HUMAN SECURITY IN INDIA

Anjan Sarma

Associate Professor Department of Political Science

Bhattadev University, Bajali

Abstract

Currently, both in India and the North East, human security is turning into a serious problem. The Indian government has introduced new laws and policies pertaining to human security, however it has not succeeded in providing security and protecting human life for its residents up to an international standard. There is no question that many of the security threats the world faces in the twenty-first century are related to problems like poverty, underdevelopment, inequality, environmental deterioration, climate change, pandemics, illegal immigration, people smuggling, drug trafficking, and conflicts resulting from failed states due to poor governance. The state is largely in charge of guaranteeing security and making sure the system is well-equipped to handle any situation. Since gaining its independence, India has taken great care to protect its geographical integrity.

keywords: *human, security, India*

INTRODUCTION

The preceding Units of this course have covered the idea, significance, nature, and extent of human security in great detail. Human Security in South Asia, the unit before this one, covered its numerous facets. The human security situation in India is examined in this unit. India makes for an interesting instance for a variety of reasons. First of all, when we examine the past, we can see that India has drawn individuals from different ages, backgrounds, and religious views. It has been controlled by several kingdoms and has graciously assimilated all of them, whether via adoration or conquest. It has always been a nation of diversity and offers a superb platform for many civilizations. Even while everyone's togetherness has been essential to its existence, it has also endured hardships. India continues to be tolerant and cosmopolitan today against all challenges. Nevertheless, a number of causes operate in society that impair its tranquilly, as we have already learned in the previous sections. All people are born with the tendency to use violence, which has a variety of negative effects. India has gone through it all and still does. Many of these issues are discussed in length in this unit.

OBJECTIVES

1. identify the dimensions of human security in India
2. describe the measures taken to ensure human security

HUMAN SECURITY: INDIAN SCENARIO

There is little doubt that many of the security threats the world faces in the twenty-first century are related to problems like poverty, underdevelopment, inequality, environmental deterioration, climate change, pandemics, illegal immigration, people smuggling, drug trafficking, and conflicts resulting from failed states

due to poor governance. Although these concerns are not new, they are becoming more international and interconnected in a time of expanding globalisation. Furthermore, despite the fact that the system of nations that makes up the current international order may appear to be stable on the surface, these risks have a direct and profound impact on people's safety and wellbeing. Therefore, the idea of security and the most effective ways of achieving it need to be reconsidered by the international community. It is necessary to have a thorough knowledge of security that is centred on people, since this is a better framework for reference and action in the modern world than the conventional idea of national security. 2011; Amitav Acharya, p. xii. In contrast to the conventional notion or pattern of security that is popular in many countries, human security has therefore taken on an entirely new dimension. India is a varied nation, as has previously been noted, with many distinct ethnic groups making up its population. India is a special situation where several communities coexist while continually maintaining their individual identities. This has frequently allowed for severe inequities; there are divides in society based on caste, creed, class, religion, community, and other factors. Some groups frequently feel excluded from society and believe they are being treated unfairly. Even if it is true that there is still prejudice, it is noteworthy that these organisations have grown more forceful in voicing their objections and sending elected officials to make their arguments before the highest legislative bodies. Similar to this, numerous welfare programmes are being introduced on the economic front to provide economic and social justice to the oppressed and disadvantaged members of society. Different groups are becoming more conscious of their lawful rights and claims, which makes it simpler to demand the provision of human security. The government is cautious in ensuring that each person receives their fair share via the execution of numerous laws and programmes. It is now working to provide for its residents on all fronts. Although not all-inclusive, the human security components include political, economic, social, cultural, communitarian, and environmental security. These will be addressed precisely in order to evaluate the learner's understanding of these characteristics.

Political Security: The state is largely in charge of guaranteeing security and making sure the system is well-equipped to handle any situation. Since gaining its independence, India has taken great care to protect its geographical integrity. India's strategic location has left it open to challenges from a variety of sources. The difficulties in maintaining national unity have been various and have occasionally been tested. Insurgent and terrorist organisations have often tried to destabilise India from its northern and north-eastern sides, which have been particularly vulnerable. There are various difficulties with this task: Parallel governments are run, especially in the Naxalite (Maoists) violence-prone areas, and there are difficulties preventing the proliferation of small arms, drugs, and trafficking. Government officials rarely carry out their duties. Law and order enforcing agencies frequently encounter obstacles in the remote areas where the insurgent/militant groups operate. Since increased levels of development and the provision of fundamental requirements tend to reduce inequality, many experts advocate human development as a requirement for human security. The accessibility creates a sense of security that keeps crime rates from skyrocketing. Therefore, it is essential that the decision-makers consider the policies that guarantee everyone's wellbeing.

