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A Chronicle of Progress: The Story of Human Development in Punjab Post 1991

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ABSTRACT

This paper, titled "A Chronicle of Progress: The Story of Human Development in Punjab Post 1991," aims to analyze the trends in Income, Health, and Education parameters in Punjab from 1993-94 to 2020-21 and conduct a comparative analysis of Punjab's Human Development Index (HDI) with the national HDI. The Human Development Index (HDI) is utilized as a comprehensive tool to assess the overall quality of life, incorporating indicators such as per capita income, life expectancy, and education metrics.

The findings reveal a substantial increase in Punjab's per capita income, indicative of positive developments in income distribution and economic well-being. Life expectancy witnessed a steady rise, reflecting advancements in healthcare, lifestyle, and overall well-being. Educational indicators, including mean and expected years of schooling, depict a consistent positive trend, suggesting improved educational opportunities and accessibility.

The temporal evolution of Punjab's HDI demonstrates significant progress across critical dimensions of income, health, education, and the overall HDI. Punjab has historically led in human development, with sustained economic growth, improved healthcare outcomes, and advancements in the education sector. However, a comparative analysis with India's HDI reveals a diminishing gap, emphasizing the need for continued and focused efforts in human development policies.

Policy recommendations include sustaining economic growth, enhancing healthcare infrastructure, boosting educational opportunities, aligning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), monitoring and addressing disparities, adapting to changing dynamics, and fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. These recommendations aim to guide policymakers in Punjab towards a holistic and sustainable approach to human development, ensuring the state's continued leadership in India's developmental landscape.

Keywords: Human Development Index, HDI, Punjab, Health, Education, Life Expectancy, Income Index

INTRODUCTION

Punjab, a state in northern India, is known for its rich history, vibrant culture, and fertile land. Despite being one of India's wealthiest states, it faces challenges like poverty, unemployment, and gender inequality.

Most of Punjab's economy comes from farming. The state is a big producer of crops like wheat, rice, maize, and sugarcane. Alongside farming, Punjab has various industries like food processing, textiles, and engineering. The Economic Survey of Punjab highlights the state's progress in infrastructure, industry, and its young population. While the services sector is growing, farming remains crucial for Punjab's economy.

This research focuses on a significant measure called the Human Development Index (HDI) to understand how Punjab has progressed since 1991. HDI looks at not just money but also health and education, giving a more complete picture of development. For Punjab, dealing with issues like poverty and unemployment, HDI helps policymakers plan better for overall growth.

Why measure human development? Well, just looking at money doesn't show the full story. HDI helps us see how well people are living, how healthy they are, and how educated they are. In Punjab's case, where there are challenges, HDI guides policymakers to create plans that help everyone.

This research goes beyond academic interest; it's about uncovering Punjab's story after 1991, understanding how its economy and people have changed. As Punjab faces various challenges, HDI becomes a vital tool to understand progress beyond just money.

In India, services often get more attention in economic discussions. Punjab, with its balanced mix of farming, services, and industries, sets itself apart. The state's journey, adapting technology in farming and bringing more people into different work areas, shows a unique way of development.

This study aims to dive into Punjab's story post-1991, looking at how economic growth and human well-being go hand in hand. By using HDI, the research wants to offer insights that can help policymakers and academics understand Punjab's progress, making it a story not just for Punjab but for all of India.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Goyal and Singh (2020) explored the human development status of Punjab by analyzing its HDI in comparison with other Indian states and UTs, along with an in-depth examination at the district level. The study highlighted a significant decline in Punjab's overall HDI after 2001, emphasizing interdistrict inequalities.

Indrayan et al. (1999) provided a three-decade trend analysis of the Human Development Index in India, identifying Kerala, Maharashtra, and Punjab as the only states reaching a medium level of human development in 1991. The study projected an optimistic scenario for most states to surpass the HDI threshold of 0.5 by 2001, emphasizing the need for intensified efforts in populous states.

Sharma and Kaur (2015) delved into the relationship between economic growth and human development, focusing on Haryana. They emphasized that economic growth is a means to achieve human development, analyzing indicators such as literacy rates, enrollment rates, and infant mortality rates. The study concluded that there exists a significant relationship between economic growth and human development indicators.

Bala (2017) conducted a regional analysis of social development in Haryana, highlighting the multidimensional nature of development. The study identified disparities in literacy, sex ratio, and urbanization levels across districts, indicating the need for targeted interventions to address social development variability.

