
UNIT 7: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL IMBALANCES IN SOUTH ASIA

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7.0 OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Unit is to define in brief the concept of human development and its application in the context of South Asia. After going through this Unit, you will be able to:

- Explain the meaning and origin of human development
- Explain three dimension of human development
- Make a comparative analysis of human development in South Asia, and
- Describe the regional imbalance in the application of human development in South Asia

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The concept of human development represents a powerful process to redefine and broaden the meaning of development. Traditionally, development was

This development model dominated the development paradigm through the 1950s to the early 1970s.

In the 1970s and 1980s owing to the dissatisfaction with the unidimensional view of development as just economic growth there was increasing demand for a development approach that was inclusive in nature that catered to address the basic needs of the people. Works of literature on development responding to the inadequacies of the existent model even called for 'post development' model, which condemned development as a desirable process for the ways in which it widened spatial inequalities, harmed local culture and values, perpetuated poverty, produced unstable environment and infringed human rights and democracy. The failure in addressing these concerns and gnawing realisation that development must encompass a broader range of concerns and challenges than simply economic growth led to the growth of the concept of human development, which makes the centrality of an individual explicit and a main referent object of development.

7.2 DEFINING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The most common single definition of human development is that it is a process of 'enlarging people's choice' (HDR: 1990). To lead a long healthy life, to be educated, and to enjoy a decent standard of living were identified as the three most critical choices underlined by the first human development report (HDR) published in 1990. Accommodating these core interests and adding up new ones with the passage of time some of the definitions put forth by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are:

- i) Human development is a process of **enlarging people's choices**. The most critical ones are to lead a long and healthy life, to be educated and to enjoy a decent standard of living. Additional choices include political freedom, guaranteed human rights and self-respect (UNDP, 1990).
- ii) Human development is development by the people, of the people, and for the people. For it is people, both poor and rich, as individuals as in group, who create human development. So human development **empowers the people to be responsible and innovative actors**. Because human development views people not as a passive victims but as entrepreneurs and active agent, it helps people to help themselves (UNDP, 1991).
- iii) '[T]he central concern of the human development report has always been **people as the purpose of development, and their empowerment as participants** in the development process' (UNDP, 1999).
- iv) Human development is a process of enlarging people's choices, by expanding human functioning and capabilities. It represent **a process as well as an end** (UNDP, 2000).
- v) Human development is **'the expansion of peoples freedom to live their lives as they choose.'** Putting people and their freedom at the

centre of development. It is about realising their potential, increasing their choices and enjoying the freedom to lead lives they value (UNDP, 2009).

Despite the variations in the definition, the concept of human development has remained fairly stable and has not changed radically since its articulation in 1990. While different reports emphasised different aspect of human development, the underlying referent of ‘people’ as an object remains and continues to provide a solid foundation for the concept to develop overtime.

7.3 ORIGIN OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Human development as a concept was developed by Pakistani economist Mahbubul Haq and an Indian economist Amartya Sen. Both Haq and Sen were strongly influenced by the economic, social, and political situation in South Asia for shaping their idea. Both were dissatisfied with the orthodox notion of development, which viewed it as a function of economic growth. For Haq, the existing measures of human progress failed to account for the true purpose of development i.e. to improve people’s lives. In particular, he believed that the commonly used measures of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) failed to adequately measure well-being. For him, the question about development should not be ‘how much is a nation producing?’ But ‘how are its people faring?’ i.e enlarging people’s choices being the main object of development.’

Development as traditionally associated with economic growth was also challenged by Sen’s ‘capability approach’ which forms a core concept in understanding human development. This new development paradigm constructed on two fundamental changes with respect to the older development model was based on:(i) a focus on a person as a unit of analysis instead of the economy; and (ii) progress assessment made on the basis of capabilities and freedoms instead of income. Thus, the basic question Sen states is: ‘What is each person able to do and be?’ – thus expanding the scope of opportunities available to each person.

Haq and Sen’s concept of human development focused on building human capabilities to confront and overcome poverty, illiteracy, diseases, discrimination, restriction on political freedom, and the threat of violent conflict. Several practical consequences as a result of this approach emerged, most important of it being increased consciousness on the human centric element of development.

Individual freedoms and rights matter a great deal, but people are restricted in what they do with that freedom if they are poor, ill, illiterate, discriminated against, threatened by violent conflict or denied a political voice’ (UNDP 2005)

The implementation of human development measured in terms of the Human Development Index (HDI) has brought about a dramatic change in the policy-making of countries oriented toward improving important sectors such as health, education, and living standard of people. While the integration of human development is necessary for all the countries of the world, currently only 189 countries are ranked, which shows a drastic

variation in the pace and depth of its implementation. While countries such as Norway, Ireland, Germany are categorised in a 'very high' to 'high' human development category, others such as Kenya, Cambodia, Myanmar rank in the 'medium' category followed by countries such as Niger, Central Africa Republic, Yemen and, Liberia ranking 'low' in overall HDI.

As we shall see in the subsequent section the countries of South Asia falls in all three categories with Sri Lanka (72) and Maldives (95) ranking in the 'high' category followed by Bhutan (129), India (131), Bangladesh (133), Nepal (142) and Pakistan (154) in the 'medium' category and Afghanistan (169) in the 'low' human development category.

Human Development Index

Human development index is a numerical measure made up of what most people believe are the very basic ingredients of human well-being. It has become one of the most widely used indices of well-being around the world and has succeeded in broadening the measurement and discussion of well-being beyond the confines of income and economic growth. The first HDI was presented in 1990 and ever since has been an annual feature of every HDR, ranking every country in the world from number one (currently Norway) to number 189 (currently Niger).

7.4 DIMENSIONS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Central to the human development approach is the concept of **capabilities**, i.e. **what people can do and what they can become**. It includes long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living. Most people would agree that these three capabilities are the building blocks of well-being and opportunity for any given society. These are also the building blocks of UN HDI upon which it is modelled. Apart from these capabilities, other important measures for meaningful life includes the ability to participate in the decisions that affect one's life, to have control over one's living environment, freedom from violence, and have societal respect.

7.4.1 A Long and Healthy Life

Life free from ailment and living a reasonably long life span are indicative of a healthy life. According to American HDI, the most valuable capability people possess is to be alive. Advancing human development in this category includes expanding the real opportunities for people to avoid premature death by disease or injury, to receive quality medical care and to attain the highest possible standard of physical and mental health. Availability of pre and postnatal healthcare facilities in order to reduce infant mortality and post-delivery deaths among mothers, old age health care, adequate nutrition, and safety are also important.

The indicators of a long and healthy life are: life expectancy at birth, infant mortality rate and, maternal mortality rate.

7.4.2 Access to Knowledge

Access to knowledge is a critical determinant of long-term well-being and is essential to individual freedom, self-sufficiency, and self-determination.

While development, to quote Dr. Sen, is ‘freedom’, freedom in a real sense is possible only with the empowerment of the people in their exercise of capabilities and the choices they make in society. Education, in this case, serves as a vehicle to realize real freedom, builds confidence, and broadens the horizon for the possible acquisition of skills and credentials.

The indicators for access to knowledge are measured by: adult literacy rate, male literacy rate, and female literacy rate.

7.4.3 A Decent Standard of Living

While economic attainment is important, as individuals are dependent on economic growth and employment for meeting the basic needs such as food and shelter other factors such as decent housing, education, safe and clean living environment, access to clean drinking water, access to public transport, sense of security in illness and old age, are also important. This is where human development as an approach takes its diversion from mere development with its dwindling focus on just the economic growth and GDP as an indicator.

The indicators of a decent standard of living includes: percentage of the population having access to safe drinking water and sanitation, percentage of the undernourished population especially children, and percentage of population living below the poverty line.

- Note:** i) Use the space given below for your answer
ii) Check your answer with the answer given at the end of the Unit

Check your Progress 1

- 1) Define human development? How is it different from conventional forms of development?
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- 2) Describe the three dimensions of human development?
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7.5 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTH ASIA

South Asia as a region consists of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. It is home to almost 1,959,860,110 people i.e, roughly 24.89 percent of the total world population, and is one of the most densely populated spaces on the planet. With the declaration of independence, most of the countries of South Asia devoted considerable effort to reduce poverty and enhance economic growth. The constitution of many of these countries also laid out elaborately the duties of the state towards ensuring decent livelihood for its citizens. Many poverty reductions and economic building strategies were put forward to bring the country

back to track but the lack of proper execution failed to generate the coveted outcomes. Thus, to this day South Asia as a region stands low in almost all the growth indicators put forth by important international institutions such as the UN, UNDP and, the World Bank (WB). Poverty eradication, population control, climate change, sustainable development, gender disparities are still some of the issues that South Asia as a region is grappling to achieve. Added to this is the state of the region which is characterised by tremendous socio-cultural, political, religious, and linguistic diversity, which is evident not just between the countries but also within each country of the region. Despite this, the countries of South Asia have been putting tremendous effort to advance toward achieving human development as a common goal, the case of which will be analysed in the subsequent section.

Therefore in the subunit that follows we cover briefly the human development profile of each of the countries in South Asia. The analysis in particular is of some of the outcomes of human development and its growth or lack of it, especially focusing on the three dimensions of human development. However, it is important to understand that each country have a distinct identity and history therefore the standard analysis will not be employed, as open analysis to requirements within the country in operationalising human development needs to be considered.

7.5.1 Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a landlocked country connecting South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East with a significant geostrategic implication. It is one of the poorest and least developed nations with more than two-thirds of its population living below the poverty line. Since the late 1970s, Afghanistan has suffered a continuous and brutal civil war, which has ravaged the country to a great extent. The country remains plunged into war with the process of rebuilding and recovery still underway.

Afghanistan's HDI value for 2019 was 0.511, which puts the country in the 'low' human development category positioning it at 169 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 1990 and 2019, Afghanistan's HDI value increased from 0.302 to 0.511, an increase of 69.2 percent.

The life expectancy at birth in 2019 was at 64.8 years, which is considered one of the lowest in the world. The combined adult literacy (age 15 and above) rate as of 2018 was 43.02 percent, i.e 29.81 percent for females and 55.48 percent for males. The combined gross enrolment ratio at primary, secondary and, tertiary level according to WB was at 81.28 percent for men and 80.94 percent for women, which also explains the disparity in the adult literacy ratio.

