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MGPE-11

Human Security

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By: Kshyama Sagar Mehier



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**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
Sample Question
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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2024

(Solved)

HUMAN SECURITY

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Time: 2 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 50

Note: Answer any **five** questions, selecting at least **two** questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-A

Q. 1. Describe human security as a 'people-centered' concept.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Shift to 'People-centered' Concept'.

Q. 2. 'Human rights, security and development are interdependent.' Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 15, 'Interdependence Between Human Rights, Human Security and Human Development'.

Q. 3. How is 'freedom from fear' different from 'freedom from want'?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 25, 'Freedom from Fear vs. Freedom from Want and Beyond'.

Q. 4. Elaborate the political and cultural dimensions of violence with suitable illustrations.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 42, 'Dimensions of Violence'.

Q. 5. Elucidate relationship between development and global warming. How does it affect human security?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 64, 'Development and Global Warming'.

SECTION-B

Q. 6. Discuss various measures to ensure food security.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 76, 'Measures and Their Impact' and Page No. 77, 'Food Security and Future Perspectives'.

Q. 7. Elucidate the problems encountered by rural labour in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 84, 'Problems of Rural Labour'.

Q. 8. Elaborate strategies for empowerment of marginalised women in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 93, 'Empowering Marginalised Women'.

Q. 9. Elaborate Gandhi's perspective for international cooperation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 107, 'Gandhian Precepts for International Cooperation'.

Q. 10. Discuss the state of human security in South Asia.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-15, Page No. 129, 'Human Security and South Asia'.

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QUESTION PAPER

December – 2023

(Solved)

HUMAN SECURITY

MGPE-11

Time: 2 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 50

Note: Answer any **five** questions, selecting at least **two** questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

SECTION-A

Q. 1. 'The objective of human security is to safeguard the vital core of human lives.' Elaborate.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 3, 'Working Definition of Human Security' and Chapter-2, Page No. 15, 'Status of Human Security'.

Q. 2. Elaborate interdependence of human security and human development.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 16, 'Interdependence Between Human Security and Human Development'.

Q. 3. Define violence and discuss its various types.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 44, Q. No. 1.

Q. 4. Elucidate relations between structural violence, gender inequality and sexism.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 44, 'Structural Violence, Gender Inequality and Sexism'.

Q. 5. What could possibly be the 'green ways' for a clean world? Explain.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 65, 'Green Ways to a Cleaner World'.

SECTION-B

Q. 6. 'Food security is a cornerstone for human security.' Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 73, 'Food Security and its Significance'.

Q. 7. Explain the state sponsored measures for rural labour in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 85, 'Measures for Rural Unorganised Labour'.

Q. 8. Discuss various frameworks for international cooperation.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 106, 'Frameworks of International Cooperation'.

Q. 9. Elaborate the goals set by UN for ensuring human security.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 115, 'Goals Set by United Nations'.

Q. 10. Discuss the relevance of the preventive measures to ensure human security in the globalised world.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 116, 'Preventive Measures'.

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Sample Preview of The Chapter

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HUMAN SECURITY

Defining Human Security

1

INTRODUCTION

The security of an individual or a group of people is called human security. It implies safety for a person or a community from physical attacks by others. An individual needs security to live, work and develop. Security became more relevant with the development of power and relations between individuals and communities. The concept has existed since the Habeas Corpus (1679) and Bill of Rights (1689) that aimed at protecting a person and provided him the right of petition and the right to individual freedom. For a state, the concept of security is related to its territory. Security of a state has been given priority to that of an individual. Individual freedom, dignity and rights as part of the security concept has however seen paradigmatic changes in the last few decades. In this chapter, we will study the evolution of human security, the scope of its application and its significance for the welfare of the disadvantaged sections.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN SECURITY

The root of security of individual and nation is sovereignty. The state security is ensured when its sovereignty is ensured and enforced. Promoting state thus means securing the security of citizens. If a state is secure then its citizens will be secure. Securing the elements of the state secures a state. This security covers people in the state's territory and protects the state's frontiers. It secures both territorial integrity and its security. Security protects people from external threats.

State invests for the development of people and undertakes the responsibility of protection of sovereignty. Territorial development, including the infrastructure in the state, ensures the development of the country.

Shift to 'People-centered' Concept

The shift to people-centred security happened after the Second World War and subsequent deliberations in various UN-based conferences pointed out the limitations of a state sovereignty-based security. Emphasis on human security and human right led the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the 'Universal Declaration on Human Rights' on 10th December, 1948 with an aim to safeguard people's rights and protecting them in various ways to ensure a good life for the people.

The General Assembly proclaims that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. Member-states and people under their jurisdiction shall promote respect for these rights and freedoms.

These human rights have become more valid universally and strengthened as time passes. States however have significant role in the implementation of these rights and the international community can do little when these rights get violated. The 1993 UN Conference on Human Rights at Vienna discussed the rights underwent extensively.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted on June 25, 1993 states that it is affirmed that all states are committed to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all according to the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights and international law.

