



PROGRESS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, AND THE WORLD

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Abstract

The Human development index (HDI) is a statistical tool used to measure overall performance in a country's social and economic dimensions. Human development indicators are a way to watch the people and nations of the region and countries of strategic importance. The Global Human Development Report dates to 1990, presented by UNDP annually. The UNDP compared India's value in HDI with other countries in South Asia, namely Bangladesh and Pakistan. Similarly, HDRO's efforts to measure gender inequality began with the 1995 Human Development Report on Gender, and recent reports have included two indices on gender. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in the main dimensions of human development: long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living, which is measured with indicators such as Life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, Health Index, and income per capita index. In the South Asian region, India's HDI is above its average of 0.641, which falls under the medium HDI category and ranks 133rd globally. Thus, the researcher has compared India's progress in HDI with other groups, viz. East Asia and the Pacific, and the World for a better understanding of the actual status of HDI in India from 2011 to 2019.

Key Words: *Standard of Living, Health, Education, Income, Life Expectancy at Birth.*

Preface

"People are the real wealth of the nation.", are the words of the report of Human Development of 1990, in which the concept of development received a new approach; according to the report, the objectives of development should be to create an enabling environment for the people to enjoy a long healthy and creative life. It does not always happen that out of 30 objectives of the HDR; only two developed primarily and

fundamentally for the people. The Human development index (HDI) is a statistical tool used to measure overall performance in a country's social and economic dimensions. Human development indicators are a way to watch the people and nations of the region and countries of strategic importance. As per the instructions, it is believed that changes in the countries' policies are encouraged. The Global Human Development Report dates to 1990, presented

by UNDP annually. Also, the concept of the report is different every year. Since 2010, Human Development Report Office has published inequality-adjusted HDI, which adjusts the country's HDI value for inequality in each of its components (life expectancy, Education and Income) and a multidimensional poverty index that directly measures people's deprivation. Similarly, HDRO's efforts to measure gender inequality began with the 1995 Human Development Report on Gender, and recent reports have included two indices on gender.

Global Human Development Reports

Before 1990, growth was measured in terms of change in the country's gross domestic product. But the concept of human development was put forward by Pakistani economist Mahbub Ul Haq. Human development is defined as enhancing people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being. The common person wants to decide who to be, what to do and how to live.

Dr Haq argued at the World Bank and later as Finance Minister in the 1970s that existing measures of human progress, such as GDP, provide only a partial picture of the current situation of the people. They fail to consider the true purpose of development - to improve people's lives. Along with Dr Haq's work, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen created the Human Development Index, which was first used in the 1990 Human Development Report published by the United Nations Development Program.

The HDI Index measures a country's social and economic development level based on four criteria: life expectancy at birth, average years of schooling, expected years of schooling, and per capita GDP. These criteria make it possible to track changes in the level of development over time and compare the level of development in different countries.

The report of the year 2010 celebrates the contribution of the human development approach; indeed, human development is an evolving concept, and as the world changes, analytical tools and ideas evolve. So, this report is about how we can adjust our approach to human development to meet the challenges of the new millennium. This report understands the significant progress that has been made in many aspects of human development over the years. Most people are healthier, live longer, are more educated and have more access to goods and services. Even in countries facing adverse economic conditions, people's health and education have greatly improved, and progress has been made not only in improving health and education and increasing income but also in empowering people to elect leaders, influence public decisions, and share knowledge.

The 2016 Human Development Report examines who and why are still behind in terms of human development. The progress of human development in the last 25 years has been impressive in many facets, but profits have not become universal. There is an imbalance across the country; socio-economic, ethnic and racial groups; Urban and rural areas; and gender inequality. Millions of people cannot reach their full potential because they are deprived of many dimensions of human development. The report also identifies national policies and key strategies so every human being can achieve minimum essential human development and sustain profits. It also addresses the structural challenges of global organizations and presents options for further improvement

HDI has gained popularity with its simple but comprehensive formula that assesses the average population's longevity, Education and Income. Over the years, however, interest has grown in providing a broader set of measurements that capture other

essential dimensions of human development. In response to this call, HDI was supplemented, with new measures of human development aspects that were introduced to capture some "missing dimensions" of development, such as poverty, inequality, and gender gaps.

