

2010 Consultation 3/6/09

Suggestion

Thoughts for 2010—June 3rd

Sabina opened the discussion by reiterating the relevance of the human development approach. Jeni began her presentation by highlighting key areas in which the HDRs have made progress to the development debate. These are mainly on the innovation front—conceptually, measurement and to policy advocacy. She then shared the results of the reader's survey.

On review and reflection on changes in the world since 1990, she said that while there is convergence in education and health, divergence in income has persisted. Progress in human development has been slow and unevenly distributed. She went on to highlight major human development challenges as HIV/AIDS, conflict, environment; and more recently, the economic crisis.

She then presented a tentative time line for the 2010 Report.

In her presentation, Professor Frances Stewart mentioned that the main contribution of the HDRs is challenging the dominance of the Washington consensus. The capabilities approach has been accepted as an alternative development framework. However, the HDI as measure of human development is too minimalistic.

On policy changes since 1990, the professor said that there has been positive political change in the context of democratization. She also underscored progress in communication technology and the impacts on peoples' way of life and information dissemination. These notwithstanding, there is still a greater value for monetary variables and not human ones. She raised the issue of increased marketization and inequalities both within and between countries. She also highlighted manmade disasters such conflict fuelled by the West. She urged that we think about ways to incorporate all these into the capabilities approach.

On the way forward for 2010, she suggested that the Report could look at the following format:

- development since 1990;
- two way relationship between economic growth and human development;
- human security;
- political freedoms;
- Gender,
- Ratios and priorities in public expenditure.

She also urged that the Report reviews policies at macro, meso, micro and international levels.

Ngairé Woods said that HDRO should take advantage of the power of the HD approach in terms of how it has shaped current development thinking to advocate for integrated approach to development instead of 'silo' approach. She underscored that the HD framework should be used to knit the global community together. On innovations in the 2010 Report, she urged that attention be given to voices of the poor. She suggested that the Report should call for establishment of international ombudsperson and transnational HD communities, and also to incorporate the concept of justice as an HD dimension.

The power shift in global politics –China has become more assertive voice in setting parameters for global financial governance and has demanded more force for developing countries. China is also opening up a parallel world financial assistance, and this has open up space for dialogue with developing countries.

The following suggestions for 2010 emerged from the discussions:

- Assess the impact of the financial crisis on HD and advocate for financial regulation as a core element of HD achievement;
- Collective action to provide fiscal liquidation;
- Focus on work—both formal, informal and unpaid care work, for without work, there can be no freedoms. Elements to focus on include conditions of work, security at work place, workers' organizations, etc.
- Most work denies time for HD because of long working hours as states shift from welfare to "workfare". The 2010 Report could analyze the implications of time use on HD.
- HDRO should consider collaborating with other agencies, especially NGOs to for up on implementation of the Reports' policy recommendations. Emerging international NGOs could be a channel to disseminate the Report's message. The meeting indicated it would be advantageous for the current UNDP Administrator to throw her weight behind the report.
- It was also suggested that the HDRs could be a coordination tool for UN programmes on the ground. The value that the NHDRs bring should not be under estimated.
- Consideration should also be given to a Report on children. HDRO could partner with UNICEF for this. But this should not replace the State of the World's Children Report.
- Develop a new framework for looking ahead. This will be a logical follow-up to the global financial crisis.
- Mix models of delivery—synergies between MDG and HD.
- General purpose information technology and how it impacts HD.
- Examine what impacts the HDRs have had on policies-global and national
- University Oxford could publish and disseminate a policy legacy of the HDRs to keep the keep the issues raised in the Reports alive.
- Analysis of inequalities, power relations and link to climate change
- Political and economic inequalities

- A question was raised as to whether the HDRs were just research or advocacy tools. It was stated that engagement with influential people in the report preparation process could shift the policy implementation. However, too much consultation could compromise the Report's independence.
- 2010 can be a new UNDP flagship by bringing out constraints to implementation. Identify 21st C "Sens" to keep the attraction of the Report alive
- The theme of the 2010 Report needs to be relevant for developing countries as well. Especially analysis of inequalities beyond income-education, health, power, etc.
- The report should focus on policies that will advance both economic and social development
- Expand the HD frontiers to cover environmental sustainability.
- Consider a theme on Human capital formation: what speaks to all countries, e.g. progressive taxation to finance education.
- Revision of trends in HD achievement, showcasing successes and influencing factors.
- The report should make a shift from individual freedom to collective freedom-empowerment that goes beyond the individual e.g. collective politics, people forming bonds of trust.
- Development beyond aid agenda
- Strengthen the HDRO website by incorporating more interactive features
- Horizontal inequalities: polarization of the middle class within and between countries

Measurement

- Role of institutions and a measure of their effectiveness.
- A new index without income dimension because the current HDI is driven by income;
- HPI not a proper index for identification of the poor. Think of revising the measure, using the Alkire-Foster approach. DHS is a good source of data to revise HPI.
- Consider measuring HD at household level.
- GEM- come up with relevant women specific indicators
- Environment adjusted HDI
- Improve on the measures based on improvement in data ability. Look beyond HDIs.