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It also highlights that of cooperation among nations is essential for the achievement of the purposes of the United Nations in the field of human rights. It also states that human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birth right of all human beings and their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of the governments.

In his address to the Nation in 1941, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt outlined four essential freedoms: (i) Freedom of speech and expression, (ii) Freedom of every person to worship God, (iii) Freedom from want or economic understandings that will secure to every nation a healthy peace-time life for its inhabitants, and (iv) Freedom from fear on a world-wide

Reduction of armaments to such a point no nation would be able to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbour. He stated that the world should be founded upon these four essential human freedoms. He wanted these to be achieved in the immediate future, "In our own time and generation." Human rights have got more importance. Numerous international standards, procedures, institutions have been established to uphold and promote human rights. Tackling the issue like food security can further promote human security.

Human Rights Approach to Development and Security

In human rights approach to development and security, development policies were made equitable and purposive with the human rights touch. The United Nations advocated intensively the human rights approach. In this approach, development is not just an economic phenomenon, but other dimensions like social, cultural, civil, political and psychological are also taken into account.

Human rights approach to development promotes human security. For example, right to basic education ensures that everybody achieves some knowledge that may enable him to earn a living and thus offers security. This approach leads to a balanced and integrated societal development ensuring human security. Institutions like the UNDP which advocate of human development stimulates balanced development by focusing on conditions like observance of human rights and equity. For example, the human rights approach demands that project-affected people are properly compensated and rehabilitated so that development of the areas includes them and their families. It also takes up the issues of labour exploitation and of gender discrimination. It helps developmental agencies in planning and promoting a more holistic development

protecting the vulnerable sections of the society. It ensures welfare of the society.

Modern Concept of Human Security

In 1990s, especially after the Cold War ended, it was realised that the human rights approach should be reinforced with developmental measures and security of the people all over the globe. It was believed that people-centred security was essential for national, regional and global stability. Security should accommodate human welfare, especially the development of poor, marginalised and disadvantaged sections. Human security should cover human development, international relations, strategic studies and human rights. Keeping this in view, the UNDP's 1994 Human Development Report highlighted the need for human security to fight global insecurities affecting people, especially the poor and disadvantaged.

The HDR 1994 mentioned the need for the human security and its operationalisation. It also introduced the concept of 'Sustainable Human Development'. It highlighted that human security can lead to global peace. It also warned that future conflicts may often be within a nation rather than between them because of growing socio-economic inequalities and Deprivation. It suggested that 'Sustainable Human Development' can satisfy the expanding frontiers of the human security. Job security, income security, health security, environmental security, and security from crime can ensure human security across the globe.

The report also mentions that the battle for peace will be fought on two fronts: On the security front where victory leads to 'freedom from fear'; second is the economic and social front where victory means 'freedom from wants'. Over the time, attention however has become more on the freedom from fear.

CONTEMPORARY VIEWS

The UNDP HDR 1994 has the modern views of human security. The International Commission on Intervention and Sovereignty holds human security as significant for national and international institutions, particularly because the United Nations believes ensuring human security as its cardinal mission.

Lyal S. Soonga advocates a concept of human security should involve international human rights law, humanitarian law, criminal law, refugee law and all legal norms. King and Murray emphasises on human security measures in terms of 'Years lived outside a state of generalized poverty'.

Human security is also considered as a pre-condition of human development. Some view it in broad

terms covering basic material needs as well as democratic practice and human dignity.

Working Definition of Human Security

Sabina Alkire states that human security means safeguarding the vital core of all human lives from critical pervasive threats for long-term human fulfilment.

The working definition states that human security maintains its focus on:

- (i) Poverty and Violence
- (ii) People-Centric Nature
- (iii) Multi-dimensionality
- (iv) Protecting people against cultural and pervasive threats, and
- (v) Specific objective with operational policies and projects by principled procedures.

To explain this further:

1. Human security safeguards human lives from the threat of violent conflicts, diseases etc., through institutionalised protection. Institutions should act in such a way that does not threaten human security. Its focus is more on human beings than on threat.

2. Human security focuses only some vital core activities such as building capabilities among people to fulfil their basic needs, enabling them to enjoy fundamental human rights.

3. Human security is 'people-centered' and concerned with people irrespective of age, sex, race and religion.

4. Human security focuses on human lives and their protection from critical threats that affect basic human life and pervasive threats which have major impact on human beings such as diseases and epidemics. These threats may be direct like rioting or pollution or indirect like distorted investment. Human security identifies such threats and aims for peoples' welfare.

5. Human security works towards human satisfaction even as its focus is only on selected human aspects of human development and human rights. Activities promoting human security should lead to people's long-term good. Governance process, or participation and capacity building are important but should not undermine public good.

