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Human Development by Examining Its Indicators in Afghanistan

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Abstract

Human development is defined as the expansion of people's opportunities and the improvement of their well-being, including longer life expectancy and living in a healthy society. The human development index is based on three key variables: life expectancy at birth, education measured by adult literacy and years of schooling, and standard of living measured by per capita income. These indicators are used to assess the human development status of countries. In 2019, Afghanistan's human development index was 0.511, ranking 169th out of 189 countries in the United Nations' annual report.

Keywords: *development, human development, human development indicators, human development index of Afghanistan.*

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Introduction

Throughout history, human well-being and quality of life have been important considerations. In ancient philosophy, there were value-oriented ideas about human life, and with the emergence of humanism during the Enlightenment era, the focus on human rights and well-being shifted from mere contemplation to action. With industrialization, modern societies became more concerned with theories of welfare and improving quality of life. Economic growth was often associated with improved welfare for the bourgeois classes. Over time, the concept of development evolved, and human development became a central goal, particularly for the United Nations, in the late 20th century.

The United Nations publishes an annual report on human development indicators, providing a comprehensive assessment of countries' positive and negative developments in relation to their development goals. This report serves as a benchmark for measuring countries based on three major indicators. It also highlights the disparities and challenges faced by third world countries, which have seen little improvement in their rankings since 1992.

This article aims to examine Afghanistan's position in terms of human development and explore potential solutions for improvement. By analyzing human development indicators, focusing on Afghanistan as a case study, and utilizing the latest available statistics from the United Nations Development Department, this article provides insights into the existing challenges and offers a basis for policy-making.

Efforts should be made to address the obstacles and challenges hindering human development, which is an integral part of community-level development. This article draws on human development indicators and focuses on Afghanistan to propose measures that can address existing problems. It is important to note that there is a lack of scientific research after the regime change in Afghanistan, August 2021 in the field of human development. This article aims to initiate deeper discussions and practical work in this area. Development

Basic Concepts

1.1. Development: According to the Dehkhoda dictionary, development refers to progress, revelation, improvement, emergence, and moving away from sorrow. In the context of sociology, political sociology, and political science, the term gained prominence after World War II, particularly in relation to countries with high levels of industrial and economic development. Initially, the focus was primarily on economic and technological dimensions. However, after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the bipolar world order, a broader concept of

development emerged, encompassing developing countries and third world countries.

2.1. Development: Development implies gradual growth towards advancement, strength, and expansion. It involves actions aimed at establishing favorable collective and individual living conditions aligned with desirable values. Contemporary notions of development encompass poverty reduction, unemployment alleviation, inequality reduction, increased industrialization, justice-based social systems, and enhanced political participation. Sustainable development serves as the foundation for systematic development, ensuring unity between social, economic, cultural, and environmental aspects to elevate people's livelihoods and welfare at the community level.

3.1. Growth: Growth and development are continuous and orderly changes that occur from birth to death, encompassing physical, emotional, cognitive, and social dimensions. These changes have long-term effects on individuals' lives. In the societal context, growth refers to the gradual evolution of human society in economic, cultural, and social forms, leading to various social impacts. Economic growth often influences other areas, but it can be hindered or slowed down by social and cultural challenges.

4-1. The Third World: The main concept being addressed here is the precise identification of the Third World or the countries that do not belong to the First and Second World. In academic circles, the terms "southern," "developing," and "underdeveloped" countries are predominantly used. Therefore, the Third World is a term that was used in the second half of the 20th century to refer to countries that were not aligned with NATO and the Eastern Bloc, meaning countries that did not participate in the First and Second World Wars. Although there are doubts and debates about the appropriateness of this name, some Third World countries, especially members of the Non-Aligned Movement, have embraced the use of this term.

Theoretical Foundations of Research

The Theory of Modernization

The modernization theory was developed under the influence of social evolution and social change by Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Ferdinand Tönnies. This group of sociologists divided societies into two categories: traditional and modern. Modernization is essentially a process through which human societies transition from a traditional state to a modern state. For example, Walt Rostow's five stages or Cyril Irwin Black's four stages outline this process. The first stage is the emergence of modernism and the conflict with tradition, followed by the victory of modernism and the

