

UNIT 02 / 13 · LEARN & TRY

Human development: capabilities and access

Name: _____ Date: _____

Goal: Evaluate development through capabilities, pillars and limits of indicators.

Learn

Human development concerns expanding people's choices and capabilities rather than increasing income alone. A person needs opportunities to live a healthy life, learn and secure a decent standard of living. Economic growth can support these aims, but its benefits depend on distribution and institutions. The four commonly discussed pillars are equity, sustainability, productivity and empowerment. Equity addresses fair opportunities; sustainability protects future capabilities; productivity concerns people's capacity to contribute; empowerment supports agency and participation. Indicators make comparison possible but simplify complex realities. The Human Development Index combines dimensions of health, education and standard of living; it does not capture every aspect of freedom, inequality or environmental quality. A district average can conceal gaps between groups and localities. Use the same year and definitions when comparing indicators, and avoid inventing current rankings. Explain a policy by identifying whose capability it expands, what barriers remain and how access can be checked in practice.

Worked example

Original fictional comparison: Two districts have equal average income, but only one offers accessible schools and primary health services. Their incomes alone cannot determine whether residents have equal capabilities.

1. Why can income growth coexist with limited human development? [2 marks]