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**Mujeeb Rahman AP**  
 Head and Assistant Professor,  
 Department of Economics,  
 Sullamussalam Science College,  
 Ugraparam PO, Areacode,  
 Malappuram, Kerala, India

**Bassam K**  
 Assistant Professor, PG  
 Department of Commerce,  
 Sullamussalam Science College,  
 Ugraparam PO, Areacode,  
 Malappuram, Kerala, India

**Correspondence**  
**Mujeeb Rahman AP**  
 Head and Assistant Professor,  
 Department of Economics,  
 Sullamussalam Science College,  
 Ugraparam PO, Areacode,  
 Malappuram, Kerala, India

## Human development index (HDI): A study of Malappuram district, Kerala, India

**Mujeeb Rahman AP and Bassam K**

### Abstract

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary composite index that measures average achievement of particular nation in three basic aspects of human development. These aspects are popularly known as (1) A long and healthy life. (2) Knowledge (3) A decent standard of living<sup>[1]</sup>. This research paper focus on the level of human development in Malappuram district through constructing HDI for the district. The Malappuram- most populated district in Kerala state. The district has attained tremendous progress in the field of education during the last two decades. Great strides have been made in the field of female education. The district has the largest number of schools in Kerala. Malappuram is the highest beneficiary in receiving donations from migrants abroad among all the districts in Kerala. The study find out that the Malappuram district lies in medium level human development according to UNDP norms.

**Keywords:** HDI, life expectancy index, educational attainment index, adult literacy index, gross enrolment index, GDP index

### 1. Introduction

HDI is the abbreviated as Human Development Index. It was developed and launched by Pakistani economist Mahbub-ul-Haq, followed by Amartya Sen, an Indian economist, in 1990<sup>[2]</sup>. Human Development Index, HDI, is a comprehensive tool devised by the United Nations for measuring the levels of social and economic developments of the different countries and ranking them accordingly. The HDI is nothing but a summary measurement of Human development. It measures the average achievement of respective country in respect of human development. For this achievement following three basic dimensions are used.

- A long and healthy life
- Knowledge
- A decent standard of living.

#### 1.1 A long and healthy life

A long and healthy life is represented in the HDI by life expectancy at birth. For calculation of Life Expectancy Index upper and lower goalpost is determined, which is age 85 for upper goalpost and age 25 for lower goalpost, which represents 1 & 0 respectively. Life expectancy index is 1/3rd of HDI. Life expectancy index is calculated by using following formula<sup>[3]</sup>:

$$\text{Life Expectancy Index} = \frac{\text{Actualvalue} - \text{Minimumvalue}}{\text{Maximumvalue} - \text{Minimumvalue}}$$

#### 1.2 Knowledge

The knowledge is represented in the HDI by the Educational Attainment index (EAI), which is the combination of Adult Literacy Rate (ALR) and Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER). In other words, Education Index means education attained by the people of the country on an average basis. While calculating education index maximum goalpost is considered 100% and minimum is 0. Education Index is calculated by using following formula:

Adult literacy rate is used to calculate Adult Literacy Index, which is calculated by using following formula:

$$\text{Adult Literacy Index} = \frac{\text{Actual literacy rate} - 0}{100 - 0}$$

Gross enrollment ratio (GER) is used to calculate Gross Enrollment Index, which is calculated by using following formula:

$$\text{Gross Enrollment Index} = \frac{\text{Grossenrollmentratio}-0}{100-0}$$

### 1.2.1 Educational Attainment Index

Educational Attainment index is a combination of Adult Literacy index and Gross Enrollment index, in which 2/3rd weightage is given to Adult Literacy index and 1/3rd weightage is given to Gross Enrollment index. Education index is calculated by using following formula [4]:

$$\text{Education Index} = \frac{2}{3}(\text{Adult literacyindex}) + \frac{1}{3}(\text{Gross enrollment index})$$

### 1.3 A Decent standard of living

A decent standard of living is represented in HDI by Real GDP per capita index. Real GDP per capita index is calculated by using adjusted GDP per capita. It does not reflect

in long & healthy life and knowledge but reflects in HDI with 1/3rd weightage of total GDP index calculated. While calculating GDP index maximum goalpost for GDP per capita is considered US \$ 40000 and minimum US \$ 100 is considered. GDP index is calculated by using following formula:

$$\text{GDP Index} = \frac{\text{Log (Actual GDP per capita in USD)} - \text{Log(US 100\$)}}{\text{Log(US 40000\$)} - \text{Log(US 100\$)}}$$

HDI is a combination of Life Expectancy Index, Education Index & GDP Index in which  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd weightage is given to each index. HDI is calculated by using following formula:

$$\text{Human Development Index} = \frac{1}{3}(\text{LifeExpectancyIndex}) + \frac{1}{3}(\text{AdultLiteracyIndex}) + \frac{1}{3}(\text{GDPIndex})$$

## 2. Study area

HDI is basically calculated to know the human development of particular nation in composite term of Health, Education and Income. But in this research paper, instead of India or Kerala, HDI of Malappuram- a district of state Kerala, is calculated. The district, in northern Kerala, is bounded on the northeast by Wayanad and northwest by Kozhikode districts, on the northeast by Tamil Nadu, on the southeast and south by Palakkad District, on the southwest by Thrissur District and on the west by the Arabian Sea. In the 2011 census the district had a population of 4,112,920<sup>[5]</sup>. Malappuram is the 50th-most-populous of India's 640 districts.

## 3. Methodology

For this research paper data is collected by using secondary sources like records available with District panchayath, government offices, Department of economics and statistics Government of Kerala, Journals, magazines, information published in various newspapers. The formula provided by UNDP is used for calculating HDI.

## 4. Objectives of the study

- To find out the level of human development of Malappuram District.
- To construct HDI for Malappuram district.

## 5. Calculating HDI

Life expectancy index be 0.83, educational attainment index is 0.86 and real GDP per capita index is 0.295.

$$\text{HDI} = \frac{0.83 + 0.86 + 0.295}{3} = 0.662$$

## 6. Analysis and Interpretation

The Malappuram district lies in medium level of human development (0.662). It is less than compared to state of Kerala (0.790) but slight better than the country (0.609). The education index and life expectancy index is better than compare to other states of India. The Per capita index is low in Malappuram district (0.295).

## 7. Conclusion

The HDI of Malappuram district is less than the Kerala state and to improve HDI the sufficient measures are to be taken in the field of health, education and standard of living. To increase the per capita income, encourage the income earning activities by providing more opportunities.

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