Jamia Millia Islamia

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on

Human Security, MDG and SDG Outcomes in South Asia

Human security means "protecting fundamental freedoms - freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity." (The Commission on Human Security, 2003) .

The concept of human security was made operational by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the 1994 Human Development Report. It specified seven typical priority areas of security: economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal physical security, security of community life and political security. The need for this, now not so new, paradigm of security is linked to the correlated and overlapping nature of security threats - old and new ranging from persistent poverty to climate change, health pandemics, terrorism, violence (Racial, Cultural, Tribal, Ethnic), human trafficking, unexpected economic downward spiral amongst others. Presented as a comprehensive model on which to recast the security viewpoint in the context of the changing world order, human security is seen as a strategy to enable governments to address basic human needs and counterbalance the inequities of globalization, provide social safety nets to the marginalized and the impoverished as a means of reducing the human costs of conflict. Human security thus emerged as an integrated comprehensive approach on development, human rights and security, beyond conventional, state-centric ideas of security.

In keeping with the above, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) emphasized on human capital, infrastructure and human rights (social, economic and political), with the intent of increasing living standards. *Human capital objectives* include nutrition, healthcare (including child mortality, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and reproductive health) and education. *Infrastructure objectives* include access to safe drinking water, energy and modern

information/communication technology; increased farm outputs using sustainable practices; transportation; and environment. **Human rights objectives** include empowering women, reducing violence, increasing political voice, ensuring equal access to public services and increasing security of property rights. The goals were intended to increase an individual's human capabilities and "advance the means to a productive life". The Human security approach links the discourse integrating economic and social development, and environmental protection (UN 2012) and provides a frame work for inclusive policy empowering the notion of the 'individual and community based securitibility' (Gabriel Koehler et al, 2012).

Human security as a concept with its integrated approach, emphasis on economic poverty, political and personal insecurity and violence, environmental degradation, and social exclusion being crucial for all levels of human development and wellbeing: individual, community, national and international is appropriate for intensifying the MDG/SDG approach .Research (Kabeer 2010; Jolly 2011; Te Lintelo 2011 amongst others) has focused on the inequality within human security policy and the need for specifically addressing income and social inequalities and their intersections, if the MDGs indeed the SDG's are to be met. The idea, the perceptions and the paradigm of Human Security functions as an exploratory framework for conceptualizing development goals beyond 2015 (MDG's) to the SDG's integrated treatment of the three dimensions (economic, social and the environmental) of sustainable development (Rio plus 20- UN CSD) and a commitment to Human Rights and Social Justice.

What are the policy outcomes of the concept of human security in the context of the MDG/SDG discussions on the post-2015 agenda? The Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia's National Symposium on "Human security, MDG and SDG outcomes in South Asia" seeks to synthesize contemporary understanding of linking the policy framework of SDG's with operational outcomes of MDG's in the context especially of South Asia. The multidimensional interactions and policy outcomes and transformative pathways towards Human Security are sought to be identified through the following six broad themes - Conceptual and specific Case studies of South Asia:

1. Conceptualizing Human Security; Global and South Asian Context
2. Human Security and Millennium Development Goals: Outcomes in South Asia
3. Economic Inequality, Poverty and Social Exclusion in South Asia
4. Human Security, Gender and Sustainable Development in South Asia
5. Food Security, Health and Education in South Asia
6. Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance in South Asia