The infant and maternal mortality rates in Afghanistan are among the highest in the world, with life expectancy at least 20 years shorter than in its neighbouring countries. Infant mortality rate in 2019 was 46.5 deaths per 1000 live births, while the maternal mortality rate was 638 per 100,000 live births. Added to this is pregnancy-related death which is estimated to be 60 times higher than for women in the industrialized countries.

It is estimated that only 42 percent of Afghans have access to safe drinking water, and only 27 percent of the rural population have access to sanitation

facilities, resulting in disease that claims the lives of an estimated 85,000 Afghan children under the age of five annually. Eighty percent of the deaths are due to preventable disease and about half of this same age group is physically stunted due to chronic malnutrition.

One important factor which caters solely to Afghanistan but remains neglected is the increasing case of mental disorder, a direct result of the war wound. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 95 percent of the population in Afghanistan has been affected psychologically, and one in every five suffered from mental health problems. Considering all the above factors, Afghanistan's HDI value of 0.511 remains below the average for countries in South Asia.

7.5.2 Bangladesh

Bangladesh is the eighth-most populous country in the world with a steadily increasing population. It ranks 133 out of 189 countries, with an HDI value of 0.632 placing it in the 'medium' human development category. Between 1990 and 2019, Bangladesh's HDI value has increased from 0.394 to 0.632, an increase of 60.4 percent.

One important feature that characterises Bangladesh is rampant poverty which varies from region to region with no consistency in its reduction. While a consistent effort has been made to reduce poverty it still remains inadequate with rural poverty registering 16.4 percent in 2019. To make the matter worse the case of urban poverty has significantly increased with an estimated 21 percent of the urban population living below the poverty line.

In 2019 the life expectancy at birth was 72.6. A significant decline has also been recorded in the infant and maternal mortality rate i.e 25.6 deaths per 1000 live births and 173 maternal deaths. Despite the decline, Bangladesh still records one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world with about 7,660 deaths from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth annually.

In the education sector, the combined adult literacy rate for 2019 was 73.91 percent i.e 76.67 percent for males and 71.18 percent for females, with a combined gross enrolment ratio at 85.59 percent. And while 97 percent of population has an access to water sources, only 34.6 percent has access to safe drinking water making Bangladesh the country with largest proportion of people exposed to arsenic contamination in the world, with more than 19.4 million people drinking water with a level of arsenic above national health standards. Similar is the case for sanitation with its coverage remaining low at 1.1 percent. However, it is important to mention that the practice of open defecation has significantly declined from 34 percent in 1990 to 1 percent in 2015.

Despite sluggish progress in most of the indicators, Bangladesh stands out when it comes to micro-credit which has contributed significantly to not just economic empowerment of women but also poverty alleviation. It was introduced by Muhammad Yunus, who was awarded Nobel Peace prize in 2006 for his contribution through the Grameen Bank. Nevertheless, Bangladesh's current HDI of 0.633 remains below the average for countries in South Asia.

7.5.3 Bhutan

Bhutan is a landlocked country situated at the eastern end of the Himalayas. It is one of the most isolated and least developed countries in the world but ranks eighth in the global happiness index and first in Asia. Bhutan's HDI value for 2019 was 0.654, which puts the country in the 'medium' human development category positioning it at 129 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 2005 and 2019, Bhutan's HDI value increased from 0.520 to 0.654, an increase of 25.8 percent.

Though Bhutan's economy is one of the smallest, it has grown rapidly making it one of the fastest-growing economies in South Asia with an average annual growth rate of 7.5 percent since 1980. Bhutan's standard of living in comparison to its South Asian counterpart is significant making it one of the highest in Asia. Poverty in Bhutan is mainly a rural phenomenon, with 11.9 percent of people below the poverty line relative to 0.8 percent in urban areas. Compared to other South Asian countries women in Bhutan enjoy freedom and equality but the literacy rate among the women is still low i.e 57.08 percent compared to 75.02 percent among males, bringing the combined rate to 66.56 percent in 2019.

Life expectancy at birth in 2019 was 71.58, a 0.42. Both infant mortality and maternal mortality rate recorded a decline from 35.8 percent to 24.8 deaths per 1000 live births in 2019 and 183 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities records significant improvement with almost 98 percent of the population according to WHO report having access to drinking water. Despite the improvement it is estimated that 13 percent of childhood deaths and an estimated 30 percent of all health problems in rural areas stem from unsafe drinking water or improper sanitation facilities. Considering the above factors Bhutan's HDI of 0.654 remains above the average for countries in South Asia.

7.5.4 India

India is among the fastest-growing economies in the world, making it the fifth largest with a GDP of \$2.651 trillion in terms of the USD exchange rate. Although its economy has been growing steadily over the decades the growth has been uneven when in comparison with the social sector, geographical region, and urban and rural areas. India's HDI value for 2019 was 0.645 which puts the country in the 'medium' human development category, positioning it at 131 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 1990 and 2019, India's HDI value increased from 0.429 to 0.645, an increase of 50.3 percent.

One of the problems that India shares with Bangladesh is poverty. While there has been a significant decrease in the overall poverty scenario in the country bringing the percent of people living below the poverty line down from 26.1 percent in 2000 to 10.5 percent in 2019, it nevertheless remains a pressing issue with more visibility in the rural areas especially among women, scheduled caste, and tribes.

Life expectancy at birth in 2019 was 69.7 percent. Both infant mortality and maternal mortality recorded a decline i.e 28.3 deaths per 1000 live births

and 133 deaths per 100,000 live births in the same year. The adult literacy rate in 2019 was 69.3 percent i.e. 78.8 percent male and 59.3 percent female, this disparity is also prevalent in the estimated earned income which shows a staggering difference in the pay gap between men and women. It is estimated that less than 50 percent of the population in India have access to safely managed drinking water. According to UNICEF, nearly 88 million Indians lack access to safe water and about 910 million people lack access to improved sanitation resulting in the loss of 400,000 per life in India.

While a significant progress can be witnessed in some indicators India still needs to cater to the problem of malnutrition especially among children under the age of three which is higher than any other country in the world and which is a direct cause of death for an estimated 69 percent of children below the age of five. Added to this is a grim figure of 44 percent children under the age of five to be underweight and about 34.8 percent of the same age to be stunted. On global happiness index, India ranks at 139 out of 149 countries – quite an unhappy rank. Nevertheless, taking its economic growth into consideration India's current HDI of 0.645 remains above the average for countries in South Asia.

7.5.5 Maldives

The Maldives is an island nation in the Indian Ocean- Arabian Sea area. It is the smallest Asian country in terms of both population and area. Since its independence in 1965, Maldives has achieved commendable economic development. While the country was one of the poorest in South Asia in the early 1970s, it now has the highest per capita income in the region with HDI value for 2019 to register 0.740, which put the country in the 'high' human development category positioning it at 95 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 1995 and 2019, Maldives HDI value increased from 0.555 to 0.740, an increase of 33.3 percent.

Maldives strong economic performance has also matched its overall societal performance. Life expectancy at birth recorded an increase from 75.91 years in 2010 to 78.9 in 2019, partly due to a significant reduction in infant mortality rate which stands at 7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2019. In the same year, the maternal mortality ratio registered 53 deaths per 100,000 live births against 56 in 2010.

With seven years of basic schooling nearly universalized and focus on eliminating illiteracy the Maldives has a high literacy rate of 97.73 percent i.e 98.11 percent female and 97.3 percent for male. As of 2019, 68 percent of the population had access to water supply and 79 percent had access to pipe sewage facilities. By 2023 the Maldivian government has pledged to provide water and sanitation for all Maldivian's in all of its 187 islands. Maldives progress in terms of achieving human development along with the elimination of poverty is notable. This is mainly due to the involvement of the government and adequate public expenditure in important sectors like health and education.

Despite being categorised as a least developed country, Maldives has 'high' human development indicators among the South Asian countries making its HDI value of 0.740 rank above the average among the countries of South Asia.

7.5.6 Nepal

Nepal is a landlocked nation with a current population of over 29 million. It is one of the poorest nations with 42 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Nepal's HDI value for 2019 was 0.602 which puts the country in the 'medium' human development category, positioning it at 142 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 1990 and 2019, Nepal's HDI value increased from 0.387 to 0.602, an increase of 55.6 percent.

Although the government, since mid-1980s, has been putting considerable effort into poverty reduction and alleviation, not much progress can be witnessed, with the mid and far western regions of the country recording dismal conditions of utter destitution. Life expectancy in 2019 was 70.8 years. Although public spending on health services in the same year recorded 5.8 percent of its GDP, maternal mortality ratio is one of the highest in the region with 186 per 100,000 live births and infant mortality rate at 25.6 deaths. The adult literacy rate, with 5.1 percent of its GDP was just about 67.9 percent, i.e. 78.59 percent for males and 59.72 percent for females, depicting a wide gap in education between the two sexes.

In terms of safe drinking water and sanitation, while it is estimated that 80 percent of the total population has access to drinking water, it is not safe. The case is worst for those belonging to the poor and excluded groups in rural areas with limited to almost no access to it. Lack of safe drinking water has made the population vulnerable to a number of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, and cholera mostly affecting children below five with an estimated 44,000 children dying every year. As of 2019 only 27 percent of the population has improved access to sanitation. Considering the challenges that need to be met especially in sectors like health and education Nepal's 2019 HDI of 0.602 is below the average for countries in South Asia.

7.5.7 Pakistan

Pakistan is a rapidly developing country facing a number of challenges on both the political and economic front. In 2019 its HDI value was 0.557, which put the country in the 'medium' human development category, positioning it at 154 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 1990 and 2019, Pakistan's HDI value increased from 0.402 to 0.557, an increase of 38.6 percent.

According to the HDR, an estimated 38.3 percent (a headcount ratio) of people live in poverty. Life expectancy in 2019 was 67.3 years, with the maternal mortality rate recording 140 deaths per 100,000 live births and infant mortality rate at 55.7 deaths per 1000 live births. Gender inequality is a major problem in Pakistan, registering a stark difference in the development of men and women which is evident in almost all the sectors. While the adult literacy rate in 2019 was 68 percent, it was 49 percent for females against 76 percent male. While only 21.9 percent of women contributed as a labour force as against 81.7 percent male, only 20.0 percent of the women were present in the government at the ministerial level in 2019.