Measurement of Human Development Index

The UNDP compared India's value in HDI with other countries in South Asia, namely Bangladesh and Pakistan. Bangladesh is ranked 133rd compared to India at 131st, while Pakistan is ranked 154th. In the South Asian region, India's HDI is above its average of 0.641, which falls under the medium HDI category; India is above its average value of 0.631. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in the main dimensions of human development: long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living. HDI is the geometric mean of the normalized index for each of the three dimensions.

Percentage Change= $\{\Delta(V2-V1) / V1\} \times 100$

Progress of Human Development in India Assessing progress relative to other countries

Table -1 India's HDI and component indicators relative to selected countries and groups

| Name of countries and groups | HDI value | HDI rank | Life expectancy at birth | Expected years of schooling | Mean of years of schooling | GNI per capita (2017 PPP US\$) |
|------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| India | 0.645 | 131 | 69.7 | 12.2 | 6.5 | 6,681 |
| Bangladesh | 0.632 | 133 | 72.6 | 11.6 | 6.2 | 4,976 |
| Pakistan | 0.557 | 154 | 67.3 | 8.3 | 5.2 | 5,005 |
| South Asia | 0.641 | — | 69.9 | 11.7 | 6.5 | 6,532 |
| Medium HDI | 0.631 | — | 69.3 | 11.5 | 6.3 | 6,153 |

Source: (2019)

Table 01 shows India's HDI and component indicators relevant to selected four countries. It is observed that India has the highest HDI value (0.645), which belongs to the medium category and is ranked 131 among all nations and groups. Considering the life expectancy at birth, Bangladesh has the highest life expectancy (72.6), and Pakistan has the lowest life expectancy (67.3), which shows a difference of 5.3

The life expectancy at birth determines the degree of health; the degree of education is measured by the mean number of school years for adults, 25 years and older and the expected years for children entering school at that age; and the per capita GDP calculates the standard of living. HDI uses a logarithm of income to show the declining importance of income with increasing GNI. The points of the three HDI dimension indices are then grouped into a composite index using a medium of the geometric mean. (See the technical notes for more details.)

Methodology

The data has been collected from secondary sources from various ministries, UNDP HDR reports, WHO, World Bank, various articles, journals, books, periodicals, research papers, publications and internet sources etc.

The percentage change of progress in given data in the tables below is calculated with the following formula:

schooling with the implementation of government schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (Education for all Campaign) that led to 86th constitutional amendment of right to free and compulsory education mentioned in Article 21 A of the Indian Constitution. At last, the GNI per capita shows that India is at the highest (6681\$), followed by South Asia (6532\$), Pakistan (5005\$),

and Bangladesh has the lowest (4976\$), which indicates that there is significant growth in terms of GDP in India. Therefore, this table suggests that India is in a better condition in terms of Life expectancy, income per capita and expected and mean years of schooling, as well as overall HDI ranking, which is better than Pakistan, Bangladesh, and South Asia.

Table -2 Progress of Human Development Index in India and relative groups

| Years | India | Change in % | East Asia and the Pacific | Change in % | World | Change % |
|---------|-------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------|----------|
| 2010 | 0.579 | 0 | 0.691 | 0 | 0.697 | 0 |
| 2011 | 0.588 | 1.55 | 0.700 | 1.30 | 0.703 | 0.86 |
| 2012 | 0.597 | 1.53 | 0.707 | 1.00 | 0.708 | 0.71 |
| 2013 | 0.604 | 1.17 | 0.714 | 0.99 | 0.713 | 0.71 |
| 2014 | 0.616 | 1.99 | 0.721 | 0.98 | 0.718 | 0.70 |
| 2015 | 0.624 | 1.30 | 0.727 | 0.83 | 0.722 | 0.56 |
| 2016 | 0.630 | 0.96 | 0.733 | 0.83 | 0.727 | 0.69 |
| 2017 | 0.640 | 1.59 | 0.737 | 0.55 | 0.729 | 0.28 |
| 2018 | 0.642 | 0.31 | 0.741 | 0.54 | 0.731 | 0.27 |
| 2019 | 0.645 | 0.47 | 0.747 | 0.81 | 0.737 | 0.82 |
| Average | 0.617 | 1.01 | 0.722 | 0.78 | 0.719 | 0.56 |

