Gordon, 2007).

According to Singapore’s Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, the new terrorism “*stems from a religious ideology that is infused with an implacable hostility to all secular governments, especially the West, and in particular the US.*” [Dell Higgie, 2004]. Huntington called it the ‘clash of civilizations’.

This ‘religious terrorism’ is very different from insurgency/armed conflicts arising out of economic deprivation of the periphery, since here the group has a distinct objective, a structured terror system that keeps the process going.



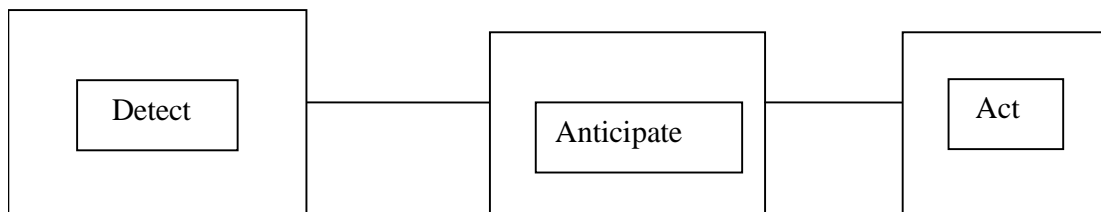
A Framework of Terror System. The loop shows the recurring process of terrorism, where successful and failed missions work as ‘feedback mechanism’ into the input.

[The Concept of a Terror System is a replication of David Easton’s Political System]

Terrorism arising out of economic deprivation (Maoists, Naxals)	Religious Terrorism
Flexible objective. Reasons hidden in poverty, unemployment, financial crisis. If adequately addressed, scopes for peaceful reconciliation	Fixed objective. ‘Jihad’ and establishment of a homogenous Muslim state
Targeted abductions, seizure and hostage-taking for purely economic reasons	Aimed at mass annihilation (any means to an end) leading to systemic breakdown
Restricted flow of money- fund-raising from borrowing from a ‘mother group,’ abduction, kidnappings.	Unabated flow of money, arms and ammunitions (Dropping from Petro Dollars, Drug and Human Trafficking)
Reach is transboundary/ intra& inter-state	Reach is transnational/techno-savvy
Once broken, hard to regroup	Can easily break and regroup into sleeper, dormant and active cells
Simple ‘leader’ not a ‘mesmerizer’	Charismatic leadership with corporate aptitude

To combat this sort of terrorism requires a three-pronged strategy to:

- a) Detect terrorist group effort to change and adapt; Anticipate, whether those efforts will be successful; Act—to limit terrorist groups ability to learn or undermine their learning efforts. Thus:



- a) Limiting the terrorist groups' access to critical knowledge resources;
- b) Identifying and preventing acquisition of novel technologies and weapons;
- c) Locating and targeting a terrorist group's "learning leadership"- those individual critical to the ability to carry out organizational learning processes;
- d) Identifying and breaking critical connections among terrorist group members;
- e) Denying these groups the safe haven needed for experimentation and innovation. (Rand Publication, 2005).

Proposals for *separate research organizations, departments dealing with Terrorism Studies in universities, a world counter-terrorism body* empowered to examine pragmatic and psychological causes behind 'old' and 'new' terrorism can be effective measures aimed to combat this scourge, vis-à-vis a global body (UN) which is already plagued with numerous problems.

Since we have lost too many innocent lives in this 'Fourth Generation Warfare', now is the time when actions should speak louder than words; those actions being well-planned, organised to save our future generation from hidden fanatics.

Civilian casualties during some of the most recent popular attacks worldwide

Attack	Civilian dead	Injured
26/11, 2008 Mumbai attacks	98 civilians- 14 Policemen; 14 Foreigners	327 (LeT responsible)
7/7 London Underground attack	56	700 (Al Qaeda claimed responsibility)
2002, Mariott Hotel bombing in Bali	202- 88-Australians	300 (Al Qaeda claimed responsibility)
2003 ASG attack on a chemical tanker named <i>Dewi Madrim</i>	100 on board killed	Abu Sayyaf Group claimed responsibility
WTC 9/11, 2001 attack on twin towers	2,551	215 (460 Emergency responders)
31 Jan, 1996, LTTE attack on Central Bank of Colombo	81	1,400

Red Terror unleashed across different parts of India has already claimed 900 lives so far.