In terms of safe drinking water and sanitation, populations having access to drinking water in 2019 was just 56 percent, with drastic variation in urban

and rural population. It is estimated that 70 percent of population have no access to clean water making the population vulnerable to number of diseases which is recorded to be 30 percent and about 40 percent deaths. Same is the case for sanitation with a mere 15 percent population covered under various sanitation projects. Considering these factors, Pakistan’s 2019 HDI of 0.557 is below the average for countries in South Asia.

7.5.8 Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an island nation with the highest Human development indicator in South Asia. The development of modern ports under British rule significantly raised the strategic importance of the island as a center of trade which played an important role in its economic growth and development. In 2019 its HDI value was 0.782, which puts the country in the ‘high’ human development category, positioning it at 72 out of 189 countries and territories. Between 1990 and 2019, Sri Lanka’s HDI value increased from 0.629 to 0.782, an increase of 24.3 percent.

The life expectancy at birth in 2019 was 77.0 years. The maternal mortality rate was 36 deaths per 100,000 live births and infant mortality rate was 6.1 deaths per 1,000 live births. The public health expenditure in 2019 was 3.9 percent of its GDP. Sri Lanka has one of Asia’s highest literacy rates touching about 97.71 percent in 2019. While the male literacy rate stands at 92.77 percent for females it is 90.8 percent. In terms of water and sanitation, 90 percent of the population has access to safe drinking water, including 65 percent of the households receiving piped water and water from protected wells. About the same population has sustainable access to improved sanitation which increased to 95 percent in 2019.

Sri Lanka’s human development, especially its achievement in health and education is well above the level obtained in other countries with similar per capita income. On the whole, Sri Lanka’s development profile can be said to be good not only in the region but also among the other Asian countries. Therefore, Sri Lanka’s 2019 value of 0.728 is above the average for countries in South Asia.

South Asia’s HDI and Component Indicators for 2019

Countries	HDI Value	HDI Ranking	Life Expectancy at Birth	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000 live births)	Adult Literacy
Afghanistan	0.511	169	64.8	46.5	638.0	43.02
Bangladesh	0.632	133	72.6	25.6	173.0	73.91
Bhutan	0.654	129	71.8	35.8	183.0	66.56
India	0.645	131	69.7	28.3	133.0	69.3
Maldives	0.740	95	78.9	7	53.0	97.73
Nepal	0.602	142	70.8	25.6	186.0	67.9
Pakistan	0.577	154	67.3	55.7	140.0	68.0
Sri Lanka	0.782	72	77.0	6.1	36.0	97.71
South Asia	0.641	-	69.9	33.1	148.6	72.95

7.6 REGIONAL IMBALANCE IN SOUTH ASIA

Going by the indicators mentioned for each of the countries what can be revealed is an enormous weakness in the ability of the state to provide a decent living standard for its citizens. Though the economic growth in the past two decades has resulted in improved HDI, severe imbalances continue to mark the progress of the South Asia nations. In terms of HDI ranking their position in the world has not improved with countries like India further slipping down two spots i.e from 129 in 2018 to 131 in 2019. With the exception of Sri Lanka and the Maldives (both within the hundred rankings), all the other countries fare poorly.

For adult literacy rate, infant and maternal mortality, and births attended by skilled health personnel, Sri Lanka and the Maldives show a credible performance as against the negligible performance in other countries. India as the fifth largest economy provides a grim performance for institutional care and the overall health sector. Infant mortality is highest in Pakistan at 55.7 per 1000 live births, followed by Afghanistan at 46.5 per 1000 live births. Similarly, the maternal mortality rate is highest in Afghanistan at 638 per 100,000 live births followed by Bangladesh at 370 deaths per 100,000 live births. While the above indicator shows a decline from the previous ranking Bangladesh and Afghanistan nevertheless record one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. Low infant and mortality rate is an indication of poor health service, and lack of skilled health personnel leading to deaths of a large population from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

A huge disparity can be witnessed in the ranking for adult literacy and public spending on education in the region with countries like the Maldives ranking high at 97.73 percent and others like Afghanistan ranking a low 43.02 percent. The difference between male and female literacy rates also shows a staggering difference. In fact, Maldives is the only country in South Asia to have females surpassing males in school enrolment. Low enrolment of women is indicative of gender disparity which goes beyond education and impinges on other areas such as difference in estimated earned income, inequality in life expectancy at birth, inequality in the representation of seats in parliament, and inequality in representation as a work/labor force.

While discrimination against women is evident in all the countries in some form or the other, mention of the case of the increasing problem of trafficking is important. This is especially the case in Afghanistan and Nepal, where trafficking of girls and women is seen as a lucrative business, with an estimated 7,000 girls trafficked every year from Nepal alone. While the constitution of each of these countries guarantees protection against discrimination based on gender, religion, or caste, women continue to face inequalities even to this day, where lack of education and ignorance of law plays an important role.

In the area of the population with access to improved water sources and sanitation, Afghanistan records the lowest with only 42 percent of population having access to safe drinking water and 27 percent of population with sanitation facilities. However, countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal,

and India are also on the radar for a significant improvement in water management and sanitation as much of the problem related to health stems from an unhygienic environment and unsafe drinking water. The case of Bangladesh is especially crucial to mention as it still has the highest number of the population exposed to arsenic contamination which is above national health standards.

Thus it is evident that South Asia as a region still needs to work toward achieving its human development goal. The region is still suffering from poverty and inequality which goes beyond income inequalities. The extent of deprivation in terms of health and education is serious as these are important determinants of human development. Women, tribes and minorities invariably figure low in human development index throughout the region. A lot needs to be done by the national government to raise their standards as most indicators reveal weak policymaking in terms of providing adequate facilities to its citizens. South Asia as a region needs to learn, refine and model the human development approach from the history and experiences of high-performing countries and apply it to fit their condition in developing a human development model that caters to all the section of the population in living a healthy and meaningful life.

7.7 POLICIES FOR IMPROVING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Based on the problems unearthed above a few policy recommendation for improving human development can include:

- Cooperation between the state, civil society, and donors for coordinated development efforts for bringing change for a large number of people, most importantly the poor and marginalised sections.
- Taking account of the human, physical, sectoral, and structural aspects of development for both qualitative and quantitative assessment.
- The inclusion of representatives from different communities to suggest/identify the root of the problems and effective implementation of various strategies.
- Focus on the institutional process from all levels to sustain development
- Focus on vulnerable groups such as SCs, STs, minorities and Women.

Apart from these some of the complementary policies suggested to achieve durable and long-term human development includes: stronger institutions, formation of sustainable development networks, a strong and vocal civil society, stronger national accountability through countervailing powers, increased global governance and responsibility, and in some contexts increased international assistance (UNDP, 1992, 1999, 2002, 2005).

- Note:** i) Use the space given below for your answer
ii) Check your answer with the answer given at the end of the Unit

Check your Progress 2

- 1) What are the obstacles for countries to achieve human development?
.....

2) What are the measures to improve human development?

3) Which among the South Asian nation has achieved the most in human development and how?

7.8 LET US SUM UP

Human development is a process of enlarging people's freedom and opportunity and improving their well-being. It gives ordinary people an enhanced capability to decide who to be, what to do, and how to live. However, the lack of serious implementation in South Asia still negates the people from achieving these basic freedoms. Attention to the human-centric development apart from the Maldives and Sri Lanka remains minimal with little of the country's GDP spent on these sectors that allow its citizens to avail those freedoms. Serious attention needs to be drawn across most of the countries toward institutional quality health care services especially for the rural poor, provision of compulsory education in all countries, and better quality of life for its citizens especially the children.

Overall, South Asia's progress in human development has been progressive if not positive, and despite important differences between the countries within the region by and large all the countries of South Asia have made progress with human development.

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UNIT 8: MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH ASIA

Structure

- 8.0 Objectives
- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 Relationship between Migration and Development
- 8.3 Dimensions of Migration and Development
 - 8.3.1 Economic Dimension
 - 8.3.2 Political Dimension
 - 8.3.3 Social Dimension
 - 8.3.4 Climate Change and Migration
- 8.4 Challenges
- 8.5 Let's Sum Up
- 8.6 References

8.0 OBJECTIVES

In this Unit we will explore the concept of migration and its relationship with development. It is the phenomenon we often see but do not comprehend about how it takes place and its impact. After reading through this Unit we will be able to understand:

- The relationship between migration and development and how it complements each other;
- What are the various dimensions this relationship entails;
- How South Asian Region has been harnessing migration for development;
- What are the challenges countries are facing while employing migration for improving its nation's conditions.

8.1 INTRODUCTION

Development is the multi-dimensional concept that allows opportunity to people in order to achieve their full potential across various aspects of life. It encompasses economic, social, political and environmental advancement to nurture the growth of nation. In the contemporary era, states employ dynamic tools with the objective of ensuring the path of multi faceted development of their nations and societies. Migration has become one of the significant tools to promote movement towards the ladder of progress of individuals as well as nation states. The International Convention on the protection of Rights of all Migrant workers and members of their families in its Article(2)defines migrant-‘

- a person who is to be engaged,

- is engaged or
- has been engaged

In a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.

Migration is considered a phenomenal instrument for achieving progress without straining domestic resources. It facilitates the prospects for development of the nations which have limited capacity to build opportunities for their nationals to harness their productive energies. The countries of South Asia have incorporated migration as an effective tool for encapsulating nations' growth. The region's 1.891 billion people, home to one-fourth of the world's population, have adopted migration as a significant strategy for improving livelihood for its citizens. Migrants including intra-region and inter-region from this region have more than doubled in number between 2000 and 2010, in which female migrations constitute a major chunk.

8.3 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

Migration and development shares a complex relationship. The movement of people in order to find better prospects for life helps in the improvement of standard of living for them. This movement allows the opening of new opportunities as well as expansion of new horizons, and ideas. Migration is often assumed as the natural phenomena people incorporate to improve their monetary conditions. These phenomena societies adopt due to the explosion of population bubbles uneven with the country's capacity to assimilate the desire of this population for holistic progress. In the region of South Asia reality substantiates the precondition of migration where migration takes place due to rising rate of unemployment leading to vicious cycle of poverty, lack of sense of security etc. However, the prospectus of development is widened that does not constitute merely traditional conception of economic well being as a major indicator but also allows pace for incorporating other aspects of human progress which migration holds capacity to fulfill. Todara and Smith defines development "as a multi dimensional process involving changes in social structures, popular attitudes, and national institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and the eradication of poverty'. Migration is the compulsive push factor in order to ensure economic growth in developing societies like South Asia since economies in the region are in the stage of evolving from traditional agro based to complex industrial based societies. Nevertheless, migration is sometimes led by the choice of a healthy environment,

Better education and desire for peace particularly in conflict tridden countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan. The social progress of society does not coincide with the economic modernization in the traditional societies like South Asia. In India for instance scientific intervention in the manifestation of HIV seeds which ushered the country into one of the largest exporter of the agriculture products from being the net importer led progress in the economic front. However, in the social context it led to the further division of society. Migration acts as the barrier to division if the government

employs migration as a strategy to accommodate the overarching diversity, **Migration and Development** a prominent feature of the South Asian region.