Economic Security: Even if there are still economic inequalities, there hasn't really been anything done to close the gap between the affluent and the poor. One of the issues holding back India's development is poverty. It was anticipated that the upcoming economic issues would be overcome with the implementation of economic liberalisation. However, India's liberalisation strategy and the policies that followed it led to a widening of the gap between the wealthiest and the poor in the country. In actuality, racial and economic inequality have fueled the growth of radical leftist ideology and, in turn, violence. As the state was unable to contain this threat, they have grown to uncontrollable dimensions. The main driver of this violence is

mostly of an economic origin, and both its frequency and scope are projected to rise. Economic security is largely influenced by economic empowerment. According to Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy, "improvement in economic development, particularly in human development (growth with fairness), decreases the likelihood of conflict situations and the desire to go to war out of avarice. When a people is empowered and has chances for its own personal and human growth, motivations for war can no longer be based on the paradigm of greed or economics, especially inside states and in a period when conflicts are mostly intra-state and no longer involve opposing states (Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy, 2007, p.113). Wars put the country's economy under additional strain, increasing the losses and lowering the gains.

Food Security: One of the most important factors relating to human life is food security. For individuals who are denied the bare necessities in society, the absence of this has terrible effects. Food security, hunger, and poverty are all interconnected issues. Starvation results from food deprivation, which then causes illness. It also results in a person's career and job capacity being harmed. Malnutrition lowers one's resistance to illness and has detrimental long-term effects on health. It makes individuals weak and unproductive and contributes to hunger, poverty, and disease. The availability of food is a crucial component of human development, and its lack results in stunted human growth. Because food is a basic requirement for human existence and when the mere question of survival is in danger, plans for meaningful progress recede, the rejection of this renders the notion of development useless. Additionally, it raises doubts about the state's capacity when it fails to cater for the needs of its population. In a society, having access to food is crucial. There are attempts to pass legislation that guarantees this fundamental right to everyone, but it is important to keep in mind that this is a monumental undertaking that requires unwavering will. There are millions of hungry and undernourished people living in India. Due to the high levels of aims to reduce hunger and poverty, the mission becomes even more crucial.

Health Security: A vital element of human growth and survival is health. In order to ensure that everyone in society is taken care of, the state and local communities must provide this guarantee. Most communities in India have basic health care facilities, but they are not well-equipped to handle even mild illnesses. Public access to healthcare is generally rather poor, and the situation in rural regions is much more appalling. Because most residents of slums and other unsanitary situations cannot afford proper healthcare, urban regions also suffer. The requirements of the poor in terms of health are not met by the private sector since it is more commercial in character. Although it is stipulated that private hospitals must provide health care to the underprivileged, this programme has been implemented fairly slowly. Lack of understanding of common practises including maternal and child immunisation, maternal healthcare, and infant mortality rates among the rural population has been a prevalent tendency. Reforms in this area are required to safeguard everyone's health.

Environmental Security: Due to the extremely obvious environmental degradation, climate change, ozone layer loss, and significant industrial pollution, environmental security has become more and more important. There has been an increase in public understanding of how development policies affect the environment. It now has relevance at the local, national, regional, and worldwide levels as more and more industrial, mining, and development projects receive approval from the governmental authorities for industrial/commercial objectives. A worldwide platform has been created by several governments to coordinate efforts to stop environmental damage as a result of the unjustified exploitation of natural resources. To allow the states to comply with the many international treaties, policy frameworks have been established. This is a crucial component of human security because it makes it possible to live in a clean environment and preserve natural

resources for future generations. In order to protect future generations from escalating climatic fluctuations and their detrimental impacts, some of the crucial conventions, such as the one relating to climate change, need to be addressed and properly explored. All nations should make a legally-binding promise to honestly put it into practise. India has its fair share of environmental legislation, but its judicial activism in this area is what really stands out. India's growth ambitions are expected to upset the ecological balance of the country because it has one of the fastest expanding economies in the world. Given that its traditional knowledge and wisdom rested more on a delicate balance between nature and humanity, it has to strive more on this area.

