

## Chapter 2

# Human Development: Concept and Measurement

### 2.1 Introduction

As stated in chapter 1, the concept of human development is a people-centred approach to development where the primary concern is enhancement of human well-being. Human development therefore corresponds to a holistic approach in the process of development. The concept of human development is a broad one and has an infinite number of dimensions since any human activity, be it inter-personal or inter-societal activity or man – environment interaction, will ultimately affect man's welfare or will have a bearing on human development. Needless to say then, that any attempt at measuring human development will be severely limited in the sense that it will be incomplete and will fail to capture all the important dimensions.

However, in order to assess the level of achievement and to identify the processes that lead to human development, we need an operational concept as well as some measurable indicators or indices of human development. In this chapter we attempt to provide the concept and measurement of human development. With the help of such indices we try to analyze where Meghalaya stands in terms of achievement in the sphere of human development.

The rest of the chapter is organized as follows. In section 2.2 we discuss the concept and definition of human development. Section 2.3 discusses the main indices of human development – the HDI and the GDI. Section 2.4 analyses the status of human development in Meghalaya in the national context. It presents a comparative picture of the level of human development of all the states in India. In section 2.5 we analyze the intra state variation in the status of human development in Meghalaya, i.e. we present an inter district analysis. Section 2.6 concludes the chapter.

### 2.2 Conceptualizing Human Development

The basic objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. The economic development of a state or country in terms of its Domestic Product does not necessarily reflect the actual well-being of its people.

The view that income is not the sum total of human life is not new. The idea that social arrangements must be judged by the extent to which they promote 'human good' goes back to at least Aristotle. He said "Wealth is evidently not the good we are seeking, for it is merely useful for the sake of something else". He argued for seeing "the difference between a good political arrangement and a bad one" in terms of its successes and failures in facilitating people's ability to lead "flourishing lives". Human beings as the real end of all activities were a recurring theme in the writings of most of the early philosophers and the early leaders of quantification in economics.

But excessive preoccupation with national income growth has obscured that powerful perspective, supplanting a focus on ends by an obsession with merely the means. Technical considerations of the means to achieve development have at times obscured the fact that the primary objective of development is to benefit people.

The notion of human development was a successor to the notion of 'physical quality of life' which had been put forth in the late 1970s as a subject of mensuration and planning focus by critics of national income comparisons between economies. In 1979, Morris D. Morris came out with a seminal

work on the use of a physical quality of life index (PQLI) to measure the status of poverty versus well-being in developing economies, especially India.

While the notion of PQLI generated much debate in the early 1980s, it was only with the UNDP's Human Development Reports, beginning in 1990 that planners and other players in the development sector focused seriously on non-economic measures of well-being as an aid to planning and resource allocation.

The UNDP has defined *human development as a process of enlarging people's choices*. In principle, these choices can be infinite and change over time. However, the most critical ones are to lead a long and healthy life, to be educated and to enjoy a decent standard of living. Additional choices include political freedom, guaranteed human rights, self-respect and cultural liberty.

The term *human development* denotes both the *process* of widening people's choices and the level of their achieved well-being. It also helps to distinguish clearly between two sides of human development. One is the formation of human capabilities, such as improved health and knowledge. The other is the use that people make of their acquired human capabilities, for leisure, productive purposes or being active in cultural, social and political affairs. If the scales of human development do not finely balance the two sides, considerable human frustration may result.

According to this concept of human development, income is clearly only one option that people would like to have, albeit an important one. But it is not the sum total of their lives. Development must, therefore, be more than just the expansion of income and wealth. Its focus must be people.

### 2.3 Measuring Human Development

The range of capabilities that individuals can have, and the choices that can help to expand them, are potentially infinite and vary from person to person and from time to time. In any system for measuring and monitoring human development, the ideal would be to include many variables, to obtain as comprehensive a picture as possible.

But the lack of relevant statistics precludes that. Nor is such comprehensiveness entirely desirable. Too many indicators could produce a perplexing picture. Since public policy is about setting priorities, the crucial issue, therefore, is of emphasis.