Check your progress 1

Note: i) use the space given below for answers.

ii) Check your answer with the given answer given at the end of the unit.

1. How migration can contribute to development?

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8.3 DIMENSIONS OF MIGRATION

As we discussed above, migration is the phenomenon that contributes not only in economic progress significantly but also has a correlation with socio, political and environmental dimension. In the following section we will learn about how migration is correlated with these factors.

8.3.1 Economic prospect act as a trigger mechanism to migrate

Economy is the constant magnet across South Asia that attracts the population to migrate with in the country or across the nations. Human nature dictates that people move from one place to another in quest of better opportunities. The governments across the region have employed migration as the prominent strategy in order to promote progress of their respective nations. The government of Bangladesh for instance since 1976 has adopted migration of its citizens towards South Asia, Middle East and Western Nations as a strategy for economic prosperity of its country. Migration of the people has helped not merely up liftment of those who have migrated but has had deep impact on the improvement of the South Asian economy. The score of Bangladesh Human Development Index of 2019 released by UNDP has shown 60% improvement having a score of 0.632 compared to its score in 1990. When we compare this progress with the increasing trend of migration it reflects that the GDP of the country has shown 12% increase due to remittances which in turn contributes to stable development. There mittances received by the nations across the region has significantly improved the standard of living of people who are at the receiving end of these remittances. Pakistan according to there port released by the World Bank constitutes 7.999% of GDP in the country. This expansion of its GDP has helped the country to channelize its potential to progress into reality though it often derailed from the path due to its internal dynamism of self-perpetuating fault lines politics. In South Asia the explosion of population bubble and the lack of governments' capacity to transit these citizens into assets by assimilating them into the economy with their full potential have caused pressure on domestic economies of the region. Thus, making the region having a surplus workforce ready to migrate to the countries providing better employment prospects. In Pakistan for example

the unemployment has risen from 3.79% in 2016 to 4.45% in contemporary times. Therefore, the government's of the region have adopted the policy of migration as an instrument of releasing pressure on the domestic economy as well as boosting its growth. Pakistan has established the Ministry of Labour, Manpower and Overseas in order to promote migration through the formal channels for the growth of the internal economy.

South Asia falls under the premise of third world countries having uneven development causing regional disparities within the nations led to the embroilment of instability. This inability has become the underlying reason for resentment across the population in the region. The nations of South Asia have adopted two pronged strategies for rectifying this unequal development. The nations has been making efforts to promote FDI in the region where resources are available to utilize but lacks capital. On the other hand, the common masses have taken the path of migration

Towards employment prospective regions for meeting their ends along with becoming active participants in reaping the fruits of development. In Bhutan this increasing regional disparity between west and far east regions which favours the development of west pushed the movement of labour from the far east region.

Walt Whitmen Rostow in his seminal work "The Stages of Economic Growth" defines five stages of progress in the context of modernization. His work depicts that development is a process which requires time to flourish in order to allow society to reap its benefits. In economic context the country has to go through the Stages of transition from traditional sustenance based agriculture towards in contemporary times to the highly efficient technologically advanced societies. The countries of the South Asian Region are newly independent who have been the victims of colonial exploitation. Therefore, their path for progress is under the stage of transition from rural sustenance based economy towards well integrated industrial base. In common parlance rural economy has an inherent nature of providing subsistence wages only which is further vehemently reduced in the region due to geographical factors including unavailability of uniformity in land, rigid unfavour able climate and lack of technology. This transition is accompanied by migration of the people from rural areas to the urban centers of progress where the prospect of better earning is available. This movement has contributed to a two fold increase in the population residing in cities. In India internal migrants according to the 2017 Economic Survey constitutes around 100 million people, the highest number across the world. The underlying principle promoted this migration was the introduction of LPG reforms in the country. These reforms brought new prospectus for developmental opportunities in the urban centers. These opportunities led the movement of people from the North and Eastern region towards prosperous regions of South and West. The internal migration has contributed significantly in the improvement of living standard of people since 1994 across the region. According to the Asian Development Bank report 2017, poverty in Bhutan has fallen from 36% in 2003 to 8.2% according to the country's national poverty line.

Migration is not unidirectional process, rather it is a phenomena ensuring development of both the migrant country as well as the host country. The countries like Bhutan and Maldives hosts more outside citizens in its economy than it sends to the other country. According to Bhutan’s Ministry of Labour and Human Resource approx 45,000 labourers from India work in the Bhutense territory. The movement of laborers between India and Bhutan is complementary as the people who live at the border often move to Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in order to find better livelihood. The fundamental reason for receiving more migrants than sending is the attitude of its citizens towards the menial work. The Bhutense considers menial jobs which are in abundance than the professional jobs, stigmatized as well as low incentive. This lack of interest in opting for these works has opened the gates for outsiders who are willing to work as labourers in various jobs demanding more physical strength like the construction sector. Migration is the most prominent factor contributing to the progress of the economy in Maldives. In the country migration of its citizens towards other nations does not affect development substantially; rather movement of outside citizens into the nation contributes to its progress. These immigrants through channelizing energies into various sectors for instance education, health and construction contribute to the upward movement of the country in the development ladder. The country hosts 63,000 immigrant workforce belonging to various nations like Russia, Egypt, Iran but majority belongs to the South Asian region.

Most South Asian countries are struggling with a low rate of domestic savings and over whelming external debt. This debt can lead to macroeconomic instability in the economies of the nations. In order to reduce this unprecedented debt the countries like Sri Lanka have adopted remittances as a major source of earning for eign currency. In the present times remittances has become the 2nd major source of earning foreign currency that contributes significantly in diluting the external debt of the nation to some extent.

Check your progress 2

- Note:** i) use the space given below for answers.
 ii) Check your answer with the given answer given at the end of the unit.

- Migration is not a unidirectional phenomenon. Discuss..

8.3.2 Political instability promotes migration

South Asia’s border sand mobility have received a great deal of attention from many scholars and much has been talked about in reference to social

and economic dimensions of migration. However, apart from these factors there are political factors that also give rise to migration in South Asia. The unpredictability of strong regime and instability in this region has given rise to migration. The south asian region is associated with temporary political stresses due to inter state disputes and unsolved disputes among regional countries. Lack of political freedom leaves people with no choice and in search of liberty people tend to migrate. The economies of the region are unstable due to the hostile political atmosphere. According to a study conducted by the 'The Fund for Peace', the South Asian region has the most fragile states, among them Afghanistan is the most unstable Asian state, ranked seventh overall in the world, followed by Pakistan which is ranked tenth. The fragile nature of these nations contribute to lack of education, employment and freedom, these reasons trigger the migration in the region. Due to political in stability there is a high possibility of war and armed conflict which further more adds to the displacement of people from one place to another in search of peace and stability.

The political land scape of South Asia is impacted with rising challenges to address greater control with inter state core vive powers. The politicization of culture and religious groups has the capacity to destroy relations among nations and inflation of inter state relations. The social grievances of people in the region are not properly addressed by political powers of the region. The uncertaining of a strong government in Nepal has led to weakening of Nepal's decocratic fabric which contributes in adding to the insecurity among citizens and they lookout for better stable economies for a better future.

The domestic policies of the third world are always very uncertain as they lack resources and proper government control. All of India's cultural change, as well as its current political and administrative structure are the result of migration and invasion that have happened in the country overtime. The political outlook of the region is very fragile and people are not sure of receiving any protection from their government. The absence of political rights and the unsafe nature of their country, people tend to look for safer places where they have the opportunity to grow. As a result of political advantage, countries try to gain popularity by supporting one ethnic group and forcing other cultural groups to move from one place to another. Thus, the cultural diversity barrier is also caused by an insatiable political regime. Rising communal violence and religious into lérance in the south asian region has also led to greater numbers of migration. The conflict among groups gives rise to an unsafe atmosphere where it becomes impossible to flourish. In a state that is socially diverse it becomes extremely important for political powers to develop right policies that are beneficial for all the groups and not benefit just one group,through these practices a sense of inclusion can be bestowed in other groups and they can feel secure about their future. The future level of movement of people is solely based upon these factors and it becomes extremely important to address these issues with a right and positive approach.

The countries that have more libreal approach tend to have opportunities for their citizens and give individuals to grow in a very safe environment. In a globalised world individuals want to look for places that bestow them

with opportunities for the future and they are continuously in search for something better. South Asia accumulates a large number of youth and they are responsible for the region's future. So it became extensively important for the administration to build a structure that is politically stable and people can trust them with their growth. The need for a strong authority to deal with the political crisis of the region should be addressed urgently. Moreover a more tolerant society where there is a mutual respect for other religions as well should be promoted. Political dimensions for migration also gives a peek into the uncertain political nature of the south Asian region and outlook of individuals to move to as a fer place that

is more likely to serve their interest. There is a high probability of South Asians moving to countries that have more liberal approaches and are inclined towards a more inclusive society.

Check your progress 3

Note: i) use the space given below for answers.

ii) Check your answer with the given answer given at the end of the unit.

1. In context to Migration, How can the political in stability in the South Asian region bead dressed?

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8.3.3 Social dynamism and migration

The macro level analysis has showcased the significant contribution of migration in the economy but when we look at micro level within the premise of its impact on social and individual life the picture is more promising. In Sri Lanka till 2010 there were more females that had migrated for better life for their entire families than male counter parts. This phenomena known as feminization of migration had contributed significantly to the advancement of women. This allows women to play a central role in the family structure, taking crucial decisions and building assets for them selves. According to Sheikh Mohammad Maniruzzaman Al Masud study on “Inter national migration and its consequences” migration of male members significantly influences women’s role indecision making. Migration allows women to take decisions on behalf of their male counterpart in his absence which has a liberating impact on women. This ensures women stepping out from the four walls of household life and entering into the public domain which in turn change the patriarchal nature of family. Migration allows exposure to the different system of values which often corresponds to the values of progressive society makes these migrating women aware of their fundamental rights. The gender stereotye also gets diluted when women act as a main bread earner in the family structure.