establishment of pro-modernist leadership. The third stage involves significant economic and social changes, and finally, the fourth stage entails social disintegration. Neal Smelser defined modernization as the transition of societies from simple scientific techniques, subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture, reliance on human labor to the use of machines, and rural living to urban living, among other factors. Daniel Lerner also considers the emergence of empathy and collective participation among members of society as indicators of societal modernization. The fusion or diffusion approach views the backward country as adopting certain cultural traits from an advanced country to accelerate its own development. Adra Sargrove, a sociologist, describes these cultural traits, including capital, industry, and social infrastructure. Underdeveloped societies, according to this view, exhibit characteristics such as a lack of additional capital required for investment in production plans, low-level traits hindering the optimal utilization of human and natural resources, and a social infrastructure characterized by conservatism, occupational importance, and the influence of close relatives on social status, as well as a lack of awareness or need for social mobility. These factors hinder capital growth and subsequently impede industrial innovations.

Dependency Theory

Dependency, in its simplest sense, refers to the reliance on and influence of another entity, and dependent countries are those whose affairs and development are under the control and influence of other countries. This perspective gained significant popularity in the 1960s, particularly among Latin American researchers. This group identifies the emergence of Western colonialism and capitalism as the primary factors in the formation of Third World countries. Raoul Prebisch defined dependency based on the concept of an exchange relationship, where exchange represents the ratio of a country's export goods' price to the price of its imported goods. The decline in the exchange relationship has led to the marginalization of third world or peripheral countries, perpetuating their dependence on the advanced industrial world (center). The governing bodies in dependent countries consist of different groups often in conflict with each other, resulting in a lack of consensus on national development plans. The ruling class in these societies includes traditional landowners who rely on business and oppose government intervention in the economy, as well as those who depend on the government system for foreign trade. According to Biban Chandra, the colonial government does not represent any social class in the colony and subjects all classes to the dominance of metropolitan capitalists. The ruling class in the colonies is, according to Chandra, the metropolitan

bourgeoisie. Hamza Allawi, a development sociologist, argues that theories of the state in capitalist societies cannot be generalized to non-capitalist societies. In developing societies, unlike in capitalism, there isn't a single economic ruling class. Osvaldo Sunkel believes that the marginalization of the Third World is closely related to the process of state-dependent capital. He emphasizes the role of dependent governments in facilitating foreign investment through providing necessary infrastructure, considering the governments of the Third World as employers of foreign capital.

New Dependency Theory

Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Enzo Faletto emphasize the role of internal factors within Third World countries in their study of Latin American countries. They don't solely attribute dependence to the exploitation and suppression by foreign forces but emphasize the interconnection of interests and integration between domestic ruling classes and international classes. While they accept the main tenets of dependency theory, they argue that dependence is a dynamic situation resulting from the mutual interaction of internal and external forces. They distinguish several types of dependence. In one type, capital accumulation and expansion are hindered by internal forces and the local bourgeoisie. In another type, investments come from abroad and become integrated into the local production process, leading to increased exploitation of local labor and the exportation of products by foreign companies for global markets. The third type of dependency involves dependent industrial economies where initial accumulation primarily results from foreign investments. They also acknowledge the significant role of popular political movements in shaping governments and facilitating economic development and long-term trends toward democracy in Third World societies.

World System Theory

The theory of the world system is essentially an extension of Andre Gunder Frank's dependency theory, further developed by Immanuel Wallerstein and others. Immanuel Wallerstein, a renowned American sociologist, is most closely associated with the theory of the world system, which has had a lasting impact on the sociology of development. Wallerstein was influenced by Andre Gunder Frank's theory and distinguishes between two types of world systems: world empires and world economies. World empires encompass societies united under the dominance of a centralized state or political power, such as the Roman, Chinese, and Ottoman empires. World economies, on the other hand, represent a historically stable system, namely the capitalist world economy. The distinguishing feature of this world system is the plurality of governments or

political authorities, with unity arising from capitalism, which fosters the division of labor and economic relations connecting different parts of the world system. Wallerstein categorizes countries into the center, periphery, and pseudo-periphery within the world system. He argues that a new capitalist system took shape in the West from the 16th century, gradually integrating the entire world until the 19th century.