Two criteria are helpful in identifying the most important capabilities for assessing meaningful progress in achieving human well being. First, these capabilities must be universally valued. Second, they must be basic to life, in the sense that their absence would foreclose many other choices.

Therefore, the three basic capabilities or dimensions of human development that this Report focuses are (i) to lead a long and healthy life, (ii) to be knowledgeable and (iii) to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living.

**The Human Development Index (HDI):** Beginning with the first HDR of 1990 the UNDP has developed a summary indicator for the level of achievement in human well-being, called the Human Development Index (HDI). Its construction has been subsequently refined in the later HDRs. India, in the National Human Development Report, 2001, has adopted the methodology with significant modifications in the treatment of the key components as well as the number of variables included. Other State-level HDRs also have adopted the UNDP methodology, with certain adjustments due to data constraints.

In this Report, too, we have constructed the HDI for each district with the following key components. For details in the construction of the HDI, please see Technical Notes. For the first component – a long and healthy life – we have used the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). The indicator widely used for this dimension has been life expectancy at birth and life expectancy at age 1. However, due to lack of reliable data at the state and district levels, we have used IMR as an indicator for human deprivation in the health dimension. For the second component – knowledge – we have used two indicators. These are the literacy rate with two-thirds weight and the combined gross enrolment ratio (primary to higher secondary level) with one-third weight. The third component – a decent standard of living – is measured with per capita income.

Health and educational attainments are valued ends in themselves. They capture in some sense, a quantitative, as well as qualitative aspect of an individual's well being. At the same time, they are important for furthering other aspects of well-being. The inclusion of income per capita has been explained as a 'catch all' variable to incorporate aspects of well-being not captured by indicators reflecting a society's attainments on education, health and longevity of its people (NHDR, 2001)

Although the HDI is a useful starting point, it is important to remember that the concept of human development is much broader and more complex than any summary measure can capture. The HDI is not a comprehensive measure. It does not include important aspects of human development, notably the ability to participate in the decisions that affect one's life and to enjoy the respect of others in the community.

Another point to be noted is that, the HDI that is calculated in various Human Development Reports, whether global, national, regional or state levels, does not lend itself to direct comparability. This is due to the differences in the indicators or components used in the calculations.

**The Gender-Related Development Index (GDI):** The HDI measures average achievements in human development, but it does not incorporate the degree of gender imbalance in these achievements. The gender-related development index (GDI), introduced in the *Human Development Report 1995*, measures achievements in the same dimensions using the same indicators as the HDI but captures inequalities in achievement between women and men. It is simply the HDI adjusted downward for gender inequality. The greater the gender disparity in basic human development, the lower is the GDI relative to HDI.

The indices give an overview of some basic dimensions of human development, but they must be complemented by looking at the underlying data and other indicators.

It may be noted that there are other related indices of human development like the Human Poverty Index (HPI) and the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM). However, due to lack of relevant district-level data, these indices cannot be calculated in the present Report.

## 2.4 The Status of Human Development in Meghalaya: National Context

As per the National Human Development Report 2001, among the 32 states in India (data on the three newly created states of Chhattishgarh, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand were not available), Meghalaya ranks poorly in level of Human Development. Meghalaya ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in HDI in 1991 (Table 2.2). Its position has deteriorated from a rank of 21<sup>st</sup> in 1981 (Table 2.1). The HDI value of 0.365 is also lower than the all-India average of 0.381. This is the case when we take the combined HDI of rural and urban sectors. It reflects the situation in the rural areas due to the population weightage of the rural sector.

The picture in the urban sector, however, is different. The HDI has improved from a value of 0.442 in 1981, which incidentally is exactly equal to the All India average, to 0.624 in 1991, which is higher than the All India average of 0.511. The rank of urban Meghalaya in HDI over the same period improved from 21<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. Obviously, this is a big leap forward.

When we look at the per capita income of the state, we find that in 1990-91 Meghalaya ranked 18<sup>th</sup> among all the states (Economic Survey 2000-01, p. S-12). The HDI rank of Meghalaya at 24<sup>th</sup> in 1991 raises questions that the resources have not been effectively put to use for the well-being of the people, especially the rural people.