Development is not associated with gaining more in monetary terms only but also to expandone’s potential which allows more freedom to choose.

The migration of Bhutanese nationals beyond its borders is often associated with acquiring professional skills in the context of IT, medical, engineering etc. The freedom to migrate allows Bhutanese nationals to move to various countries with an aim to acquire tertiary education since the country's infrastructure in higher education is not well developed. This increasing enrollment of students in higher education will have significant effects in order to reduce poverty, broader happiness. The western neighbor of

India, Pakistan has gained exponentially through incorporating a strategy of migration. In the country which runs on instability migration has become the medium of peace in the lives of its citizens.

Migration helps in assimilation and acceptance of various cultures hence improves tolerance and acceptability of different ways of life. In India the internal migration from one state to another has significantly contributed in development and promotion of composite culture since the time immemorial. Migration is the most effective instrument to move nations towards the path of multicultural societies. In the region of South Asia migration of nationals of one country to another within the region assists in improving understanding within the larger community of South Asia. It helps to dilute the brewing tension among various fault lines across the region and allows the feeling of oneness to strengthen.

Check your progress 4

- Note:** i) use the space given below for answers.
ii) Check your answer with the given answer given at the end of the unit

1. How migration helps in flourishing of multicultural societies?
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8.3.4 Climate Change and Migration

Climate Change is an undisputed reality of the contemporary era which impacts substantially the lives of all species existing on earth. The South Asian region is also severely gripped with the impact of this change in the context of rising sea level, mountain and coastal soil erosion, water scarcity, and unpredicted monsoons. Nations across this region are dependent on nature for their sustenance however, this nature due to anthropogenic intervention has turned into a fundamental cause for devastating their livelihoods. This destruction has rendered people vulnerable and led to their exploitation, and left for the mercy of their governments respectively.

This vulnerability causes people to move to other place in order to revamp lost livelihood depicted as environmental migration. The Paris Agreement of 2016 on Climate has acknowledged changing climate as one of the major factors of migration across the world. According to the World Bank

report “Groundswell-Preparing for Internal Climate Migration” 140 million residents will be compelled to migrate due to non viability of their current location to sustain them. Majority of this migration would constitute citizens residing in three regions namely, Sub-Saharan, Latin America and South Asia. Climate Change has reduced people’s prospects for economic development across the region. India’s agriculture sector which contributes 15% in its GDP is likely to lose its contribution by 1.5% in the years to follow due to the extreme changing pattern of monsoon. According to the report of ‘Cost of climate inaction: displacement and distress migration’ it is estimated that around 40.5 million Indian citizens would be compelled to leave their homes due to aggressive changes in the climate. In the countries of South Asia women and children constitute the vulnerable section of the society who will be severely impacted by the unsustainable development. We often assume progress in the context of an upward trend of GDP which merely reflects the country’s improvement on economic terms. However, the multidimensional aspect of development focuses on the holistic approach towards moving the path of progress. Holistic approach incorporates efficient utilization of resources without compromising the needs of other species with whom we share this planet. When the Nations fail to understand that we are merely the passengers on the spaceship of earth rather its driver nature turns it’s back which not only hampers the lives of the people but also costs economic growth. The earthquake in Bhutan has preserved the economic development of the two decades back, costing approximately 24.5 million USD.

The change in climate in contemporary times is the biggest reality having the capacity to push migration of people across the region. The influence of aggressive shifting of earth’s temperature can be seen in the manifestation of rising sea level, decline of freshwater and increasing salinity in the countries. This unpredictable anthropogenic oriented catastrophe is turning into a pressure for the nation’s population to migrate. South Asian countries have already met with the harsh reality of climate change and its impact on their progress. For instance Maldives in the year 2004 bore the brunt of Tsunami on the economy. The country’s economy shrunk by 4.6 % due to the disaster which led to unprecedented levels of unemployment. The economy of the region is in a transition phase which implies they are moving from dependence on traditional sectors to industrialization. However, a large section of the population is still dependent on traditional sectors like agriculture which are climate centric sectors. These climate dependence sectors badly affect the livelihood of the people when nature becomes aggressive hence, migration becomes compulsion. Therefore, the governments of these countries have employed migration of their nationals as a strategy to relieve domestic pressure on the environment and to ensure sustain ability.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, between 2008 and 2018, nearly 265 million individuals were internally displaced due to natural catastrophes such as storms, floods, and droughts. Climate disasters compel people to relocate, and many of them lose their homes and crops. While some people’s displacement is transitory, Others, such as severe drought and desertification, as well as sea-level rise, are permanent, because

such calamities drive people to flee in order to avoid catastrophic resource depletion and potential human life threats.

However, Different studies have used macro-and micro-level data as well as a range of approaches to examine the impact of climate changes on internal migration over the last decade. According to scientific studies, sudden climatic events like floods and storms always drive migration. Data on the consequences of slow-onset calamities Droughts, for example, are mixed. According to empirical studies, drought-related out-migration has increased in Pakistan and Indonesia. In spite of an increase in research into the possible link between environmental change, migration, and conflict, the literature on the topic is still divided.

Check your progress 5

- Note:** i) use the space given below for answers.
ii) Check your answer with the given answer given at the end of the unit

1. Climate change in contemporary times is the biggest fact or pushing migration of millions of people. Discuss.

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8.4 CHALLENGES OF MIGRATION:

Migration contributes to development but it is not free of challenges. One of the fundamental challenges is the effective implementation of migration as the prominent strategy for improving countries economic capacities. The lack of recognition of migration’s development benefits in national policy frameworks, high costs of remittance transfer, lack of productive avenues for remittance utilisation, suitable programmes for assisting return migrants and utilising their skills and capital, and poor links with diaspora communities are all developmental challenges. In the region the major chunk of migrants lack skills for filling the professional jobs due to which they are compelled to take on the menial jobs for instance as workers on construction sites, labourer on the agricultural field etc., which do not have capacity to significantly improve their conditions. Therefore, it is required that governments of these regions must engage in incorporating skills among these populations who can substantially raise the percentage remittances countries acquired. Every year, a sizable migrant worker population leaves South Asian countries, making remittances an essential source of funding in the interests of economic growth. In spite of their enormous South Asian countries have yet to completely realise their potential for economic progress, they realise the advantage of remittances due to a lack of financial sector development and financial inclusion, however, major portion of remittances

to the region is channelled informal reflects governance deficits. To develop formal remittance markets and achieve financial inclusion, governments, regulators, and the financial industry must work together to overcome legal and policy barriers, improve formal financial systems, and improve customer education.

The challenges of migration does not limited to the economic sector but also in the social context. The rising intolerance in societies across the World often perceives the immigrant population as a threat to their job security and the unity of the nation in general. In the South Asia region countries have failed to ensure security of its nationals in the host country. Nationals of the region often face acts of violence in their immigrant country. Therefore, it is required that governments must take proactive action in order to ensure this security.

The phenomenon of feminization of migration after attributes to Sri Lanka has been a feature across the region. The migration could provide better prospects for women as well but in the region this process has further accentuated the vulnerable condition of women due to increasing trafficking and employment in the low wage profile jobs due to absence of skills among them. As the biggest emigration-immigration-transit country in the subregion, India plays a key role in setting a strong example for adopting comprehensive and transparent migration policies based on international norms. Despite modest progress, the paper highlights the viability of a South Asian sub regional approach to migration policy inside the SAARC framework. The article continues by calling for transparent policies that respect and treat both domestic and international employees equally, while also taking gender-specific considerations into account, as well as a more inclusive and transparent migration policy.

8.5 LET'S SUM UP

Migration is the phenomena that helps in moving up the ladder of development. There is an intrinsic relationship between development and migration. In contemporary times migration is one of the effective tools for holistic development. It helps in economic progress by ensuring opportunity outside one's home region. It also acts as a point to release increasing pressure on limited resources and unlimited aspirations. The migration allows integration of diverse regions without losing its unique identity, ensuring peace in the arena of instability. The new challenge in the form of aggressive climatic conditions due to human centric approach of development, migration helps to provide time to the nations in order to reboot by shifting its population from climatic fragile areas to the areas of abundance.

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8.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISES

Check Your Progress 1

1. Migration helps in development through better opportunities for economic growth as well as allows expansion of freedom by enhancing choices. It helps in the holistic development of an individual's personality as well as the growth of nation states.

Check Your Progress 2

Migration is not a unidirectional process, rather it is a phenomenon ensuring development of both the migrant country as well as the host country. Countries like Bhutan and Maldives host more outside citizens in its economy than it sends to other countries. For example Bhutan's Ministry of Labour and Human Resource approx 45,000 labourers from India work in the Bhutense territory depict show one country gets benefited by the labour provided by other country whereas other country gets remittances in return.

Check Your Progress 3

The unpredictability of the strong regime and instability in this region has given rise to migration. This inability could be addressed by promoting a more tolerant society, allowing engagement of people across the region in order to understand each other; which will assist in developing liberal outlook. More the society become liberal, there are less chances that the state would become the cause of chaos in society. The underlying reason for the chaos which generally led the the instability is the diverse fault line within the societies which upto some extent could be addressed by promoting intra regional migration.

Check Your Progress 4

1. Migration helps in assimilation and acceptance of various cultures hence improves tolerance and acceptability of different ways of life. In India for example internal migration from one state to another has significantly contributed in development and promotion of composite culture since the time immemorial. Therefore, Migration is considered the most effective instrument to move nations towards the path of multicultural societies.

Check Your Progress 5

1. Climate Change is an undisputed reality of the contemporary era which impacts substantially the lives of all species existing on earth. The Paris Agreement of 2016 on Climate has acknowledged changing climate as one of the major factors of migration across the world.