Background of the Subject

From a historical perspective, income has been considered a measure of development. The theory traces back to Pigou's theory in 1920. However, Anand and Ravallion criticized the material asset-based approach to development in 1993. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) played a crucial role in shifting away from the material asset-based approach and introduced the concept of human development as a people-centered choice in 1990. One of the indicators used is the Human Development Index (HDI), developed by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq in collaboration with Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. The first United Nations Human Development Report in 1990 focused on human development. The HDI measures three dimensions: 1) the possibility of a long and healthy life, 2) access to knowledge, and 3) access to resources for a decent standard of living. The HDI serves as a standard for assessing living standards and emphasizes the importance of human choices and well-being. Human development is a process characterized by changes in material conditions that significantly affect meeting human needs, desires, physical, mental, biological, individual, and socio-cultural capacities. It seeks to understand how individuals change over time and encompasses studies on the human condition, primarily through the capability approach. Human development aims to increase people's choices and enhance their well-being. It encompasses access to health, peace, prosperity, improved quality of life, increased income, and the development of democratic civil societies. Human development is closely linked to strengthening human rights. The goal of development, according to Mahbub ul Haq, is to broaden people's choices, which are limitless and evolve over time. Key variables of human development include individual well-being within society, the components and measurement of well-being, and the boundless options available to individuals in society, regardless of time and place.

Human Development Indicators

The Human Development Index (HDI) evaluates the richness of human life. While per capita income is a commonly used indicator to measure economic performance, it fails to provide a comprehensive picture. Critics argue that per capita income does not account for income distribution and how it is spent.

Furthermore, countries with the same per capita income may have vastly different living conditions. In response to these limitations, economic thinkers in the field of development sought alternative indices that incorporate both economic and social dimensions. The HDI emerged as a result, aiming to shift the focus from production-oriented development (emphasizing gross domestic production) to a human-oriented perspective. The HDI serves as a summary of human development measurements, capturing a country's average achievements across three main dimensions. It is calculated as the geometric mean of normalized indicators measuring success within each dimension. The purpose of the HDI is to measure people's capabilities to live the kind of life they value. It is based on three balanced aspects of human development: life expectancy, knowledge, and standard of living. These dimensions are measured through various variables, including life expectancy at birth, access to education, and income levels.

Possibility of Long Life

Life expectancy is measured by the life expectancy at birth, which is a statistical index that indicates the average lifespan of the members of a society. As healthcare levels increase within a society, the average life expectancy also increases. Therefore, life expectancy serves as an indicator of a country's progress or backwardness. According to United Nations statistics, Japan, Hong Kong, Iceland, Switzerland, and Australia rank first to fifth, respectively, with an average life expectancy of around 82 years, which is 22% higher than the world average.

On the other hand, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, and Lesotho fall into the lowest category. The average life expectancy in these countries is approximately 42 years, which is 38% lower than the world average and half of the countries above. The Human Development Report of 2019 provides statistics on life expectancy and its components. Countries such as Norway, Ireland, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Iceland, Germany, Sweden, New Zealand, and Denmark rank highest in life expectancy, surpassing 82 years. Conversely, the Central African Republic, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, and Chad rank lowest, with a life expectancy of less than sixty years. (Human Development Report, 2019)

Acquiring Knowledge

Knowledge is measured by a combination of the adult literacy rate and the combined gross enrollment ratio in primary, secondary, and tertiary education (average years of education). Developed countries in the first world place great importance on knowledge acquisition. They focus on factors such as recognizing

the role of teachers, extending teacher training and retraining periods, expanding teacher training in line with educational growth, modifying educational programs and content, and incorporating various sources of knowledge and information such as newspapers, libraries, museums, films, radio and television programs, theater, computers, and microelectronics.

In 2019, the top ten countries with the highest average years of education included Germany, Switzerland, Georgia, Lithuania, Israel, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom, with average years of education exceeding 13 years. Conversely, countries such as Niger, Chad, Mali, Guinea, and Ethiopia had the lowest average years of education, with less than 3 years. (Human Development Report, 2019)

Access to Standard Living Resources

The standard of living is measured by GDP, which represents the national per capita income. National per capita income refers to the share of each citizen in the country's gross domestic product. It is calculated by dividing the gross domestic product by the population of the country. While per capita income can indicate the wealth of a country compared to others, it cannot provide an accurate picture of the economic situation of countries. Disparities in per capita income have led to issues such as absolute poverty, hunger, and low-income levels.

There are two methods to calculate GDP: nominal value using exchange rates and purchasing power inequality. The top ten countries with the highest gross domestic product (GNI) in 2019 were Qatar, Luxembourg, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Brunei Darussalam, the United States of America, Norway, Ireland, Switzerland, and Hong Kong, with GNI above 62%. On the other hand, countries such as Niger, Central Africa, Chad, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Yemen, Liberia, and several others had GNI below 2%. (Human Development Report, 2020)

Human Development Report

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comprehensive global development indicator that provides national, regional, and global estimates for 215 world economies. It is published annually in April by the United Nations and the World Bank. The HDI examines over 800 global indicators and is updated four times a year in April, July, September, and December.