13.3.3 Environmental Degradation and Human Development

To top all other man-made calamities, human society today stands at the 'edge' of a sinking earth that has already started giving enough indications of the final 'apocalypse,'- Tsunamis, rising-level of the sea, forest fires in Indonesia, Australia and the West; landslides in the Philippines and China, hurricanes in Southern America, vanishing species in the animal-chain and rising temperatures owing to carbon gas emissions and global warming.

A recent report by a research team confirmed that the arctic ice cap will disappear completely in the summer months within 20 to 30 years, "but in less than that it will have considerably retreated," said Professor Peter Wadhams, head of the Polar Ocean physics group at Cambridge University. In about 10 years, the arctic ice will be considered an open sea. (DNA, 2009).

Already man-made problems of overpopulation, excessive stress on non-renewable resources, damming water bodies, massive deforestation for industrialization has heralded the pandemic rise in HINI avian influenza, SARS epidemic, infectious diseases like HIV/AIDs, Tamilflu, swine flu and still more to come by. Scholars unanimously agree that although a coming pandemic cannot be avoided, its impact can be considerably lessened, depending on how the world leaders- from the heads of the G-8, G-77 groupings to local officials decide to respond (Michael T. Osterholm, 2005).

The ongoing G77 meet at Copenhagen has called industrialised nations to cut their carbon emission by 40% by 2020 and another 40% by 2035. India has already agreed to voluntarily reduce its carbon emission level by 20 to 25% from 2005 levels by 2020, while members of the Association of Small Island nations demanded the creation of a new protocol under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Precisely the challenges of the post Cold War world, call for collaborative international action, requiring full engagement of all nation-states—rich and poor, north and south, developed and developing. The world expects no less and it is everyone’s responsibility to deliver sincerely (Ban-Ki-Moon, 2009).

13.4 SUMMARY

Even if the future of a comprehensive human development looks very grim, there is no denial that the series of literature on Human Development Indices, Prosperity Indices has left hardly any problems encompassing ‘human well-being’ unanswered. Today, issues cannot hide public attention and public awareness. Issues have also blurred the apparent distinction between rich and poor, North and South, developed and developing nations. The existing economic, environmental, regional, nuclear non-proliferation communities are evidences of modern man’s genuine effort at peaceful coexistence. For International Relations scholars, it is Neo-liberalism’s ultimate triumph over the constricted, narrow-world of Realism.

The only need of the hour is to infuse this human society with more ‘belief’ - more belief in the system- more belief in a global body like UN; more belief in ‘flexible Bretton Woods,’ more belief in ‘Nuclear Non-Proliferation’ activities, more belief in ‘cleaner environmental’ groupings. Only this belief of being ‘bound together’ and to ‘act together’ can help us chalk out remedies to combat social anomalies of religious fanaticism, disease, poverty, insurgency and armed conflicts. For no society in the past has been without problems, and no societies in the future will be without problems; it only calls to dig out the best out of the worst alternative; to maximise the minimal profit.

It is good to recall Voltaire’s concept of tolerance here, where a society governed by the culture of tolerance is based on the premise that it possesses every claim to a complete knowledge of the given state of affairs- good, bad or status quo. Therefore, wisdom would consist in one’s admitting that “I may not be right and you may not be wrong.’ Since we are all products of a frailty- fallible and prone to error, it is natural to pardon each other’s follies. That’s the first principle of human rights- and the first stepping stone towards overall human development.

13.5 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Trace the evolution of the concept of comprehensive human development. How much do human security issues play a significant role within the development paradigm?

2. How is human security different from human development? Discuss two direct and indirect threats unique to developing countries?
3. How are development and environment related? Does globalisation lead to environmental degradation?
4. How is religious terrorism different from insurgency arising out of economic deprivation? Discuss the future of terrorism with special emphasis on its hindering effect on human development.
5. Write short notes on:
 - a. Human development and poverty eradication
 - b. Human Prosperity and overall security
 - c. Hyperglobalisation.

SUGGESTED READINGS

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