Among the North Eastern States, Meghalaya showed better performance than Assam and Arunachal Pradesh only. The other states of the region, namely, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura showed higher achievements in human development in 1991.

The situation has further deteriorated in 2005. Although the HDI values are not directly comparable with those of the NHDR, 2001; the ranking of the states may be compared. Out of the 35 states and Union Territories, Meghalaya ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in human development (Table 2.3) slipping two places down the ranking in 1991. The HDI rank for the rural areas of the state is 24<sup>th</sup>, same rank as in 1991; and for the urban areas, it is 22<sup>nd</sup> in 2005 down from a rank of 10<sup>th</sup> in 1991.

A closer look at some of the components of the HDI suggests that there has been stagnation or no development in Meghalaya in some areas. For instance, the IMR of Meghalaya has remained more or less constant in the recent years. It may be recalled that this is the indicator used to capture the health dimension. The IMR of Meghalaya in 1997 was 56 per 1000 live births in the rural areas, 52 per 1000 in the urban areas and 54 per 1000 for rural and urban areas combined (SRS Bulletin, Volume 33 No. 1, April 1999). In 2007, the IMR in Meghalaya was 57 in the rural areas, 46 in the urban areas and 56 for rural and urban areas combined (SRS Bulletin, Volume 43 No. 1, October 2008). Hence, there may be developments in other aspects of health and healthcare services in Meghalaya as will be seen in Chapter 3; but these developments have failed to bring down the infant mortality rate in the state recently. (The IMR of Meghalaya had been brought down from 79 in 1981 and 80 in 1991 to the present figure of 56 per 1000 live births).

In the spheres of education and income in Meghalaya, available data show that that there has been improvement and growth during the 25 year period of 1981 to 2005 (please refer to Chapter 4 and 6 respectively for details). However, the deterioration in the ranking of Meghalaya in HDI implies that the rate of development is slower than the rate in most of the states and hence many states have improved their ranking while Meghalaya has lagged behind.

As far as the Gender-related Development Index (GDI) is concerned, Meghalaya is in a better position compared to most of the states in India. The GDI rank of Meghalaya was 12<sup>th</sup> in 1981 and improved to 7<sup>th</sup> in 1991. However, the GDI could not be calculated in 2005 due to lack of data. Gender - related issues of human development will be discussed further in Chapter 8.

Table 2.1: Human Development Index of States in India –1981

State/UTs	Human Development Index						Gender	
	Rural		Urban		Combined		Disparity Index	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
Andhra Pradesh	0.262	25	0.425	23	0.298	23	0.744	10
Arunachal Pradesh	0.228	28	0.419	24	0.242	31	0.537	28
Assam	0.261	26	0.380	28	0.272	26	0.462	32
Bihar	0.220	30	0.378	29	0.237	32	0.471	30
Goa	0.422	5	0.517	10	0.445	5	0.785	2
Gujarat	0.315	14	0.458	18	0.360	14	0.723	6
Haryana	0.332	13	0.465	17	0.360	15	0.536	24
Himachal Pradesh	0.374	10	0.600	1	0.398	10	0.783	4
Jammu & Kashmir	0.301	17	0.468	16	0.337	19	0.584	19
Karnataka	0.295	18	0.489	14	0.346	16	0.707	20
Kerala	0.491	1	0.544	6	0.500	2	0.872	1
Madhya Pradesh	0.209	32	0.395	26	0.245	30	0.664	25
Maharashtra	0.306	15	0.489	15	0.363	13	0.740	15
Manipur	0.440	2	0.553	5	0.461	4	0.802	3
<b>Meghalaya</b>	<b>0.293</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0.442</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0.317</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0.799</b>	<b>12</b>
Mizoram	0.381	9	0.558	4	0.411	8	0.502	18
Nagaland	0.295	19	0.519	8	0.328	20	0.783	16
Orissa	0.252	27	0.368	31	0.267	27	0.547	27
Punjab	0.386	8	0.494	13	0.411	9	0.688	14
Rajasthan	0.216	31	0.386	27	0.256	28	0.650	17
Sikkim	0.302	16	0.515	11	0.342	18	0.643	23
Tamil Nadu	0.289	21	0.445	19	0.343	17	0.710	9
Tripura	0.264	23	0.498	12	0.287	24	0.422	31
Uttar Pradesh	0.227	29	0.398	25	0.255	29	0.447	29
West Bengal	0.264	24	0.427	22	0.305	22	0.556	26
Andaman & Nicobar Is	0.335	12	0.575	2	0.394	11	0.645	21
Chandigarh	0.437	4	0.565	3	0.550	1	0.719	7
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.269	22	0.268	32	0.276	25	0.888	11
Daman & Diu	0.409	6	0.518	9	0.438	6	0.760	5
Delhi	0.439	3	0.531	7	0.495	3	0.595	22
Lakshadweep	0.395	7	0.370	30	0.434	7	0.688	8
Pondicherry	0.338	11	0.433	20	0.386	12	0.753	13
<b>All India</b>	<b>0.263</b>		<b>0.442</b>		<b>0.302</b>		<b>0.620</b>	