Hassan et al. (2008) explored gender bias and economic development in Haryana, revealing a patriarchal structure contributing to a significant deficit of females in the population. The study advocated for radical social progress to address gender bias persisting despite economic transformation.

Mukherjee and Chakraborty (2011) analyzed the evolving relationship between economic growth and human development in Indian states. Their results indicated that per capita income alone does not ensure human well-being, emphasizing the growing influence of other variables in determining HDI achievements.

Singh (2022) studied human development in Haryana after economic reforms in 1991, focusing on trends in HDI. The research used various datasets to estimate HDI values, noting improvements over the decades but identifying areas like health and education that still require attention.

Singh and Aneja (2022) examined Assam's human development journey, assessing trends and patterns using HDI from 1993-94 to 2017-18. Despite overall improvement, the study highlighted that Assam's HDI remains below the national average, suggesting the need for continued efforts.

Singh and Rusat (2022) explored the dynamics of human development in Tamil Nadu, indicating significant progress in education, income, and health indices over the years. The study suggested ongoing investments in areas like education, economic growth, and healthcare to further enhance Tamil Nadu's HDI.

Need of the Study:

While existing studies have shed light on the human development scenario in Punjab and neighboring states, there is a notable research gap regarding a comprehensive and temporal analysis of Punjab's HDI trends post-1991. The available literature provides insights into broader regional dynamics and specific aspects of development but lacks a dedicated focus on Punjab's HDI evolution over time. This research aims to bridge this gap by offering a detailed chronicle of Punjab's progress, examining income, health, and education parameters, and conducting a comparative analysis with the national HDI.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

- 1. Analyze the trends in Income, Health, and Education parameter in Punjab from 1993-94 to 2020-21.
- 2. Examine the temporal evolution of Human Development Index (HDI) in Punjab over the specified time frame.
- 3. Conduct a comparative analysis of Punjab's HDI with the national HDI.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a commonly used tool to evaluate the overall quality of life of a population. It takes into account three critical aspects of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living. The HDI uses various metrics such as life expectancy, expected years of schooling, average years of schooling, and gross national income per capita to create a single index that captures the overall performance of a nation in these areas.

A long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth;

Education as measured by expected years of schooling for children at school age and by the mean years of schooling that adults aged 25 and above have undertaken:

A decent standard of living as measured by Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) in US dollars.

TABLE 1 Human Development Index Parameters Ranges

Dimensions	imensions Indicator		Maximum
Health Life expectancy (years)		20	85
	Expected years of schooling(years)	0	18
Education	Mean years of schooling(years)	0	15
Standard of living	Gross national income per capita (2011 PPP \$)	100	75000

Formulae for estimation of HDI

1. Health Index

Health Index = $\frac{Life\ expectancy\ at\ birt\ h\ -\ Min.value}{Max.value\ -\ Min.value}$

2. Education Index

Mean years of schooling (MYS) index = $\frac{\textit{Mean Year of Schooling - Min.value}}{\textit{Max.value - Min.value}}$

Expected years of schooling (EYS) index = $\frac{Expected\ Year\ of\ Schooling\ - Min.value}{Max.value\ - Min.value}$

On the basis of MYS and EYS, we calculate Education Index:

Education Index = $\frac{MYS \ index + EYS \ index}{2}$

3. <u>Income Index</u>

Income Index = $\frac{\ln PCY(PPP) - \ln (Min.PCY)}{\ln (Max.PCY) - \ln (Min.PCY)}$

4. Human Development Index

HDI= $[[Health\ Index], [Education\ Index], [Income\ Index]]^{\frac{1}{3}}$

DATA SOURCES

This investigation relies on secondary data specific to Punjab concerning various indicators of human development. Life expectancy at birth is assessed using data from the Sample Registration System (SRS) Abridged Life Tables, published by the Office of the Registrar General of India, considered a reliable source for death statistics in India. This dataset incorporates information from multiple years of the ORGI SRS-abridged life tables and some segments from the RBI's official website. Expected and mean years of schooling are evaluated through self-estimation drawn from the Employment and Unemployment survey of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS). The mean year of schooling is computed by averaging the schooling years of the population aged 24 and above in Punjab. Expected years of schooling are determined by averaging the schooling years of individuals aged 21-24, assuming a continuation of the present education status. The analysis includes Punjab's per capita income data from different years, adjusted for constant prices of 2011-12. For international comparisons, the data is converted into a standardized currency using the purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rate derived from the year 2011-12, with the established value of Rs 15.55 for each dollar, as reported by the World Bank.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Analysis of Trends In Human Development Index Parameters in Punjab (1993-94 To 2020-21):