Individual and Community Security: Everyone agrees that the protection of the individual is the main objective of human security. This refers to defence against any sort of violence that endangers a person's safety. This includes defence against all forms of violence, including those that arise during terrorist attacks or armed conflicts, as well as defence against less conventional security threats including hunger, poverty, displacement, and other issues. As was discussed in earlier Units, the ideas of human rights and human development are intimately tied to the idea of human security. In addition to dealing with personal security, it also addresses communal security. In the majority of cases, communities act as a unit to confront dangers. The safety of everyday life and the dignity of people and communities are threatened by these challenges, which arise from ordinary events. In India, the list of vulnerable groups is categorised generically as minorities and particularly, all the more disadvantaged individuals from various social strata. These include women and children, as well as caste and tribal groupings. While issues affecting women, children, and minorities (religious or linguistic) tend to be more global in scope, issues affecting tribals and members of lower social strata tend to be more India-specific. These groups are vulnerable to structural violence because they are a part of the system. Furthermore, when it comes to poverty and hunger, it affects everyone who is poor and makes them the most vulnerable members of society. They must struggle against their own systems, which have at various points in time produced imbalances. Additionally, there is a clear separation, which is primarily seen in rural regions. The most underprivileged groups in society are the backward populations, who frequently experience social discrimination and injustice. These groups are discriminated against because they lack access to basic social and economic resources and because of the unbalanced stratification of society that is based on caste, class, and religion. They have been extremely vulnerable as a result of their long period of exclusion from society.

Violence against women is a common feature in all societies; It is a global problem. Women are among the most vulnerable demographics in society, and crimes against them occur in both rural and urban locations. The victims who suffer the most in violent situations are almost often women. The most vulnerable group now includes children as well since they are frequently made to perform domestic labour as well as becoming targets of human trafficking. The state of women in India paints a disparate picture: on the one hand, we see women improving their lot as corporate executives, political leaders, environmental activists, social workers, and trailblazing reformers. However, due to a lack of education and information about their rights and responsibilities, the situation of women in rural India is not particularly encouraging. Although legislation are being passed to better their situation, the initiatives have not yet been successful. Children have also suffered from extremely low levels of schooling, work as child labour in businesses, hotels, and other places. Their equitable access to education and improvement are the goals of the Right to Education statute. The group of those who lack access to proper training, work, and security includes domestic assistants as well. These are the important concerns that must be addressed and dealt with as a result.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY

You learned about the interconnectedness of human rights, human development, and human security in one of the earlier Units. It should be highlighted that breaking one of these inevitably results in breaking the other. Human insecurity finally takes centre stage. Therefore, what actions must be made if human security is to be maintained? In this regard, human growth is an important consideration. It is significant to note the following from Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy in this regard: 'Human development, or lack thereof, is crucial to maintaining certain levels of human security, with declines in development and extreme poverty virtually routinely igniting conflict, whether it is overt conflict like war, or covert conflict like rising societal unrest, tension, and stress. Human development success will improve the likelihood of human security success, but human development failure will increase the probability of failure in human security. The majority of the maximalist notions of human security simply cannot be given without a certain degree of prior development, both theoretically and practically. In fact, definitions that emphasise the need for human security, such as "social safety nets" to reduce downturns, must acknowledge that the establishment of such institutions requires an already comparatively significant level of development and state stability to finance such social security and economic security schemes. Only advancement in the field of development can provide the tools necessary to later ensure that no steps are taken backwards and no one falls behind via human security (Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy, 2007, p.114). Additionally, they point out that human security might be declared a need for human growth. Before advancing to higher stages of development, a minimum guarantee of human security should be provided. Protection against disasters, conflicts, deprivation, starvation, and displacement, to name a few, must be guaranteed. Only in an atmosphere of peace and security could development occur. For instance, several civil wars or other disruptions result in little to no growth and vice versa, where the lack of development is likely to lead to a conflict. Massive human insecurity circumstances are caused by symptoms such as political instability, economic hardship, social unrest, the deterioration of cultural elements, relocation, and inadequate governmental institutions. All states, rich or poor, developed or developing, are equally affected by them.

The promotion of peace and harmony in a society that is sustainable in nature is necessary for the quality of human growth and human security. These are more like sites where security in a society intersects. "Therefore, human growth and human security seem to be two simultaneous processes that are interconnected. While failure in one increases the likelihood of failure in the other, success in one increases the likelihood of success in the other. Therefore, human security and human growth are fundamentally related concepts with complementary contributions. Human security is also a means to prioritise efforts, which is frequently absent in rigorous development thinking. Narrow human security is the basis for progress, and the first thrust of growth then helps to extend human security concerns (Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy, 2007, p.116). It is important to keep in mind that, unlike human growth and human rights, which may both be upheld via persistent campaigning, human security cannot be upheld or accomplished in a finite amount of time. It is more reliant on the state's and other actors' willingness to play a role in making this happen. The seven social sins may be a part of social inequality, as Gandhi noted. Which are:

1. Politics without principles
2. Wealth without work
3. Knowledge without character
4. Pleasure without conscience
5. Commerce without morality
6. Science without humanity
7. Worship without sacrifice.

