

Theoretical perspective of human security

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Abstract

The term human security and development have undergone major change in the light of national security. Both are non-traditional elements of security. They are mutually interrelated to each other. A nation cannot imagine proper development with no reference to human security. Human security is mostly concerned with 'freedom from fear' and 'freedom from want'. If a nation is able to protect its individual from fear and gives ample opportunity of freedom to fulfil its basic need then a nation can progress and secure its territory. The author tries to analyse the conceptual aspect of human security and development. Hence, enhancement, value progress, economic welfare due to modernization have clear bearing on the notion of human security.

Keywords: human development index, environmental awareness, freedom from fear, freedom from want, food security, political security, community security, world development report on poverty

Introduction

The term human security has been examined in the context changed security environment. Today, human security is the most frequently used terms. Its objective is to fulfil the needs of the state. Various social sciences have focused on the theme of human security. This implies that a state is there is an intimate relationship amongst individuals. The performance of an individual well-being has much relevance to such social environment and cultural structure to which he belongs. Both the terms are also related to humanitarian aspect.

Human Security is a state of progressive enhancement. Today, it includes both physical and monetary factors which are vital for national security. Though, the term human security implies the protection of state in the physical sense but now it covers individual areas of political, economic, environmental, education, healthcare and infrastructural surroundings.

Human Security

Human security is one of the non-traditional dimension of national security which has assumed much importance in recent times. The emphasis is on the individual's efforts. In this age of globalization, human security gives more emphasis to individual than security of the state. As such, it has challenged concept of conventional security. The concept of conventional security visualises the state to defend from external aggression and internal threats. Thus, the focus is on the development of military capabilities. After the Second World War there has been increased in the development of military capabilities by great powers. This was made possible only where the state enjoyed economic and social stability. Within the state, various groups operates for different goals and hence their security issues arises different. After the fall of the Soviet Union, proved that military security alone was not the sole criteria in protecting the territorial integrity of the state. Hence, economic power became more important because it fulfilled the requirements of common men, women,

children and workers. Hence, the state territorial sovereignty cannot solely depend upon the traditional national security has to look into other aspects like self-preservation and economic well being of individuals. Therefore, one has to take the holistic view of the security. State has then to address both traditional and non-traditional threats.

Mahbub ul Haq was the first to draw the world wide attention to the concept of human security. He made it clear in the 1994 UNDP's *Human Development Report*. This report was important as it influenced the United Nations (UN) 1995 World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen. The 1994 UNDP's human development report has defined human security as —safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression. Human security is protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life. It is an assurance of protection in jobs, in homes, or in communities^[2]. The scope of global security should include threats in six areas:

Economic Security: In the 20th century the real security issue is economic. Economic security is based upon basic income for individuals. How the income is generated? This income generally come from productive and remunerative work. What is important is the need for a publicly financed safety net. The world data shows that only about a quarter of the world's people are presently economically secure. As compared to developed countries, the economic security is a serious problem in developing countries because of unemployment and corruption that ultimately leads to political tensions and ethnic violence. Today, unemployment is the biggest threat to security. Hence creating job prospects will bring real economic security.

Food Security: Food security is one such area that all people want access to food. People should have both physical and economic access as the basic requirements of food. According

to the United Nations, the overall availability of food is not a problem. But the problem arises when there is proper criteria for public distribution of food and a lack of purchasing power. In the past, the food security problems was taken up both at national and global levels. But, their impacts on the states was limited. According to UN, the key is to tackle the problems relating to access to assets, work and assured income which is related to economic security. The key to food security lies in economic security^[3].

Health Security: Health security assures a minimum protection from diseases and unhealthy lifestyles. In developing countries, the majority of people are facing with infections and parasitic diseases. Approximately 17 million people are killed annually.

In an industrialized country, the major killers revolves around the circulatory system which kill 5.5 million every year. The United Nations report shows that in both developing and developed countries threats to health security arises because the poorer people in rural areas are affected. The causes of ill-health are malnutrition and insufficient supply of medicine, lack of clean water or other necessary factors that are conducive to sound health^[4].

Environmental Security: Environmental security defends people from the short and long-term ravages of nature. Pollution basically a man-made, has caused threat to nature. Pollution results from degradation of the natural environment. In developing countries, there is a problem clean drinking water which poses as the greatest of all environmental threats. In industrially developed countries, major threat comes from air pollution. Global warming, caused by the emission of greenhouse gases, is another environmental security issue.

Community Security: Community security protects people from the loss of traditional relationships and values. The aim is to protect people from sectarian and ethnic violence. Traditional communities, particularly minority ethnic groups, are often threatened. Fifty per cent of the countries of the world's states have experienced some inter-ethnic strife. The United Nations declared 1993 as the Year of Indigenous People. The aim was to highlight the continuing vulnerability of the 300 million aboriginal people in 70 countries. Most of these groups face a widening spate of violence^[5].

Political Security: Political security is often related to people's basic human rights. In the recent study made by Amnesty International, figured political repression, systematic torture, ill treatment or disappearance are still practised in many countries. Human rights violations are most frequently doneduring political unrest. These violations continue repression of individuals and groups. Terrorism as a major problem has assumed global proportions in recent decades. These six core areas of security can be merged into two groups: freedom from fear and freedom from want.