Progress of the Human Development Index in India and relative groups is shown in Table 2. It is observed that India's HDI has continuously increased from 2010 to 2019, but it has been in the medium category of human development for the last nine years. In 2010, the overall human development index of the World and East Asia were on the threshold of 0.691 and 0.697, respectively. India was in the medium range of HDI of (0.579), but it was far behind the high human development category. Since 2011, India has made positive changes in its development policies. Considering the above statistics, it is evident that India's

progress in HDI is higher than that of the World and East Asia and the Pacific, where we can see that the average percentage change in HDI from 2010 to 2019 for India is (1.01) which is more significant than East Asia and the Pacific (0.78) and also is greater than the World (0.56) Thus when compared to the World India has improved faster by almost 44 % and in comparison, to East Asia and Pacific it has been enhanced by approximately 22 %. Still, India has made plodding and steady progress in terms of HDI from 2010 to 2019. This slow pace indicates that India is steadily developing and has a broader scope for further progression in HDI ranking.

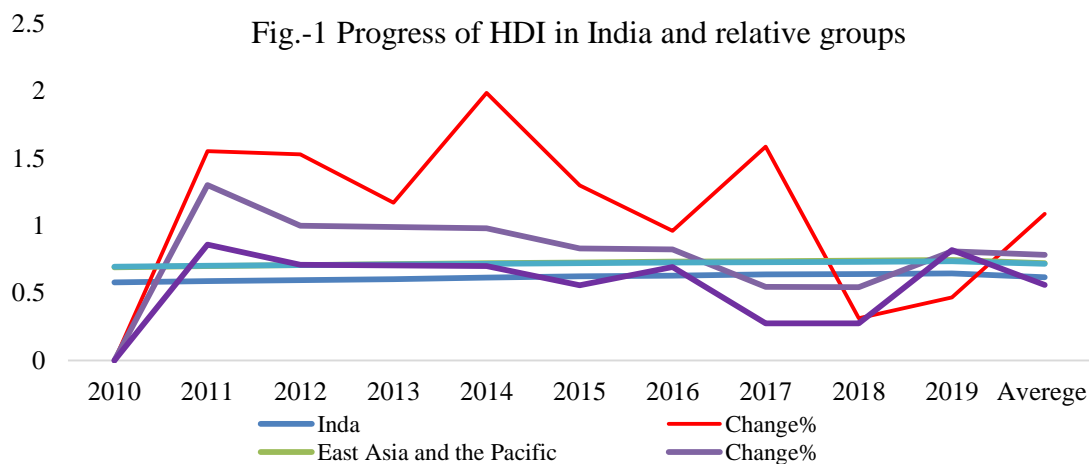


Table -3 Progress of Health Index in India and relative groups

| Years | India | Change In % | East Asia and the Pacific | Change In % | World | Change In % |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 2010 | 0.718 | 0 | 0.817 | 0 | 0.777 | 0 |
| 2011 | 0.725 | 0.97 | 0.822 | 0.61 | 0.783 | 0.77 |
| 2012 | 0.731 | 0.83 | 0.826 | 0.49 | 0.788 | 0.64 |
| 2013 | 0.737 | 0.82 | 0.831 | 0.61 | 0.791 | 0.38 |
| 2014 | 0.743 | 0.81 | 0.835 | 0.48 | 0.795 | 0.51 |
| 2015 | 0.748 | 0.67 | 0.838 | 0.36 | 0.8 | 0.63 |
| 2016 | 0.752 | 0.53 | 0.843 | 0.60 | 0.803 | 0.38 |
| 2017 | 0.757 | 0.66 | 0.846 | 0.36 | 0.806 | 0.37 |
| 2018 | 0.760 | 0.40 | 0.851 | 0.59 | 0.809 | 0.37 |
| 2019 | 0.765 | 0.66 | 0.852 | 0.12 | 0.812 | 0.37 |
| Average | 0.744 | 0.64 | 0.836 | 0.42 | 0.796 | 0.44 |

Table no. 3 reveals the progress of the Health Index in India. It is observed that India has continuously improved from 2010 to 2019; in 2010, India's health index was at par with the World (0.718); however, in 2010, the health index of East Asia and the Pacific was 0.817 which was greater than that of India and World. Although there has been an improvement in the health index from 2011 to 2019, the percentage change in growth per year has declined from (0.97) in 2011 to (0.66) in 2019. In contrast, the average percentage change in the health index of India is better at 0.64 than East Asia and the Pacific at 0.42 as well as the World (0.44)