The World Bank report "Groundswell - Preparing for Internal Climate Migration" 140 million residents will be compelled to migrate due to non viability of their current location to sustain them. This report depicts that climate change is the reality which has in recent years shown its facts on the ground. For instance the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

UNIT 9: ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT*

Structure

- 9.0 Objectives
- 9.1 Introduction
- 9.2 Basic Terminology
 - 9.2.1 Environment
 - 9.2.2 Development
- 9.3 The Relationship between Development and the Environmental Condition
- 9.4 Changing Trends of Development and their impact on Environment in South Asia
- 9.5 Population Explosion And Development in South Asia
- 9.6 Resource Utilization And Environmental Quality in South Asia
- 9.7 Sustainable Development And Policy Reforms
- 9.8 Results and Remedies
- 9.9 Regional Forums For Ecological Issues In South Asia
 - 9.9.1 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
 - 9.9.2 South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP)
 - 9.9.3 South Asia Regional Seas Program
- 9.10 Let Us Sum Up
- 9.11 References
- 9.12 Answers to Check Your Progress Exercises

9.0 OBJECTIVES

The relationship between Environment and Development is crucial to be understood in order to ensure that the idea of “Sustainable Development” is promoted across the globe. The region of South Asia comprises of the developing nations where the adverse effects of development activities has been seen upon the environment. After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- Explain the concept of development and its relation with the environment
- To understand various activities of urban growth and development and the eventual effects on the environment in the region of South Asia
- To explain the relation between overutilization of resources and development process
- To understand the various forums and remedial measures available to promote the idea of Sustainable Development in South Asia.

9.1 INTRODUCTION

“Environment” alludes to the conditions where an individual, creature or different items around us support their life. Environment likewise alludes to the appropriate sort of circumstances that are required by us to make due as far as characteristic conditions. Environment includes the biological system around us that has been given to us by nature. The ideas of “development” and “environment” are some way or another profoundly associated with each other in light of the fact that development in the long run needs to seek after itself with the assistance of ecological conditions as it were. We as a whole are by one way or another mindful about the possibility of “Sustainable development”, that has acquired significance in this day and age. This is so on the grounds that the cycle of development has put the possibility of a sound environment under threat. The exercises of man meddle with the common ecological conditions and represent a danger for a Sustainable development. Along these lines, there is no uncertainty about the way that to guarantee Sustainable development, environment should be secured and defended. The objective behind the section “Environment and Development” isn’t just to give essential information, data and information, yet in addition to discover relations and results top to bottom, approaches to discover arrangements and to show potential courses of development. Understanding the issues requires brief examination of the principle natural issues on a worldwide scale and their relations to development process (Jha, 2014). The United Nations Program of Millennium Development Goals is incorporated because of its topicality.

9.2 BASIC TERMINOLOGY

There are few key terms which are important to be understood before learning about the relationship between environment and development. These are:

9.2.1 Environment

Environment is a framework which gives regular environmental factors to the presence of various species and which is an essential for their further development. Environment is a bunch of all elements with which a living subject communicates, and of all environmental factors which incorporate it. In this manner, it is all that a subject impacts, straightforwardly or by implication. A subject can be an organic entity, a population, a human or entire human culture. Typically, the idea of living environment is used to refer to the idea of human environment.

9.2.2 Development

The sentiments on what development is to really mean, have passed incredible development in the last 50% of century and there is no agreement on the best way to characterize this idea as of now. The reasons for this separation can be found in the verifiable settings of the ways to deal with development. Economic development was viewed as integral to the development attempts up to the 1980’s. Steadily, development came to be deciphered as multidimensional idea which ought to incorporate material, social, ecological, political and social parts (with every one of

them straightforwardly affecting the nature of human existence). This way it was perceived that there is no single model of development suitable and alluring for all nations. Simultaneously arose the possibility of “sustainable development”, underscoring the inquiries identified with segment measures, chivalrous utilization of characteristic assets and common impacts between a human and his living environment.

9.3 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION

This association can be described as one of relationship. Similarly as development is inconceivable without a decent state of living environment, so quality environment can't be kept up in occupied or seriously abused regions without their reasonable turn of events. On the off chance that we see development barely just as economic development, the nature of environment overall isn't exactly so particularly significant as plenitude, quality and availability of regular assets of crude materials and energy integral for the economy. In the event that we comprehend development all the more comprehensively, for instance in the feeling of reasonable turn of events, the nature of environment and its economic condition will get one of key needs. All things considered, the drawn out protection of environment's inhabitability or in the end the development of its condition will be at the focal point of consideration.

The region of South Asia comprises essentially of developing and Third World Nations. The possibility of development in this region gets essential to be perceived according to the perspective of environment in light of the fact that the development process in the region has continually been presenting difficulties to the possibility of a sound environment. The issue of natural debasement influencing environmental equilibrium in South Asia has its underlying foundations in a few factors especially economic backwardness, absence of cooperation in approach arrangement and absence of aggregate exertion at regional just as territorial level. A remedial to the present circumstance would be legitimate usage of the forum of SAARC and furthermore creating organization among public, industry and government for accomplishing economic development guaranteeing human prosperity. The South Asian region, as against different regions of Europe and America, is described by ongoing issues of destitution, lack of education, unemployment, population pressure, unhygienic conditions of living, under development and degenerate political initiative and organization, and primitive monarchic politico-social frameworks and ethos which forestall more extensive support of everyday citizens in outlining of administrative strategies and choices with respect to development. Most importantly, the natural issues in this region have made daily routine disgraceful of experiencing for an extensively huge size of population, assessed at 1.3 billion individuals - which is very nearly one-fifth of humankind (Mukherjee & Satija, 2020). This is brought about by a few components like industrialisation, deforestation and land salination, population blast and urbanization, distraught race for science and innovation without having appropriate arrangement of their application

considerably less a moral measurement, and removal of waste, ascent in climatic temperature and so on. As there has been no successful component and no contamination control culture including individuals' cooperation and local area mindfulness programs, the region has seriously endured its eco-balance; and without receiving eco-accommodating developments during 50 years time span, it stays a long ways behind in satisfying the guideline boundaries of the United Nations and other global bodies.

In spite of the fact that the natural resources are treated as 'normal asset' of humankind, they have been utilized in an inconsistent way causing lopsided development design on the planet, and this causes unfriendly effect on everything including the environment. The developing nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America, known as Third World, have been the most exceedingly terrible victim of the ecological corruption brought about by the mechanical upheaval and subsequent radical strategies of the West which brought free enterprise disposition towards utilization of common assets. This heritage has been a main consideration of eco-corruption in the South Asian region alongside no legitimate obligation for aberrant harm to the environment. There are sure industrious natural issues in this region which require prompt consideration for Sustainable development and human growth.

9.4 CHANGING TRENDS OF DEVELOPMENT AND THEIR IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT IN SOUTH ASIA

South Asia has lacking land resources as far as both quantity and quality. India upholds 17% of the worldwide population with simply 2.4 percent of the land region, 45% of India's cultivable land is bone-dry or semi-dry or seriously corrupted; the figures for Pakistan being comparable. Immense stream deltas and huge wraps of inundated fields represent not exactly 50% of the cultivable land in India and Pakistan. The data sources focused Green Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, exceptional cultivating important to take care of the dramatically developing populations and produce modern crude material, helpless upkeep of water system framework, extreme utilization of synthetic composts and pesticides, becoming mechanical run-off, and water-logging and saltiness have prompted debasement of the dirt.

South Asian nations need to advance land-use approaches pointed towards guaranteeing the strength of the biological systems, advancing regional development as a way to stem rustic to-urban movement, securing forest resources and undertaking reforestation; improving watershed management; undertaking coordinated beach front and stream bowl development and advancing soil preservation methods.

Once a water-rich area, South Asia is quickly turning out to be water-poor because of uncontrollable population growth in essentially all nations combined with spontaneous urbanization. Other contributory elements are the impractical use of water, 90-95 percent of water devoured by agribusiness, poor governance and management of water infrastructure, deficient capacity, and age-old as likewise inefficient water system techniques (Kundu, 2019). But Bhutan and Nepal, per capita accessibility of water in South Asia is not

exactly the world normal. South Asia has 4.5 percent of world’s freshwater assets.

Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan face differing levels of water shortage. Groundwater consumption brought about by developing water system needs is a genuine worry in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Cross-line water debasement – brought about by unregulated arrival of sewage, modern and horticultural run-off, composts and pesticides, and arsenic – is developing at a threatening rate. Sharing of water assets among client areas, regions and nations has inner and outer measurements. The upper/lower riparian condition works inside nations, particularly Pakistan and India, and between nations dependant on shared trans-limit waterways. South Asia is set apart by various waterway bowls shared by neighbours. The regions and populations of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan are arranged inside global bowls.

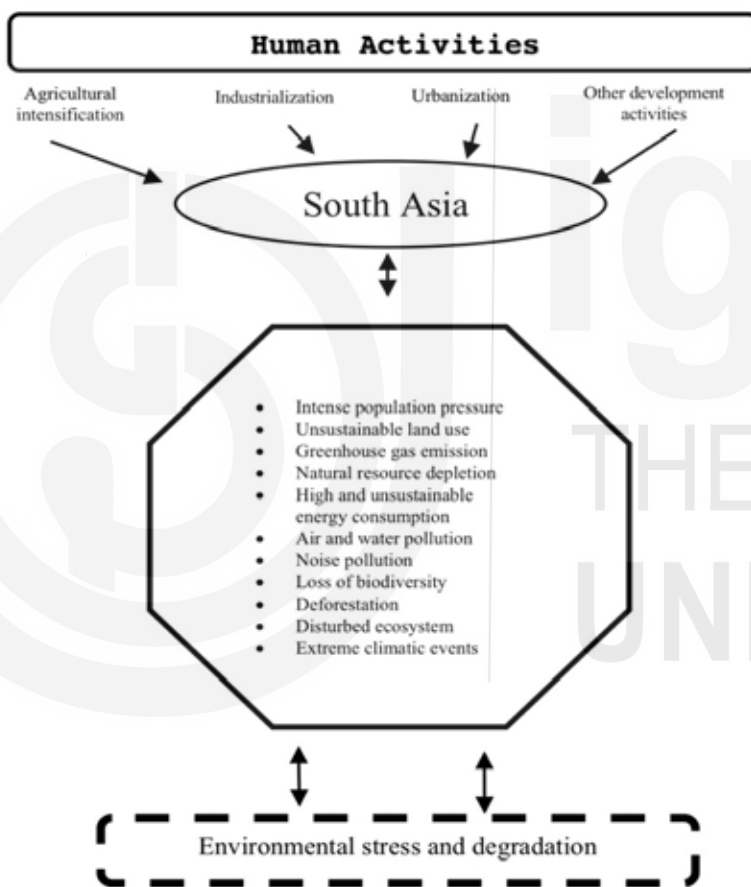


Figure 1: Environmental consequences of human activities in South Asia: A conceptual framework (Source: Adapted from Alauddin and Hossain 2001, p.180).