Since 1990, the HDI has been published annually, comparing countries based on indicators such as education, health, economic, social, environmental, and political factors. Countries are divided into four groups: very high human development (58 countries), high human development (53 countries), medium

human development (39 countries), and low human development (38 countries).

The numerical value of the HDI ranges between zero and one, with zero representing the worst form of human development and one representing the most excellent and ideal form. The HDI is calculated as the geometric mean of normalized indicators for each dimension. It requires two steps: determining dimension indices using minimum and maximum values, and calculating the HDI as the geometric mean of the three-dimensional indices. The HDI allows for international comparisons by expressing all three components as indices.

If (L max) means the highest life expectancy in the studied countries and (L min) means the lowest life expectancy in the studied countries, then (L C) means the life expectancy in the studied country and it is obtained as follows:

$$\frac{(L \max - L C)}{(L \max - L \min)}$$

Likewise, if (R max) is the highest level of adult literacy in the countries under review and (R min) is the lowest level of adult literacy in the countries under review, then (R c) is the level of literacy in the country in question.

(S max) and (S min) and (S c) which represent the average academic years are shown as follows:

$$W1\left(\frac{R \max - R c}{R \max - R \min}\right) + W2\left(\frac{S \max - S c}{S \max - S \min}\right)$$

(Y max) the highest gross domestic product per capita adjusted according to purchasing power in the countries under review and (Y min) the lowest gross domestic product per capita adjusted according to purchasing power in the countries under review and also (Y c) per capita Gross domestic production is adjusted according to purchasing power in the countries under review. According to these three indicators that are components of HDI, they are added together and divided by 3.

$$I = \frac{I1 + I2 + I3}{3}$$

For the first time in 1990, it was targeted by placing the people at the center of the development process, which was done mostly with regard to economic, political and social considerations. According to the context, the human being also includes the current development discussions that are considered in the new submissions. Accordingly, the cases of using the Human Development Index are:

1. To make it clear that the ultimate criterion for evaluating the development of a country is created instead of economic growth.

2. To ask about the national policies of the countries in such a way that if the per capita income of two countries is the same but the level of human development is different, the main question is why this difference and provide different solutions for the policy makers to access the goals of political development.

3. To highlight the many differences within a country in terms of provinces, people's gender, ethnicity and other social and economic groups. (Asafzadeh and Piri, 1383: 195)

Region	HDI
Developing countries	0.468
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.263
South Asia	0.309
Arabic countries	0.515
East and Southeast Asia	0.568
Latin America and the Caribbean	0.728
Industrialized countries	0.919

Table of human development in different regions of the world in 1992 Source: (Smith, 2014: 38)

What is important in this index is the gender differences in terms of employment levels, access to health facilities, education, and personal income. According to the estimates of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) statistics, these factors are always fluctuating. In other words, the human development indicators presented each year are not fixed, and the ranking of countries shifts based on all aspects of this index. If there is a positive step in the evolution of the human development index, the country in question will be placed in higher ranks. Conversely, if there is a decrease in such indicators, the country will be demoted to lower ranks.

It is estimated that in South and East Asia, the number of women would be approximately one hundred million higher if there were no maternal mortality rates, infanticide, and neglect of the nutritional needs of young girls (Smith, 2014: 39). Human development is increasingly recognized as being influenced by political factors such as democratization and the protection of human rights. However, in the late 1980s, the pressure for democratization and the rule of law increased due to several factors acting in concert (Smith, 2004: 39). The main factors of the democratization process include economic failure,

authoritarianism, structural adjustment programs intended by donors, the collapse of the Eastern Bloc, increasing globalization, access to collective information sources, media, economic and political interdependence at the international level, and so on.

In the 2010 transition, two surrogate variables were changed for issues other than health. For education, the average length of the period spent on education (in adults aged 25 years and above) and the expected duration of education for school-age children were used. For the standard of living issue, net national income (GNI) per capita was used instead of gross domestic product (Mahdilou et al., 2014: 32). The world map is colored based on the size of the human development index, using data released on September 14, 2018, for 2017 (Source: Persian Wikipedia, 2019).