TABLE 2 Human Development Index Parameters Data in Punjab¹

Ī	Year	PCY(\$) based on PPP	Life expectancy	MYS	EYS
	1993-94	3090	67.2	4.1	6.5

¹The table data, utilized in this study, is drawn from Sample Registration System (SRS) Abridged Life Tables, NSSO & PLFS surveys, and Punjab's per capita income adjusted for 2011-12 constant prices and converted to international currency using World Bank's PPP exchange rate (Rs 15.55 per dollar, 2011-12).

1999-2K	3648	67.2	4.8	7.1
2004-05	4058	69.1	5.8	8.8
2011-12	6134	71.6	6.5	9.2
2017-18	7988	72.9	7.7	10.9
2020-21	8334	73.5	8.0	11.2

The examination of key Human Development Index (HDI) parameters for Punjab from 1993-94 to 2020-21 reveals notable trends in per capita income (PCY), life expectancy, and education indicators. Over this period, Punjab has experienced substantial economic growth, evident in the consistent rise in per capita income based on purchasing power parity (PPP), escalating from \$3090 in 1993-94 to \$8334 in 2020-21. This significant increase reflects positive developments in income distribution and overall economic well-being. The improvement in life expectancy is another encouraging trend, witnessing a gradual and steady rise from 67.2 years in 1993-94 to 73.5 years in 2020-21. This upward trajectory indicates advancements in healthcare, lifestyle, and the overall well-being of the population.

Education indicators, including mean years of schooling (MYS) and expected years of schooling (EYS), portray a consistent positive trend, reflecting progress in the education sector. Mean years of schooling have increased from 4.1 years in 1993-94 to 8.0 years in 2020-21, suggesting improved educational opportunities and accessibility. Similarly, expected years of schooling have risen from 6.5 years to 11.2 years over the same period, indicating an optimistic outlook for educational attainment among the younger population.

The Temporal Evolution of Human Development Index (HDI) in Punjab:

The data presented in Table 3 outlines the trends of the Human Development Index (HDI) and its associated components in Punjab over a span of nearly three decades, from 1993-94 to 2020-21. Each index - Income, Health, Education, and the overall HDI - provides valuable insights into the state's progress across key dimensions of human development.

TABLE 3 Trends of Human Development and its Associate Index in Punjab

Year	Income Index	Health Index	Education Index	HDI
1993-94	0.518	0.726	0.317	0.492
1999-2K	0.543	0.726	0.357	0.520
2004-05	0.559	0.755	0.438	0.570
2011-12	0.622	0.794	0.472	0.615
2017-18	0.662	0.814	0.559	0.670
2020-21	0.668	0.823	0.578	0.682

The table detailing the temporal evolution of the Human Development Index (HDI) in Punjab from 1993-94 to 2020-21 provides a comprehensive insight into the state's progress across critical dimensions of income, health, education, and the overall HDI. The Income Index, representing economic prosperity, demonstrates a consistent upward trajectory, increasing from 0.518 in 1993-94 to 0.668 in 2020-21. This reflects sustained economic growth and improved living standards within the state over the years.

Simultaneously, the Health Index exhibits notable advancements, starting at 0.726 in 1993-94 and reaching 0.823 in 2020-21. This positive trend indicates improvements in healthcare infrastructure and outcomes, resulting in an enhanced life expectancy and overall well-being for the population of Punjab.

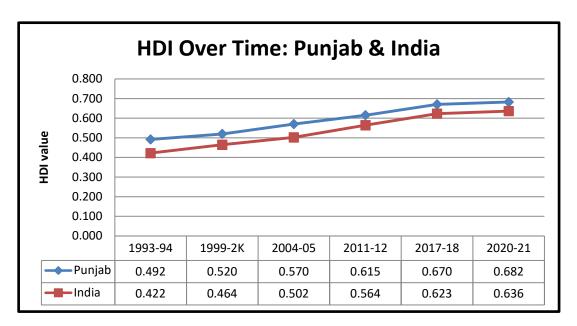
The Education Index, representing progress in the education sector, has experienced substantial growth, ascending from 0.317 in 1993-94 to 0.578 in 2020-21. This signifies advancements in educational opportunities and attainment, underlining the state's commitment to human capital development.