The above observations show that India has made progress in health s.

development between 2011 and 2019 because of the implementation of umbrella schemes like the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, which is a health insurance scheme that aims to help the economically weaker section of the society to avail required health care facilities, and schemes like Swasth Nagrik Abhiyan National Health Policy 2017, Swachh Bharat Mission 2014, which has significantly aided in improving the health index of India. However, the period between 2018 and 2019 shows a global slowdown in the health index. But the bright side is that India has made an overall satisfactory progress in terms of the Health Index than other group

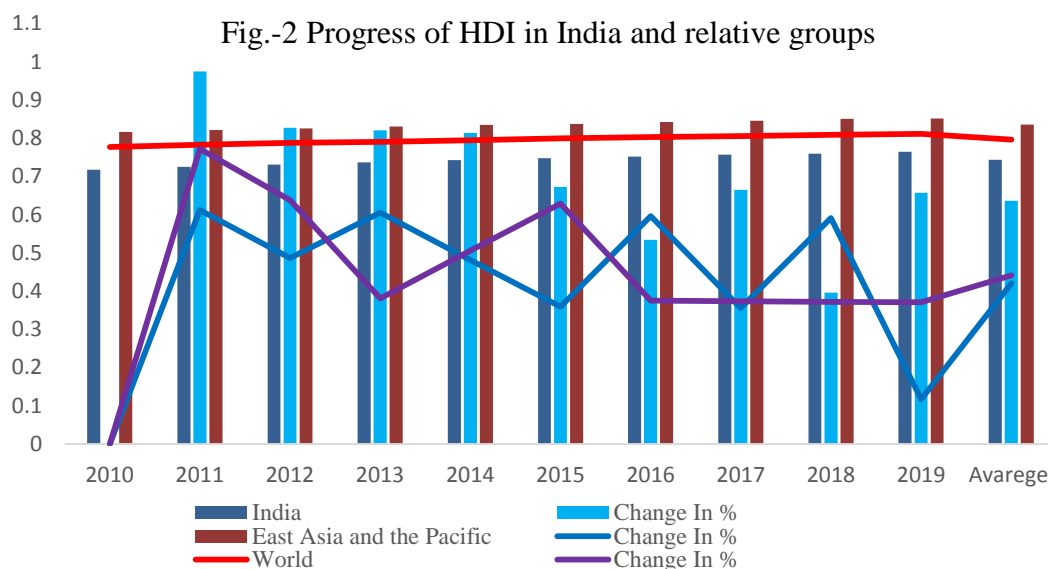


Table -4 Progress of Education Index in India and relative groups

| Years | India | Change in % | East Asia and the Pacific | Change in % | World | Change in % |
|---------|-------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| 2010 | 0.478 | 0 | 0.593 | 0 | 0.592 | 0 |
| 2011 | 0.491 | 2.72 | 0.602 | 1.52 | 0.6 | 1.35 |
| 2012 | 0.505 | 2.85 | 0.609 | 1.16 | 0.607 | 1.17 |
| 2013 | 0.514 | 1.78 | 0.617 | 1.31 | 0.614 | 1.15 |
| 2014 | 0.53 | 3.11 | 0.622 | 0.81 | 0.62 | 0.98 |
| 2015 | 0.54 | 1.89 | 0.629 | 1.13 | 0.626 | 0.97 |
| 2016 | 0.544 | 0.74 | 0.633 | 0.64 | 0.631 | 0.80 |
| 2017 | 0.558 | 2.57 | 0.634 | 0.16 | 0.633 | 0.32 |
| 2018 | 0.553 | -0.90 | 0.636 | 0.32 | 0.633 | 0.00 |
| 2019 | 0.555 | 0.36 | 0.647 | 1.73 | 0.637 | 0.63 |
| Average | 0.527 | 1.51 | 0.622 | 0.88 | 0.619 | 0.74 |