6. Human security ensures security in individual societies and countries, cumulatively at global level.

7. For a country like India, human security is significant because of chronic problems like poverty, unemployment, inequality, malnutrition and underdevelopment. Human development in India leads

to economic development as well as human development.

Contribution of Mahbub-ul-Haq

In his important work on human development, Mahbub-ul-Haq outlines human security. He states that the classical economy focuses on all society and not just the economy, but after Second World War, the emphasis was on economic growth. It led to high growth but not improved lives. The structural adjustment programmes also adversely affected poor and other marginalised sections. Haq's Human Development Report in 1990 thus turned out to a cherished annual report on human development and policy prescriptions. The HDR 1994 mentioned human security as an alternative to the prevailing obsession with economic growth and Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Report pointed out that human security is not limited to GDP or individual countries or economies since poverty cannot be stopped at national boundaries. It suggested that new and recent issues of human security more upstream than downstream should be tackled. For example, focus should be on the prevention of AIDS and HIV instead of emphasising on the disease for long-term benefits for the society.

With the change in the dimension of human security, the world looked for a new development paradigm and new policies with special focus on developing countries. Human Development Index (HDI) was developed to measure human development. The index covered variables such as life expectancy, education and income.

Dr. Haq highlighted that in several developing countries imported arms much more even as, their income was a small share of world income. Several African and Islamic countries also ranked very low in the Human Development Index.

Dr. Haq stated that the concept of security should change dramatically if life has to be sustainable as the world entered in a new era. He spotlighted that security should be interpreted as security of people and security is sought to be achieved through development.

For Dr. Haq, human security is universal, global, and indivisible. He suggested the following five steps to achieve human security:

(a) Human security should be based on equity and must become the paradigm.

(b) Human security should move from arms security and activities should focus on social welfare.

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(c) North and South countries have to partner for a new framework of development.

(d) A new framework of global governance is needed.

(e) Countries put efforts to create a global civil society.

Dr. Haq's thinking, philosophy and policy suggestions can be considered as a Gandhian approach to human security.

Juan Somavia's 'Peoples' Security'

Juan Somavia used 'peoples' security' for human security. He defined human security as organizing principle for international relations and operationalise that change. He pointed out present concept of security is people-centred. He discussed security in the South American context. Somavia's analysis of security has the following common principles:

(i) Security based on the insecurity of others does not last long.

(ii) Building up of arms does not lead to more confidence. It leads to more distrust.

(iii) Security covers economic, social, cultural, environmental and other aspects. It is not a strategic or military question, and

(iv) Human security is as important as the security of the state.

He asserted that the objective of a security policy is to reduce insecurity and for that the origin of insecurity has to be explored. He suggested the following three perceptions of sources of security:

(i) Poverty is the first source of insecurity. It produces insecurity all across the society. Besides, marginalisation, destitution, the resulting social tension, violence, armed struggle and terrorism are all sources of insecurity.

(ii) Instable political system is the second source of insecurity, and

(iii) Economic uncertainties of unemployment and low income is the third source of insecurity.

Somavia pointed out that narcotics in some South American countries was leading to more money laundering and corruption. He also highlighted political and economic uncertainties. According to him, in the economy people are just aggregates for the market and in politics we are people. Human rights have introduced a process of humanisation of politics. But this is related to the dehumanisation of the economy through uncertainties.

The combination of these two situations is extremely explosive and United Nations' Attention is required into it.

Amartya Sen's View

Amartya Sen, who won the Nobel Prize in 1998 for his contribution to welfare economics, highlighted food security as an important part of human security. He stated that what a person can enjoy in terms of goods and services at his command is his entitlement which mainly depends on how much he is endowed with. In this sense, poor have very little endowments.

He suggested that capabilities creating functional abilities among poor can be developed to boost human security since it can help them in having better entitlements and better life. Measures like regular assured food entitlements and control of inflation can improve human security. He stated that social security can prevent deprivation and vulnerability. The activities which help poor and disadvantaged sections and raise their entitlements and capabilities should be appreciated.

Gandhi's Views

Mahatma Gandhi had not used 'Human Security' perhaps because at that time the problems of poverty and inequalities were considered as economic problems and not as security issues. Terrorism and violence were considered as internal security issues. But Gandhi's views on society, politics and economics show that he would have welcomed the concept.

Gandhi was against monopoly and privilege. He also identified himself with the humanity. He considered all—rich and poor—as equal. He was also for equality of wages. His view was that production should be determined by social necessity and not by personal greed. He was for dignity of labour and pleaded for universal education. He believed in trusteeship principle and advocated 'Sarvodaya' and 'Antyodaya' meaning 'development of all and development of the poorest'. He believed in 'plain living and high thinking'.

SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF HUMAN SECURITY

Human security covers several areas of human life and endeavours. According to Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq, human security should include threats and insecurities in the seven areas given below:

(i) **Economic Security:** It is the right to basic minimum income and productive work.

Economic insecurity can lead to political tensions and violence. About one fourths of the population