Source: National Human Development Report, 2001

Table 2.2: Human Development Index of States in India–1991

State/UTs	Human Development Index						Gender	
	Rural		Urban		Combined		Disparity Index	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
Andhra Pradesh	0.344	23	0.473	29	0.377	23	0.801	8
Arunachal Pradesh	0.300	28	0.572	15	0.328	29	0.776	11
Assam	0.326	26	0.555	19	0.348	26	0.575	29
Bihar	0.286	30	0.460	31	0.308	32	0.469	32
Goa	0.534	3	0.658	3	0.575	4	0.775	12
Gujarat	0.380	18	0.532	23	0.431	17	0.714	18
Haryana	0.409	15	0.562	17	0.443	16	0.714	19
Himachal Pradesh	0.442	12	0.700	1	0.469	13	0.858	1
Jammu & Kashmir	0.364	22	0.575	14	0.402	21	0.740	16
Karnataka	0.367	21	0.523	24	0.412	19	0.753	15
Kerala	0.576	1	0.628	9	0.591	3	0.825	4
Madhya Pradesh	0.282	32	0.491	28	0.328	30	0.662	25
Maharashtra	0.403	16	0.548	21	0.452	15	0.793	9
Manipur	0.503	7	0.618	12	0.536	9	0.815	5
<b>Meghalaya</b>	<b>0.332</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.624</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.365</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.807</b>	<b>7</b>
Mizoram	0.464	10	0.648	5	0.548	7	0.770	13
Nagaland	0.442	13	0.633	7	0.486	11	0.729	17
Orissa	0.328	25	0.469	30	0.345	28	0.639	27
Punjab	0.447	11	0.566	16	0.475	12	0.710	21
Rajasthan	0.298	29	0.492	27	0.347	27	0.692	22
Sikkim	0.398	17	0.618	11	0.425	18	0.647	26
Tamil Nadu	0.421	14	0.560	18	0.466	14	0.813	6
Tripura	0.368	20	0.551	20	0.389	22	0.531	30
Uttar Pradesh	0.284	31	0.444	32	0.314	31	0.520	31
West Bengal	0.370	19	0.511	26	0.404	20	0.631	28
Andaman & Nicobar Is	0.528	5	0.653	4	0.574	5	0.857	2
Chandigarh	0.501	8	0.694	2	0.674	1	0.764	14
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.310	27	0.519	25	0.361	25	0.832	3
Daman & Diu	0.492	9	0.629	8	0.544	8	0.714	20
Delhi	0.530	4	0.635	6	0.624	2	0.690	23
Lakshadweep	0.520	6	0.545	22	0.532	10	0.680	24
Pondicherry	0.556	2	0.591	13	0.571	6	0.783	10
<b>All India</b>	<b>0.340</b>		<b>0.511</b>		<b>0.381</b>		<b>0.676</b>	