Human development and economic growth

Many studies have shown a deep relationship between human development and financial development in developing countries. According to many economists, the lack of investment in human capital is the main reason for the low level of economic growth in these countries. Until these countries improve their level of human development, the productivity and efficiency of labor and capital will remain low, resulting in slow economic growth and higher expenses. The relationship between economic growth and human development is a two-way relationship, with flows occurring in both directions. Economic growth can contribute to human development, and human development can, in turn, stimulate economic growth.

It can be said that physical capital becomes more productive only when a country has the necessary values of the human development index. Some people believe that with increased economic growth, the well-being of families increases, leading to increased spending on education, health, and nutrition. This, in turn, contributes to increased human development. Non-governmental organizations also play a role in increasing human development through projects aimed at improving people's quality of life and eliminating poverty. Economic growth leads to social development and increased activity of such organizations, resulting in higher levels of human development (Mahdilou and others, 2014: 26).

The Impact of Economic Growth on Human Development

National gross production contributes to human development through the activities of families, government, civil society, and the private sector. Economic growth affects human development by influencing factors such as education, health, fair distribution of wealth and opportunities, and poverty reduction. Japan and Germany, for example, achieved development after losing their

economic resources during World War II by relying on human resources, specifically human capital. The power of thinking and creativity, which are inherent in human resources, leads to rapid growth and development.

Financial development, with a positive effect on economic growth, can impact the human development index through gross per capita income. For example, the financial system's favorable support for the education sector can have a direct impact on improving access to knowledge and education, which are desired outcomes of human development. Similarly, the financing of the healthcare system is directly related to improving the health level of society. Higher income, employment opportunities, and improved quality of life are components of human development that become possible in the shadow of economic growth. Poverty generally decreases with economic growth, leading to improvements in human development levels (Fitras and Turkmeni, 2013: 63).

Flow from human development to economic growth

Human development contributes to increased national income. Healthy individuals with better education and nutrition can participate more effectively in economic activities, leading to higher productivity levels. Health and education are determining factors for growth and production. Therefore, economic growth and human development are interconnected, and countries' performance can be categorized into four types based on their relationship: low human development and low economic growth (vicious cycle), high human development and high economic growth (positive cycle), high human development and low economic growth (unbalanced human development), and low human development and high economic growth (unbalanced economic growth). The improvement of human development leads to increased growth, and vice versa (Fitras and Turkmani, 2013: 66). *Development Indicators in Afghanistan*

The experiences of advanced countries show that investing in human capital yields significant returns, and economic growth cannot be achieved without focusing on education and its quality improvements. The health status of individuals or groups is related to income levels, forming a link between the two. The improvement of health contributes to increased labor force productivity, while higher income enables educational progress and improved health. The managers and employees of the health sector play a major role in human development and promoting Afghanistan's position in global and regional rankings. However, the increase in terrorist attacks and people's uncertainty about the future of Afghanistan, coupled with the withdrawal of capital, is leading to decreased investment. This, in turn, negatively affects education and health

indicators among Afghan families, resulting in a decline in the human development index in Afghanistan (Mohammadi, 2017).

Afghanistan ranks 169th in the Human Development Index, higher than Haiti and Sudan (jointly ranked 170th), and lower than Senegal (ranked 168th). The United Nations has described the process of human development in Afghanistan as slow. In 2019, Afghanistan had a general human development index of 0.511, with a life expectancy of 64.8 years, an expected years of education of 10.2 years, an average of 3.9 years of education, a per capita gross national income (GNI) of 2229 dollars, and a GNI value of zero (Human Development Report, 2020). Afghanistan's provinces are divided into eight zones based on the Human Development Index, according to statistics from 2018. Changes can be observed from 2017 to the present.

According to a UN report, per capita income in Afghanistan decreased by 10 percent between 1990 and 2019. The United Nations Development Program representative in Afghanistan, Abdullah Al-Dari, emphasized the need for all partners of Afghanistan to work together and support the government and people of Afghanistan to improve the country's position in terms of human development (Elder Dari, 2019). The quality of human development report for Afghanistan in 2019 highlights various aspects. In terms of health, there is a life expectancy of 14.6 percent, with 2.8 doctors and four hospital beds per ten thousand people. In the education sector, there is one teacher for every 49 individuals, but there are no statistics available on the number of elementary schools, high schools, and higher education institutions from 2010 to 2019. Unfortunately, vulnerable employment accounts for 79.7 percent of total employment in terms of the standard of living. However, access to electricity for 98.3 percent of the rural population is a promising aspect (Human Quality Report, 2020).