The overall HDI trajectory encapsulates these interconnected advancements, rising from 0.492 in 1993-94 to 0.682 in 2020-21. This holistic measure signifies the collective improvement in income, health, and education dimensions, portraying a commendable enhancement in the quality of life for the people of Punjab.

The implications of these trends are profound, showcasing a state that has not only experienced economic growth but has also prioritized healthcare and education, contributing to a more comprehensive and sustainable development. The positive evolution of the HDI underscores Punjab's commitment to fostering a high standard of living and overall well-being for its residents.

A Comparative Analysis of Punjab's HDI with India's HDI:

The graph titled "HDI Over Time: Punjab & India" is a visual representation of the Human Development Index (HDI) trends in Punjab and India from 1993-94 to 2020-21. The HDI serves as a comprehensive measure of a region's development, encompassing factors such as health, education, and income. This analysis not only sheds light on the relative progress of Punjab in comparison to the national average but also reveals intriguing patterns that hold implications for policymaking in the state.



The journey begins in 1993-94, where Punjab's HDI stands at 0.492, outpacing India's HDI of 0.422. This early lead suggests a historically favorable trajectory for Punjab, indicating a head start in overall human development. The subsequent years witness a consistent upward trend for both Punjab and India, underscoring a positive national development narrative. In 1999-2K, Punjab's HDI is 0.520 compared to India's 0.464, reaffirming the state's developmental superiority.

As we progress to 2004-05, Punjab maintains its lead with an HDI of 0.570, while India's HDI is 0.502. The gap between Punjab and the national average continues to persist, signifying a sustained commitment to various facets of human development within the state. However, it is in the subsequent years that the dynamics begin to shift.

In 2011-12, Punjab's HDI reaches 0.615, demonstrating an incremental improvement, while India makes a notable leap to 0.564. This marks a turning point in the comparative analysis, as the gap between Punjab and India starts to narrow. The trend intensifies in 2017-18, with Punjab's HDI at 0.670 and India's at 0.623. The reduction in the HDI gap implies that the national progress is catching up to Punjab's historically higher levels of human development.

By 2020-21, Punjab's HDI stands at 0.682, and India's at 0.636. While Punjab maintains its lead, the margin has noticeably diminished. The convergence of HDI values raises important considerations for policymakers in Punjab. The state has been a frontrunner in various developmental dimensions, but the diminishing gap should serve as a precautionary signal.

Several factors contribute to Punjab's historically higher HDI. The state's emphasis on education, reflected in mean and expected years of schooling, has played a pivotal role. Additionally, advancements in healthcare, as indicated by rising life expectancy, have contributed to improved overall well-being. Punjab's economic growth, reflected in per capita income, has further bolstered its HDI.

However, the diminishing gap implies that the national average is catching up, emphasizing the need for continued and focused efforts in human development policies. Policymakers in Punjab should interpret this trend as a call to action, urging a reevaluation and reinforcement of strategies to sustain and potentially widen the developmental lead.

The convergence in HDI values does not necessarily indicate a decline in Punjab's development but rather a rising tide lifting all boats. The national progress is a positive development for India, but it underscores the importance of Punjab's policymakers adapting to a changing landscape. Efforts to enhance education, healthcare, and economic opportunities must not only be sustained but also intensified to maintain and potentially extend Punjab's lead in human development.

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of Punjab's HDI with India's HDI from 1993-94 to 2020-21 reveals a dynamic interplay of development trends. While Punjab has historically led in human development, the diminishing gap necessitates a nuanced approach from policymakers. The state's commitment to sustained and targeted efforts in education, healthcare, and economic growth will be critical in ensuring that Punjab continues to be at the forefront of India's developmental landscape.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The examination of trends in Income, Health, and Education parameters in Punjab from 1993-94 to 2020-21, as well as the comparative analysis of Punjab's Human Development Index (HDI) with the national HDI, illuminates key aspects of the state's developmental journey. Based on these findings, the following policy and recommendations emerge:

- Sustain Economic Growth: The consistent rise in per capita income (PCY) in Punjab signifies positive developments in income
 distribution and economic well-being. Policymakers should prioritize measures that sustain this economic growth, ensuring that it is
 inclusive and reaches all segments of the population. Promoting investments, fostering entrepreneurship, and addressing regional disparities
 can contribute to maintaining a robust economic trajectory.
- 2. Enhance Healthcare Infrastructure: The upward trajectory in life expectancy underscores improvements in healthcare. To consolidate these gains, policymakers should focus on enhancing healthcare infrastructure, ensuring accessibility to quality healthcare services across the state. Investing in healthcare facilities, training healthcare professionals, and implementing preventive healthcare measures can further improve overall health outcomes.
- 3. Boost Educational Opportunities: The positive trends in mean years of schooling (MYS) and expected years of schooling (EYS) indicate progress in the education sector. To build on this foundation, policymakers should prioritize initiatives that enhance educational opportunities and accessibility. This includes investments in educational infrastructure, teacher training programs, and efforts to address disparities in educational attainment among different demographic groups.
- 4. Integrate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Aligning policies with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can provide a comprehensive framework for development. Policymakers should consider integrating SDGs related to poverty reduction, health, education, and economic growth into the state's development agenda. This approach ensures a holistic and sustainable approach to human development.
- 5. Monitor and Address Disparities: While overall trends are positive, policymakers should pay attention to potential disparities among different demographic groups within Punjab. Monitoring indicators based on gender, socioeconomic status, and geographical location can help identify and address specific challenges faced by vulnerable populations, ensuring that the benefits of development are equitably distributed.
- 6. Adaptation to Changing Dynamics: The diminishing gap in HDI values between Punjab and the national average signals changing dynamics. Policymakers should view this as an opportunity to adapt and refine strategies. Continuous monitoring of development indicators, periodic reassessment of policies, and a dynamic approach to address emerging challenges will be crucial to maintaining Punjab's leadership in human development.
- 7. Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange: Encouraging collaboration and knowledge exchange with other states and international entities can provide valuable insights and best practices. Learning from successful initiatives implemented elsewhere can inform policy decisions and contribute to more effective implementation of development strategies in Punjab.

In conclusion, the policy recommendations outlined above are intended to guide policymakers in Punjab as they navigate the complex landscape of human development. By focusing on sustaining economic growth, enhancing healthcare and education, aligning with global development goals, addressing disparities, adapting to changing dynamics, and fostering collaboration, Punjab can continue to be a beacon of progress and development in India

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study aimed to analyze the trends in income, health, and education parameters in Punjab from 1993-94 to 2020-21, with a focus on the Human Development Index (HDI). The examination of key HDI parameters reveals substantial progress in per capita income (PCY), life expectancy, and education indicators over the specified period. Punjab's economic growth, reflected in the rise of PCY from \$3090 in 1993-94 to \$8334 in 2020-21, suggests positive developments in income distribution and overall economic well-being.

The upward trajectory in life expectancy, increasing from 67.2 years in 1993-94 to 73.5 years in 2020-21, signifies advancements in healthcare, lifestyle, and the overall well-being of the population. Education indicators, including mean years of schooling (MYS) and expected years of schooling (EYS), exhibit consistent positive trends, reflecting progress in the education sector.

The temporal evolution of the HDI in Punjab from 1993-94 to 2020-21 underscores the state's progress across dimensions of income, health, education, and the overall HDI. The Income Index, Health Index, Education Index, and the overall HDI demonstrate consistent upward trajectories, reflecting sustained economic growth, improvements in healthcare infrastructure, and advancements in educational opportunities.

A comparative analysis of Punjab's HDI with India's HDI reveals a historically favorable trajectory for Punjab, outpacing the national average in the early years. While Punjab maintains its lead in 2020-21 with an HDI of 0.682 compared to India's 0.636, the diminishing gap emphasizes the need for continued and focused efforts in human development policies. Policymakers in Punjab should interpret this trend as a call to action, urging a reevaluation and reinforcement of strategies to sustain and potentially widen the developmental lead.

Policy recommendations based on the findings include sustaining economic growth, enhancing healthcare infrastructure, boosting educational opportunities, integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), monitoring and addressing disparities, adapting to changing dynamics, and fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. These recommendations aim to guide policymakers in Punjab as they navigate the complex landscape of human development, ensuring sustained progress and development in the state.

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