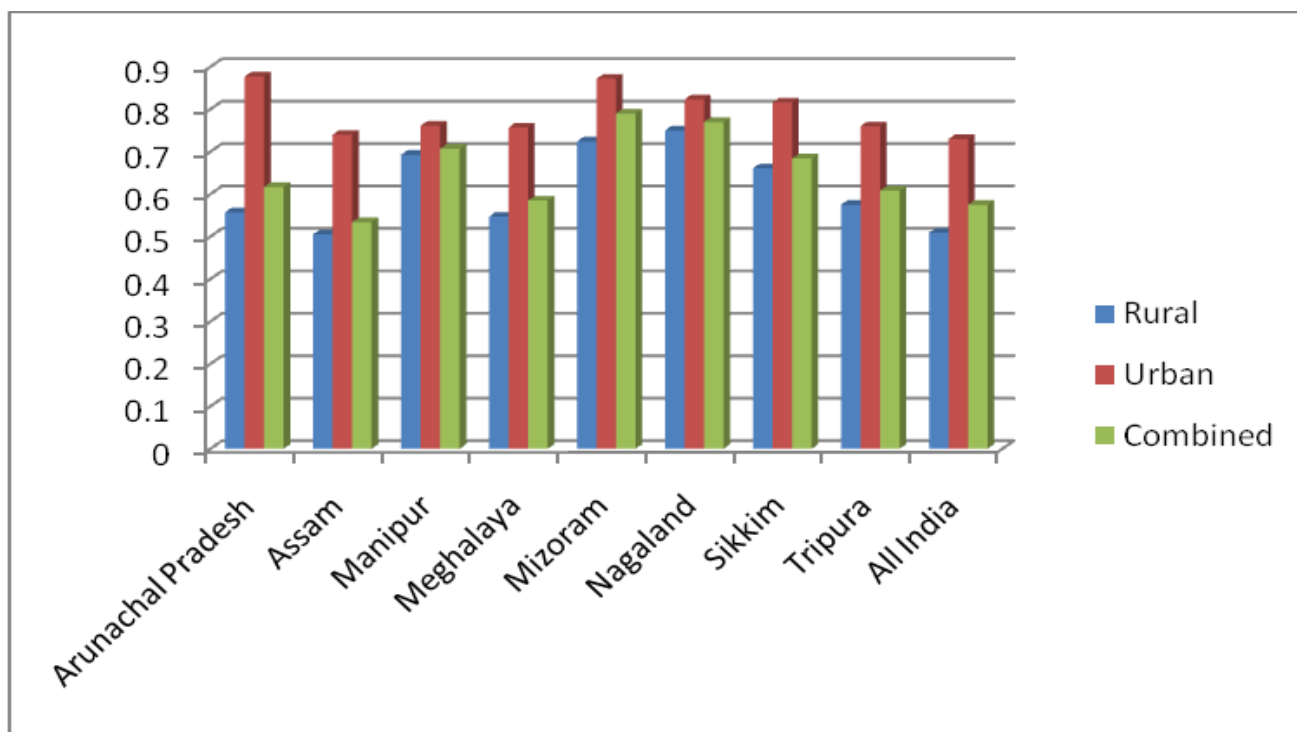
Source: National Human Development Report, 2001