Check Your Progress 1

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

ii) Check your answer with the answer given at the end of the unit.

1) What do you understand by the term Development and how is it related to the environmental conditions in a region?

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- 2) Explain the major changing trends of development in the region of South Asia and its impact upon the environment.
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9.5 POPULATION EXPLOSION AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH ASIA

South Asia is home to over 1.3 billion people. India alone tallies over a billion occupants. Pakistan and Bangladesh contain 152 and 127 million each. No other region of the world has such genuine population issues as does South Asia and no other region of same size has similarly poor social conditions. These numbers are surely a reason for concern, yet much more upsetting is the way that they keep on heightening.

As the energetic population moves into the grown-up age section (that is, goes into the productive/working age group) public government assistance programs, meager as these are in these nations, will be additionally stressed. Issues of unemployment, food deficiencies, lack of education and helpless ways of life, qualities of these countries, will be additionally disturbed. The current circumstance is not kidding enough; yet prospects for what's to come are considerably seriously disconcerting, given the pace of increment of population, which for the whole region is more than 2% every year.

Under given conditions, huge populations can be invaluable. A bigger and more talented pool of laborers can be productive and valuable in satisfying the needs of an enormous devouring business sector. In any case, the utilization interest of a huge population in the South Asian nations, working under states of shortage, poor technology, and a motivating force free environment, is low. Given the current paces of ripeness and mortality, and the expanding reliance load (basically that of energetic population under 15 years old), the circumstance takes steps to decay in the following decade. Results have been lopsided, however promising in the more proficient country of Sri Lanka (Rasul, 2016).

The future remaining parts dangerous, as South Asia's population continues to develop by 30-32 million consistently. Most South Asian countries are conscious of these issues, however have flopped at this point to foster successful arrangements. The primary explanation is the overall shortage of two basic assets fundamental for the development and execution of such approaches: capital and innovation. These countries (except for Bhutan) have received population strategies coordinated towards tackling the issue at the source: i.e., in accomplishing decreases in ripeness, instead of holding up until the capital and innovative assets have been safely evolved. India

was the principal nation of the area to start a family arranging program in 1951. Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh followed, each inside the structure of its public planning exertion.

9.6 RESOURCE UTILIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IN SOUTH ASIA

Expanded population and economic development all through Asia and somewhere else has involved extensive expansion in the utilization of regular resources. Throughout the majority of Asia there has been extensive expansion in cropland. For Bangladesh and China cropland has diminished in the mid 1990s contrasted with the mid 1980s. In South Asia, Pakistan has encountered the most elevated expansions in cropland while nations of East and Southeast Asia have recorded a lot higher increments with Malaysia recording the most elevated increment of almost 47% and Indonesia a far off second of 20%. The developed world has except for Australia and Germany recorded decreases in cropland. Land under perpetual field has practically stayed unaltered for Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka while India and Nepal have recorded decreases in their individual regions. For the remainder of Asia, the region under field has expanded extensively. The developed world except for Japan has enlisted decreases in their spaces under lasting field. Bangladesh has encountered impressive decrease nearby under timberland and forest. Region under timberland and forest has expanded in different pieces of South Asia. In general the degree of deforestation in South Asia has been a lot more noteworthy despite the fact that Bangladesh is an exemption where deforestation has been extreme.

What's more, generous ascent in the rate of various editing has come about because of expanded increase of agribusiness all through the greater part of Asia. There has been a critical expansion in the rate of inundated agribusiness, as has been the utilization of compound data sources like manures and pesticides. In general, the cycle of agrarian strengthening unfavourably affects the regular habitats. The nations of South Asia are principally developing countries with high spotlight on urban development to carry them at standard with the developed world. This desire for urbanization represents a few dangers to the environment.

Air and water contamination are major ecological worries in South Asia contacting disturbing levels in numerous nations causing genuine respiratory infections and a few water-borne diseases. The shortage of safe drinking water is maybe the gravest danger to the endurance of roughly 1.1 billion individuals in South Asia. It is the single greatest emergency, being looked by India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. Most urban communities in India, Nepal and Pakistan are arranged along waterway banks and the high speed of urbanization has prompted the evaporating of customary water sources like tanks and lakes. As indicated by an investigation, the example of water utilization in this region is roughly 90% in horticulture, 4% for homegrown use and rest 6% is by the business (Pachauri, 2013). The tension on water resources is because of different components viz., ascend in population

and their water necessity, an excess of utilization and furthermore wastage of water because of changing way of life and furthermore savage contest among agribusiness, industry and other homegrown areas. As a result, ground water table has fallen further especially in India and Pakistan at a pace of 1-2 M each year. Truth be told, the lack of consumable water is an intermittent issue in numerous urban communities. Pakistan government is putting forth a full scale attempt for establishment of cylinder wells in various pieces of its domain.

In 2050, when the number of inhabitants in the South Asian nations will be 2.35 billion, per capita water accessibility will be around 1500 cubic meters. The standards set by the WHO are as under:

- Water 'scant' - under 100 cum for each capita;
- Water 'focused' - 1000-1700 cum for every capita;
- Water 'adequacy' - in excess of 1700 cum for each cap

There is an expanding pattern of population in urban agglomerations of more than 1,000,000 individuals all through Asia, with South Asia developing at a quicker rate. The created nations in our example give a blended situation. Two significant South Asian nations, Bangladesh and Pakistan, have the most noteworthy convergence of urban population in their biggest urban areas. This has expanded over the long run. In different pieces of Asia this pattern has declined over the long run. For Thailand, the biggest city is possessed by the greater part of the absolute urban population while Malaysia and Vietnam have about a fourth of their individual urban populations moved in the biggest urban areas. Among the created nations, Japan, Australia and France have around a fourth of their urban populations living in their separate biggest urban areas.

An significant element of numerous Asian particularly South Asian urban areas is that air contamination is well in abundance of wellbeing guidelines. All things considered, the particulate matter in its air surpasses the principles set by the World Health Organization on 268 days of the year. Particulate matter is a significant supporter of respiratory illnesses. Domestic and modern effluents are delivered to streams with almost no treatment. Water quality is, along these lines, poor and a danger to human wellbeing and sea-going life. Much of the time there are likewise immense vagrant settlements and these are regularly situated in regions encountering the most ecological issues. In this manner, the poor in urban communities have low wages, yet in addition live in the most exceedingly terrible natural conditions, regularly ashore that nobody needs due to the ecological dangers related with it.

9.7 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY REFORMS

In this way, environment insurance is one of the various difficulties to a different local area of agricultural nations like South Asia where these difficulties blend in the prevailing basic of mass destitution. This requires a complete approach proclamation considering the advancing development difficulties and comprehension of need of natural concerns and furthermore

guaranteeing aggregate exertion among public, industry and government and NGOs in the region determined to guarantee supportable development for by and large prosperity of humankind. Albeit the terms 'environment' and 'sustainable development' are intently between connected, yet there are significant contrasts on the grounds that maintainable development is as much about economic development all things considered about ecological insurance. Be that as it may, as an issue of strategy change, the issue of reasonable development ought not be seen from just utilitarian and human-centric view since it would hinder 'unadulterated' natural concerns. Thus, the topic of nature naturally emerges which requires in general endless supply of between relations among all creatures and their between play with the environment. Natural debasement will in general sustain destitution, specifically when such corruption impacts soil ripeness, amount and nature of water, air quality, woods, untamed life and fisheries. It can normally prompt issues like ailing health, absence of admittance to clean energy and water, and so on Ecological variables are assessed to be liable for almost 20% of the weight of sickness in India. While the nation has gained significant headway on the way of reasonable development through taking sufficient administrative measures, challenges remain especially with respect to execution. India has a blended history chasing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Be that as it may, India has accomplished significant development in the execution of the Clean Development Mechanism and has outstanding amongst other histories as far as volume of CDM projects carried out. Pakistan is confronting a few difficulties that influence its sustainable development worldview. The effect of environmental change has been apparent in practically all areas of the economy. The Government of Pakistan is yet to exhaustively resolve issues of conservation through enactment. Besides, issues identified with administration, specialized limit just as collaboration (both at the territorial and worldwide levels) will in general obstruct further development towards maintainable turn of events. Be that as it may, there are numerous positive turns of events, including in addition to other things, the far reaching utilization of cleaner fills like Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). Bangladesh has accomplished significant development in the destruction of destitution when contrasted and different nations in the sub-region. The per capita force of Green House Gas (GHG) emanations is likewise unassuming. Nonetheless, Bangladesh is confronting significant difficulties attributable to the rehashed frequency of catastrophic events. Very nearly one fifth of the nation is overflowed each year and numerous pieces of the nation are crushed by storms consistently. In view of a gauge of eight maintainability pointers, Bangladesh has been evaluated as having accomplished extensive development in seeking after the way of economic development since 1990.

Check Your Progress 2

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

ii) Check your answer with the answer given at the end of the unit.

- 1) What are the prominent patterns of resource utilisation that have been seen across South Asia and their impact on the environment in the region?

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9.8 RESULTS AND REMEDIES

With expanding industrialisation and urbanization in agricultural nations, the strength of youngsters and grown-ups is under genuine danger. A few irresistible illnesses and ailing health exasperated by contamination especially decline the force of opposition of provincial society. Removal of wastes, particularly in enormous urban communities, is quick turning into an intense issue. Appraisals show that enormous urban communities produce on normal 0.5 kg of strong waste each day per capita. The pace of garbage removal doesn't coordinate with the pace of waste age. Also, the issue of draining at unloading grounds adds to pollution of surface and ground water. Squander assortment and removal framework is practically non-existent in the more modest urban communities of South Asia. An expected 40-50 percent strong wastes turning out in urban regions stays uncollected. Such untreated wastes give favourable place to a few infections causing different sicknesses and pandemics. Disinfection and strong waste administration is another issue. Perhaps the most troublesome ecological difficulties before the world is the removal of such destructive waste materials. Around 400 million metric huge loads of such wastes are being delivered every year everywhere on the world. The nations of South Asia come up short on the sound innovation of garbage removal and the board. Added to their hardship is the huge scope trans-limit development of such wastes from created nations to the less fortunate nations because of monetary elements.