Table no 4 reveals the progress of the Education Index in India and relative groups. It is observed that India has constantly improved in the education Index from 2010 to 2017 and then declined in 2018 as the change in percentage was negative (-0.90). Still, it improved a little in 2019. In 2011, The average percentage change of India's Education Index was (1.51), which is more than East Asia and the Pacific (0.88) and the World (0.74). India has shown fast growth in 2014, with the highest percentage change of 3.11% in all nine years. The Education Development average growth rates of India and other groups during the nine years 2010-2019 are 1.51%, 0.88% and 0.74%, respectively. In 2018, the World's

education growth rate was neutral. The above observations show that India's growth rate of education remained positive before 2017 but turned negative in 2018 and again became positive in 2019. There is a steady increase in the education index of India, which implies that the school drop-out ratio has declined. In contrast, the Gross Enrolment Ratio at schools has increased, suggesting that there is a better condition in regards to expected and mean years of schooling, all of which is possible due to awareness campaigns, education policies, and other schemes like mid-day meal programme which refrains the children to drop out of the school. Although, technically, the status of the education index of India is

better than other relevant groups, it still has a broad scope for further improvement.

Fig.-3 Progress of EI in India and relative groups

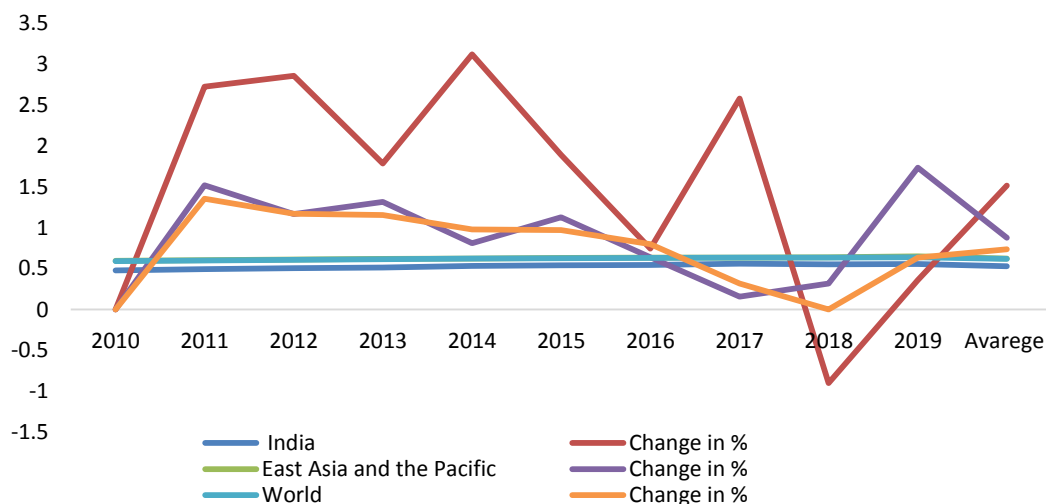


Table -5 Progress of Income Index in India and relative groups

| Years | India | Change in % | East Asia and the Pacific | Change in % | World | Change in % |
|---------|-------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| 2010 | 0.564 | 0 | 0.682 | 0 | 0.736 | 0 |
| 2011 | 0.570 | 1.06 | 0.693 | 1.61 | 0.74 | 0.54 |
| 2012 | 0.576 | 1.05 | 0.703 | 1.44 | 0.744 | 0.54 |
| 2013 | 0.583 | 1.22 | 0.711 | 1.14 | 0.747 | 0.40 |
| 2014 | 0.592 | 1.54 | 0.721 | 1.41 | 0.751 | 0.54 |
| 2015 | 0.602 | 1.69 | 0.728 | 0.97 | 0.754 | 0.40 |
| 2016 | 0.611 | 1.50 | 0.736 | 1.10 | 0.757 | 0.40 |
| 2017 | 0.621 | 1.64 | 0.745 | 1.22 | 0.761 | 0.53 |
| 2018 | 0.629 | 1.29 | 0.753 | 1.07 | 0.764 | 0.39 |
| 2019 | 0.635 | 0.95 | 0.754 | 0.13 | 0.773 | 1.18 |
| Average | 0.598 | 1.19 | 0.723 | 1.01 | 0.753 | 0.49 |

Table no 5 shows the progress of the Income Index in India. In 2010 World Income Index (0.736) was more significant than East Asia and the Pacific (0.682) and India's Income Index was 0.564. in the past nine years, the average percentage change in the Income Index of India along with East Asia and the Pacific increased by 1.19% and 1.01 %, respectively, which differs by a meagre 0.19%, suggesting that there was a more or less same rate of growth in the income index, while the average income index of the World increased by 0.49%. India showed the highest percentage change of (1.69) in the year 2015, which was the highest