1. Freedom from Fear: This school seeks to limit the practice of human security to protecting individuals from violent conflicts while recognizing that these violent threats are strongly associated with poverty, lack of state capacity and other forms of inequities^[6]. Minimizing

violence is a realistic and manageable approach towards human security. Thus, emergency assistance, conflict resolution and peace-building are the main concerns of this approach.

2. Freedom from Want: This school emphasises on a holistic approach to achieve human security and argues that the threat agenda include hunger, disease and natural disasters. The threats to hunger, diseases and natural disaster are inseparable concepts in addressing the root cause of human insecurity^[7]. They kill far more people than war, genocide and terrorism combined.⁸ Different from —Freedom from Fear”, The emphasis is on development and security goals.

‘Thus human security insures both —freedom from want” and —freedom from fear” for all individuals. In recent years. The concept has been approached more by policy-makers and in research fields. Thus, human security has emerged paradigm for understanding global vulnerabilities. The exponents of human security do not only limit confines itself to the analysis of traditional concept but also includes unconventional concept of national security. They believe that the security in modern context has become more individualistic rather than the state oriented. The people-centric approach becomes more important for national, regional and global integration and also for promoting stability. It is saying that human security is necessary for development because without human security there is no development and it will also affect nation's prosperity. In other words, no development could possible without the proper base of human security. Today, the terms development and human security have been equally corelated. The relationship between the two is that of means and end.

Human security is the mean. Development is its end. Human security is the foundation. In this way, human security is the basic condition which promotes the process of development. Yukio Takasu, in his speech at the International Conference on Human Security in a Globalized World in Ulaanbaatar on 8 May 2000 stated that —There are two basic aspects to human security—freedom from fear and freedom from want... We believe that freedom from want is no less critical than freedom from fear” in terms of protecting human life in conflict situations.” Yukio Takasu, on May 8, 2008 gave a comprehensive definition of human security:

—Human security, in its broadest sense, embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and health care and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfill his or her potential. Every step in this direction is also a step towards reducing poverty, achieving economic growth and preventing conflict. Freedom from want, freedom from fear, and the freedom of future generations to inherit a healthy natural environment—these are the interrelated building blocks of human—and, therefore, national—security”^[9].

Human security as concept of development

The concept of development was earlier related to just economic growth emphasizing on National Income Growth. Hence, on this basis it was seen as a traditional security

concept. But after 1970, it was soon felt that national income was not only the factor that could justify the wishes of the individuals with equity and justice. Average per capita income is one important means to achieve such progress. It is not the sole criteria. There are other alternative objectives. One such was the PQLI (Physical Quality of Life Index). Prof. Amartya Sen has suggested that the objective of development should be the enhancement of people's capabilities, or the opportunities open to people of being and doing a variety of things ^[10]. UNDP's *Human Development Report* has defined the goal as enlarging people's choices in a way which enables them to lead longer, healthier and fuller lives ^[11].

Therefore, the human security approach not only focuses on equitable and poor economic growth but also examine the importance of human rights and the provision of adequate social services that are important for people to survive and live with dignity livelihood, and dignity. The demands of human security are only partly addressed by improving economic growth. People who do not achieve the lowest level of security are those who survive in abject poverty, who fall victim to sudden crisis, or who are caught in the middle of violent conflicts. For these reasons, they are excluded from development. The losses of human capital to these horrible situations are increasing at alarming speed ^[12]. According to Amartya Sen, —Human security is concerned with reducing and—when possible—removing the insecurities that plague human lives” ^[13].

Conclusion

People cannot live in an environment of security where they are not is free from poverty and despair when they are not well protected by the state. As such every individual should be guaranteed —freedom from fear” and —freedom from want”, so that they can fully develop their human potential. Developing human security is important to achieve this goal. Overall, human security means freedom from negative threats to people's rights, their safety or even their lives. Human security has become a world wide phenomenon. Hence, human security and human development are, thus, mutually, inter-related and thus can lead to a conducive environment for each other.

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9. Commission on Human Security (CHS), —Human Security Now, New York: Commission on Human Security, 2003, p. 4. Alternate phrasings of this definition include: (i) The objective of human security is to protect the vital core of all human lives. (instead of protect: shield, guarantee, defend, maintain, uphold, preserve, secure, safeguard, ensure that are shielded); (ii) The objective of human security is to protect the vital core of all human lives from critical pervasive threats in a way that is consistent with long-term human fulfilment. (initial definition was this); (iii) The objective of human security is to guarantee a set of vital rights and freedoms to all people, without unduly compromising their ability to pursue other goals; (iv) The objective of human security is to create political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental conditions in which people live knowing that their vital rights and freedoms are secure; and (v) The objective of human security is to keep critical pervasive threats from invading the vital core of human lives. Sabina Alkire, Conceptual Framework for Human Security, 16 February 2002, available at <http://www.humansecurity-chs.org/activities/outreach/frame.pdf>. [16 February 2002]
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