Every one of these issues should be appropriately tended to in an aggregate soul including the partners of the area other than master gatherings and government apparatus at the dynamic level. The gathering of SAARC offers a decent beginning stage in such manner. It offers a chance for provincial participation for managing the basic issue of environment debasement through data sharing, monetary help, specialized skill, preparing and furthermore moral help and genial relationship as settlements and shows and institutional instruments fabricated accordingly. All countries of the region have individual just as aggregate duty to act and cooperate to protect and improve the personal satisfaction. Socio-economic imbalances and natural dangers in the South Asian area undermine the security and quiet relationship among the countries by restricting monetary turn of events (Siddiqy, 2017). Plainly, the efforts of South Asian nations at local, regional and worldwide levels should be altogether expanded and fortified. This will require:

- Renewed political obligation to the assurance and development of the environment
- Environmental objectives all in all and reactions to environmental change difficulties specifically should be coordinated into the general cycles of preparation, financing and execution. None of the South Asian nations has done this so far however huge development has been made all the more as of late.

- Ministries of Environment, natural assurance organizations, councils, research Centres, R&D foundations desperately need huge reinforcing and satisfactory assets to satisfy their assignments. Observing and appraisal of by and large ecological patterns and area explicit evaluations should be done at state, city, town and even town levels. All partners – particularly the key economic and business areas – should agree with required covering the natural impression of their exercises and find ways to alleviate the harm.
- Much more prominent consideration should be paid to improving the position and limit of associations and foundations set up at local level in compatibility of choices of SAARC Summits. Extra establishments should be set up, to all the more likely location the adverse consequences of environmental change.
- The status and profile of Ministers of Environment ought to be upgraded. Environment Ministers should meet preceding each SAARC Summit to survey the condition of environment and present their discoveries to the Summit. They need to focus better on SACEP and the other provincial participation game plans.
- Effective support, all things considered, particularly the private area and the common society, is the way in to the accomplishment of efforts to address the dangers presented by environmental change and other ecological issues.

9.9 REGIONAL FORUMS FOR ECOLOGICAL ISSUES IN SOUTH ASIA

Today, the significant spaces of hardship in South Asia are instructive offices, health-care facilities, access to safe drinking water, good nourishment of children particularly girl child and gender discrimination, proper sanitation and right to information and so forth which should be accomplished in a reasonable manner for the equilibrium of environment in the region. One of the eight Millennium Development Goals is ‘environmental sustainability’ to be accomplished constantly 2015, as set by World Commission on Environment and Development. It would require a cycle of progress in the methodology of the SAARC nations in a way in which the misuse of assets, the bearing of speculations, the direction of mechanical and institutional changes and strategy changes are all in ‘concordance with nature’ and upgrade both current and future potential to meet human necessities and desires and to result their prosperity. With individuals getting increasingly more mindful of the significance of ecological issues and expanding interest for a cleaner environment, natural economic matters is quick turning into a subject of basic interest for all people just as countries. To meet the formative requirements on a practical premise, it is basic to utilize the common assets admirably. The ‘polluter pays rule’ should be applied in the region. Annihilation of destitution, lack of education, ladies’ strengthening, trade of endogenous information, and limit building including reception of inventive developments and individuals’ interest and their mindfulness towards nature and its biology, need quick consideration region. Destruction of neediness, ignorance, ladies’ strengthening, trade of endogenous

information, and limit building including appropriation of imaginative innovations and individuals' support and their mindfulness towards nature and its biology, need quick consideration. Emergency courses of action and early admonition capacities to diminish common cataclysms like tidal wave, should be advanced through more extensive use and use of science and innovation and furthermore by understanding the strategies and methods utilized by local networks. Drives to Promote Cooperation on Environment at Regional Level incorporate Three inter-regional associations which are prominent with regards to local collaboration on ecological issues in South Asia. These are (i) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (ii) South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP); and (iii) South Asia Regional Seas Program (Shah et al., 2019).

9.9.1 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Imagined as “a political association” and setup in 1985, SAARC has during the previous more than twenty years gave expanding consideration to ecological concerns and difficulties. Since 1987, references to ecological issues have figured in the discourses made and affirmations issues by SAARC Summits. Since the last part of the 1980s, Ministers of Environment have held over twelve gatherings, remembering a gathering for 1997 which received the main SAARC Environment Action Plan, the gathering in 2005 in the wake of the Asian Tsunami which prompted the thought of a local catastrophe participation structure, and the gathering in 2008 at which a Declaration and an Action Plan on Environment Change were embraced in front of the 2009 environmental change meeting in Copenhagen. In compatibility of the 1997 and 2008 game plans, various SAARC focuses have been set up, remembering the SAARC Forestry Centre for Thimpu, the SAARC Disaster Management Centre in New Delhi, the SAARC Meteorological Research Centre in Dhaka, and the SAARC Costal Management Centre in Maldives. The Dhaka Environment Change Action Plan had distinguished seven topical regions for conference and collaboration. These incorporate moderation; transformation; innovation move; account and speculation; training and mindfulness upgrade, the board of environmental change effects and dangers; and limit working for intergovernmental arrangements.

9.9.2 South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP)

The South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP) was set up by the Ministers of Environment of the SAARC part nations. Its secretariat is situated in Colombo (Sri Lanka) which, as well as executing the SACEP Work Plan, likewise regulates the South Asia Regional Seas Program and a few other territorial projects. SACEP's goals remember development of commonly gainful collaboration for need spaces of environment, development of trade of information and mastery, and plan, financing and execution of natural activities.

9.9.3 South Asia Regional Seas Program

The South Asia Regional Seas Program was set up, with help from UNEP, in 1982. This drive Centres around coordinated beach front zone

the board, oil slick possibility arranging, human asset development, and contamination of marine assets brought about via land-based exercises. A South Asia Regional Seas Action Plan was concluded and embraced in 1995 which will, ideally, lead to the arrangement of a Regional Seas Convention displayed on the Conventions received in different regions. The Action Plan contains recommendations on vital issues, for example, coordinated zone the board, development and execution of public and territorial oil slick alternate courses of action, and coral reef security and the executives.

Check Your Progress 3

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answer.

ii) Check your answer with the answer given at the end of the unit.

1) Name the important forums available in the region of South Asia, working to promote the idea of Sustainable Development.

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2) Explain the major remedial measures required by South Asian Nations to resolve the problems of environment degradation.

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9.10 LET US SUM UP

South Asian nations have been effectively partaking in the yearly gatherings of the UNFCCC and other worldwide fora for elevating collaboration to address the diverse difficulties of environmental change. They have driven the efforts to set up the Green Environment Fund to assist helpless nations with adjusting the unavoidable impacts of environmental change and furthermore adjust to instruments for move and sending of environment amicable advances and limit development. SAARC nations have arranged environmental change approaches, procedures and game plans and coordinated environmental change goals in their economic arranging and dynamic. They have likewise settled organizations to address environmental change-related issues. There is earnest need of, and gigantic potential for, two-sided and provincial collaboration on environmental change, going from joint observing of the glaciers, the monsoons, river flows, extreme-weather forecasting, disaster management, adaptation to environment change impact on agriculture and livestock, water management, sea level rise, and the health sector.

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9.12 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS EXERCISES

Check Your Progress 1

1. The relation between environment and development is crucial and intense. As development is inconceivable without a decent state of living environment, so quality environment can't be kept up in occupied or seriously abused regions without their reasonable turn of events. On the off chance that we see development barely just as economic development, the nature of environment overall isn't exactly so particularly significant as plenitude, quality and availability of regular assets of crude materials and energy integral for the economy. In the event that we comprehend development all the more comprehensively, for instance in the feeling of reasonable turn of events, the nature of environment and its economic condition will get one of key needs. All things considered, the drawn out protection of environment's inhabitability or in the end the development of its condition will be at the focal point of consideration.

2. South Asia has lacking land resources as far as both quantity and quality. India upholds 17% of the worldwide population with simply 2.4 percent of the land region, 45% of India's cultivable land is bone-dry or semi-dry or seriously corrupted; the figures for Pakistan being comparable. Immense stream deltas and huge wraps of inundated fields represent not exactly 50% of the cultivable land in India and Pakistan. South Asian nations need to advance land-use approaches pointed towards guaranteeing the strength of the biological systems, advancing regional development as a way to stem rustic to-urban movement, securing forest resources and undertaking reforestation; improving watershed management; undertaking coordinated beach front and stream bowl development and advancing soil preservation methods. Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan face differing levels of water shortage. Groundwater consumption brought about by developing water system needs is a genuine worry in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives. The regions and populations of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan are arranged inside global bowls.

Check Your Progress 2

1. Throughout the majority of Asia there has been extensive expansion in cropland. For Bangladesh and China cropland has diminished in the mid 1990s contrasted with the mid 1980s. Land under perpetual field has practically stayed unaltered for Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka while India and Nepal have recorded decreases in their individual regions. For the remainder of Asia, the region under field has expanded extensively. Bangladesh has encountered impressive decrease nearby under timberland and forest. Region under timberland and forest has expanded in different pieces of South Asia. There has been a critical expansion in the rate of inundated agribusiness, as has been the utilization of compound data sources like manures and pesticides. In general, the cycle of agrarian strengthening unfavourably affects the regular habitats. The nations of South Asia are principally developing countries with high spotlight on urban development to carry them at standard with the developed world. This desire for urbanization represents a few dangers to the environment.

Check Your Progress 3

1. Three inter-regional associations which are prominent with regards to local collaboration on ecological issues in South Asia. These are (i) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (ii) South Asia Cooperative Environment Program (SACEP); and (iii) South Asia Regional Seas Program.
2. The efforts of South Asian nations at local, regional and worldwide levels should be altogether expanded and fortified. This will require:
 - Renewed political obligation to the assurance and development of the environment.

Issues in Development

- Environmental objectives all in all and reactions to environmental change difficulties specifically should be coordinated into the general cycles of preparation, financing and execution.
- Ministries of Environment, natural assurance organizations, councils, research Centres, R&D foundations desperately need huge reinforcing and satisfactory assets to satisfy their assignments.
- Much more prominent consideration should be paid to improving the position and limit of associations and foundations set up at local level in compatibility of choices of SAARC Summits.
- Effective support, all things considered, particularly the private area and the common society, is the way in to the accomplishment of efforts to address the dangers presented by environmental change and other ecological issues.



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