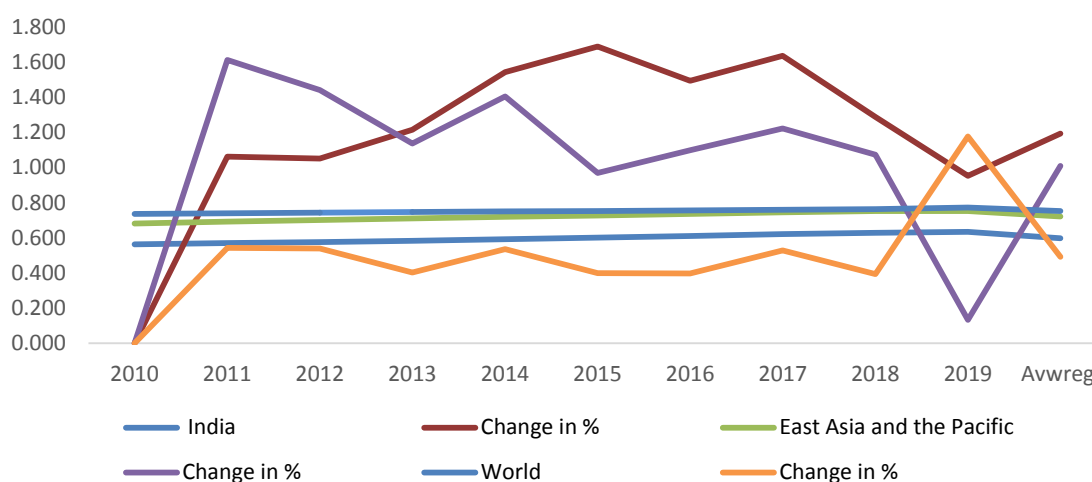
among all the groups in all nine years, while the World recorded the lowest (0.39) percentage change in 2018 and East Asia and the Pacific's lowest was (0.13) percentage change in the year 2019. In recent times that is, for the year 2019, the World Income Index growth (0.773) is more than East Asia and the Pacific (0.754) and India (0.635).

The above observations show that India's growth rate of the Income index remained positive after 2010, but it falls in the medium category over the last nine years. For India, 2011 and 2012 were economically stable years; thus, it was chosen as a base year of national accounts to enable inter-year

comparisons by MOSPI, which gives perspective about changes in purchasing power and calculates inflation-adjusted growth estimates. 2013 to 2015 were the years of digitization where the government of India came up with programmes like the Digital India Programme and Jan Dhan Yojana, where Aadhar Cards that is UIDs (Unique Identification numbers) of the citizens of India were linked with PAN card (Permanent Account Number) to create new bank accounts of the mass population with zero deposits, thus expanding financial literacy to the grass root levels; also plastic money reached to the lower strata of the society such as Kisan Credit Cards for farmers and very

own indigenous Rupay debit cards which became much popular that became a formidable competitor of the existing VISA cards and Master Cards, Skill Development Programs like Skill India Movement and other programmes like Start Up India programme and Stand Up India programme came into full enforcement thus leading to further enhancement resulting in 100 plus unicorn companies which fetched a vast foreign investment capturing speedy growth in social overhead capital. Despite the global recession, India is one of the leading economies that has been improving the Income Index per capita from 2010 to date.

Fig.-4 Progress of II in India and relative groups



Conclusion

Based on the observations while analysing The status of HDI, we can assure that India has shown significant growth in all aspects of HDI, viz, Life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, education index, the health index and income per capita index. Compared to the World and East Asia and the Pacific group, India has shown a trajectory path of improvement and percentage change wise in all years from 2010 to 2019; there has been more growth in all aspects of HDI than in other groups. Thus, the status of HDI in India is averagely satisfactory compared with other groups. Still, despite all the efforts

taken by the government, India falls in the medium category of HDI with a world ranking of 131 out of all the 196 nations under the United Nations Organisation. Therefore, it can be concluded that India needs to implement the existing policies, such as health-related or education related, to ensure maximum welfare and eventually progress in HDI.

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