Economic and social stability: The level of economic stability in Afghanistan from 2015 to 2019, according to the adjusted net savings, was 5.4% of gross income. The apparent services accounted for 4.9% of the gross income, and the growth of gross capital was 17.8%. The specialized labor force saw a growth of 19.2%. Afghanistan's export index was 0.399%, while no portion of the gross income was allocated to research and development expenditure. In terms of social stability, the age dependency ratio for every 1,000 people aged 65 and above was 0.1. However, education, health expenses, and military expenses only comprised 16.8% of gross national production (Social Economic Sustainability Report, 2020).

The human development index adjusted for inequality based on the 2020 report shows that life expectancy in Afghanistan had a value of 28.3%. The inequality in

the life expectancy index is set at 0.495. Moreover, the inequality in education stands at 45.4%, and the adjusted inequality index for education is 0.226 (Adjusted Inequality Index Report, 2020).

Afghanistan's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017, including income from opium production, reached 20.5 billion dollars, compared to 21.4 billion dollars in the previous year. As a result, per capita income at current prices decreased from 719 to 647 US dollars compared to the previous year. The gross domestic product of Afghanistan without opium income is reported to be 19.89 billion dollars, and it is stated that every Afghan without opium income has an annual

واحد	پایین ترین	بالاترین	قبلی	گذشته	افغانستان تولید ناخالص داخلی
					نرخ رشد تولید ناخالص داخلی سالانه
	در صد	-1.80	17.20	1.58	4.03
					تولید ناخالص داخلی
	USD میلی ارد	0.54	20.56	19.48	19.10
					تولید ناخالص داخلی سرانه
	USD	330.30	587.60	563.80	571.50
					تولید ناخالص داخلی سرانه PPP
	USD	1272.90	2264.30	2190.20	2202.30
					تشکیل سرمایه ثابت ناخالص
	AFN Million	22874.70	23984.2.70	20057.3.00	171113.00
					تولید ناخالص داخلی به قیمت های ثابت
	Million AFS	202528.00	1327919.00	1276508.00	1327919.00
					تولید ناخالص داخلی از کشاورزی

income of 630 dollars. Afghanistan's GDP per capita, current values, historical data, forecasts, statistics, charts, and economic calendar can be found (Afghanistan GDP per capita, n.d.).

The multi-dimensional poverty index of Afghanistan, considering the years and surveys from 2008 to 2019, indicates a value of 0.272 for a population of 19,783,000 included in the census. The intensity of deprivation during these years is 48.6 percent, reflecting the level of inequality among the poor at 0.020. The population in severe multidimensional poverty accounts for 24.9 percent, while the population vulnerable to multidimensional poverty is 18.1 percent. The national poverty rate is estimated to be 54.5 percent (Multidimensional Poverty Report, 2020).

The gender inequality index in Afghanistan is calculated to be 0.655, ranking the country 157th globally in this index. Maternal mortality stands at 638 deaths per 100,000 live births, and the number of births per thousand women aged 15 to 19 is 69. Women hold 27.2 percent of seats in the Afghan parliament, while the remaining share belongs to men. In terms of education, among societies with at least a middle-level education, women over 25 years old constitute 13.2 percent, compared to 36.9 percent for men. The labor force participation rate for women over 25 years old is 21.6 percent, while for men, it is 74.7 percent (Gender Inequality Index Report, 2020).

Conclusion:

The goal of human development is for countries to bring about changes in their social and economic affairs based on the capacities and abilities of their people. This involves using statistics and figures from reports on human development indicators and other related sub-indicators to make significant efforts towards improvement. Human development has been considered only after the scale of economic growth reached a plateau. Consequently, social, human, and welfare dimensions, along with economic growth, form the development index.

Theoretical debates surrounding development theories, such as modernization theories, dependency theory, and world order theory, are not solely focused on linear development, industrialization, or the growth of gross national production. True progress and development should be measured by the level of happiness and multifaceted development experienced by individuals. The main form of this development is reflected in human development indicators, which serve as a way to measure progress in human development over a specific period. Afghanistan, facing critical conditions and civil wars, finds itself among the third-world countries. The prevalence of poverty and social inequalities related to ethnicity, gender, and class places the country alongside Sub-Saharan African nations at the lowest levels of human development. In the global ranking, Afghanistan is placed 169th, with a human development index of 0.511.

Insecurity and wars are considered the main factors behind Afghanistan's lag in human development. However, in 2020, with the resumption of peace talks, life expectancy indicators have shown improvement, while other sectors have experienced significant declines over the past decade.

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