It is, therefore, necessary that these factors be balanced if there has to be human security in society.

The role of the international community in promoting Human Security:

It is challenging to assess international community policies that may be precisely characterised as human security measures because of how wide and contentious the subject of human security is. However, the creation of many War Crimes Tribunals, the International Criminal Court (ICC), and the Anti-Personnel Landmines Treaty are among the most significant international initiatives. The International Criminal Court (ICC) was founded on July 1, 2002, and has its headquarters in The Hague, however its trials may be held elsewhere. The court would not exercise its jurisdiction over the crime of aggression until the state parties had agreed on a definition of a crime and laid out the circumstances in which it might be prosecuted. It is a permanent institution with the authority to exercise its jurisdiction over persons for the most serious crimes of international concern, including genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. The International Criminal Court and the War Crimes Tribunal have looked into the crimes committed by the former presidents of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, Liberia's Charles Taylor, and the Ivory Coast's Laurent Gbagbo and his wife. The development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer, and use of anti-personnel mines are all prohibited by the convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on the destruction of such mines, which was signed in Ottawa on the 3–4 of December 1997. Signatories are also required to eliminate any existing stocks. Russia, the United States, and China have not yet ratified the deal. The increase in UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions has improved human security prospects and helped to reduce violence. The UN has carried out 67 peacekeeping missions since 1948. More recently, in 2006, a UN peacebuilding commission was established. Its objective is to support post-conflict rehabilitation and rebuilding in post-conflict nations, including institution building and sustainable development. In addition, the UN has taken the lead in advancing the notion of humanitarian intervention, a crucial component of human security strategy. Additionally, UN specialised agencies are essential in advancing human security. For instance, the UNDP and WHO have led the way in tackling illness and poverty, respectively. Other UN organisations, such the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, and the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), have been crucial in bringing up specific concerns, like refugees and the rights of women and children, and in providing a forum for advocacy and action. Additionally, non-governmental groups provide a variety of contributions to human security. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is the most significant NGO. Its human security goal is to defend the lives and dignity of victims of war and domestic abuse, including combatants, prisoners of war, refugees, and other noncombatants. Other NGOs include Save the Children, Amnesty International, and Medicine Without Borders.

Challenges to human security promotion:

The idea of human security has not taken the place of national security, whether freedom from hunger or freedom from fear is considered. because human security continues to be prioritised behind national security. If we compare defence spending to spending on illnesses like AIDS/HIV, which kills 3 million lives each year, we can see that it is quite excessive. State sovereignty and territorial integrity are more important to any nation, but they are especially so for emerging ones. Lack of political space for alternatives to official ideology and limitations placed on civil rights by authoritarian regimes, and occasionally even by democratic governments, who do so to secure their own survival rather than that of their inhabitants, obstruct

human security. The war on terror waged by the USA in response to the 9/11 attacks has posed one of the most significant threats to human security in both the developed and developing nations. These have brought back the states' historical focus on national security.

Conclusion:

The idea of human security takes into account a number of advancements that have gradually contested the conventional understanding of security as the defence of governments against military attack. The idea of "human security" refers to an ongoing effort to put the individual at the centre of concerns about national and international security while extending our comprehension of the variety of threats to personal safety and wellbeing to include armed conflict as well as social, economic, and ecological forces. Human security has a long way to go before it is generally embraced by national governments and the international community as a theoretical framework or as a tool for policymaking. It is unclear how poverty, sickness, armed conflict, and environmental stress are related, and this understanding has to be clarified and expanded. Despite this, there is little doubt that dangers to human security, whether they are viewed as freedom from hunger or freedom from fear, are actual problems that cannot be ignored or wished away just because there is disagreement about the definition and idea of human security. Despite disagreements over the purpose and reach of human security, there is growing consensus that the traditional understanding of security, which places a strong emphasis on state sovereignty, will no longer be sufficient. As a result, the international community needs to come up with new solutions to ensure that people are protected from transnational threats in the age of globalisation.

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