Table 2.3: Human Development Index of States in India – 2005

State/UTs	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
Andhra Pradesh	0.513	27	0.714	29	0.572	27
Arunachal Pradesh	0.557	23	0.877	1	0.617	22
Assam	0.505	28	0.740	25	0.534	29
Bihar	0.427	33	0.625	34	0.449	35
Chhatisgarh	0.470	30	0.690	31	0.516	30
Goa	0.753	3	0.818	9	0.779	6
Gujarat	0.534	25	0.758	21	0.621	20
Haryana	0.607	15	0.725	26	0.644	17
Himachal Pradesh	0.658	12	0.855	6	0.681	14
Jammu & Kashmir	0.569	20	0.716	28	0.601	24
Jharkhand	0.458	31	0.716	27	0.513	31
Karnataka	0.517	26	0.745	24	0.600	25
Kerala	0.799	1	0.856	5	0.814	2
Madhya Pradesh	0.427	34	0.663	32	0.488	33
Maharashtra	0.593	17	0.798	12	0.689	12
Manipur	0.693	10	0.761	17	0.707	11
<b>Meghalaya</b>	<b>0.547</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0.757</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0.585</b>	<b>26</b>
Mizoram	0.724	6	0.872	2	0.790	4
Nagaland	0.750	4	0.823	8	0.770	7
Orissa	0.417	35	0.639	33	0.452	34
Punjab	0.635	14	0.761	19	0.679	15
Rajasthan	0.485	29	0.691	30	0.537	28
Sikkim	0.661	11	0.816	10	0.684	13
Tamil Nadu	0.598	16	0.766	16	0.675	16
Tripura	0.575	19	0.760	20	0.608	23
Uttar Pradesh	0.454	32	0.618	35	0.490	32
Uttarakhand	0.585	18	0.761	18	0.628	18
West Bengal	0.567	21	0.757	23	0.625	19
Andaman & Nicobar Is	0.707	9	0.864	4	0.766	8
Chandigarh	0.717	7	0.872	3	0.860	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.563	22	0.833	7	0.618	21
Daman & Diu	0.729	5	0.783	15	0.754	9
Delhi	0.712	8	0.796	13	0.789	5
Lakshadweep	0.783	2	0.805	11	0.796	3
Puducherry	0.654	13	0.791	14	0.748	10
<b>All India</b>	<b>0.509</b>		<b>0.730</b>		<b>0.575</b>	

Source: Special Calculations for the Report. For details of data and methodology used please refer Technical Notes and Statistical Annexe: Tables A.1, A.2 and A.3.

Figure 2.1: Comparison of HDI Values among NE States in 2005



Note: HDI values are as per Table 2.3

## 2.5 The Status of Human Development in Meghalaya: Inter District Variations

In this section we discuss the disparities across the seven districts of Meghalaya in human development. We have calculated the Human Development Index (HDI) and Gender-related development index (GDI) for each district. These are reported in Table 2.4 and Table 2.5 .

The district with the highest HDI is East Khasi Hills district followed by West Garo Hills district. The two major towns of the state namely, Shillong and Tura, are in these two districts and the relatively higher HDIs of these districts seem to suggest that human development in Meghalaya has been urban-centric. The other five districts exhibit HDIs that are lower than the state average.

As discussed in section 2.2, economic development measured in terms of Domestic Product does not necessarily reflect the actual well-being of the people. We observe in Table 2.4 that the ranking of the seven districts by the Per Capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) does not have a one-to-one correspondence with the ranking by HDI. For example, Jaintia Hills district ranks No. 3 in terms of per capita NSDP but ranks No. 5 in terms of achievement in human development due to lower achievement in the spheres of health and education.

The most backward district of the state as per our calculations is East Garo Hills. However, five districts out of seven have HDIs value that are lower than 0.5. The HDI scale is a 0 to 1 scale and if we take 0.5 as the half way mark of development, then all districts of Meghalaya except East Khasi Hills and West Garo Hills fall short of that mark. Put another way, they have not achieved even half of what is supposed to be done in the basic areas of human development.

South Garo Hills has the highest IMR among all the districts, but because of highest enrolment ratio and high per capita income, it manages to claim position No. 4 in the HDI ranking. There is not much difference between Ri Bhoi and South Garo Hills in terms of GDI. Although South Garo Hills has a very high female IMR, it has an edge because of absence of gender gap in enrolment and a better



female-male rural wage ratio. (See Table 2.5)

The gender-related development index (GDI), measures achievements in the same dimensions using the same indicators as the HDI but captures inequalities in achievement between women and men. It is simply the HDI adjusted downward for gender inequality.

We have reported the GDI for each district in Table 2.5. The ranking of the districts by GDI is exactly the same as the ranking by HDI with one exception – West Khasi Hills replaces East Garo Hills at the bottom of the GDI ranking.

The GDI values show the existence of gender inequality in all districts. However, it may be said that in the spheres of health (as captured by the Infant Mortality rate), education (as captured by the literacy rate and enrolment rate) and income, gender imbalance in Meghalaya is prevalent at a lower degree compared with most other states in India. This is because of lower gender gap in literacy and enrolment as well as higher female labour force participation. In four districts of East and West Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi and Jaintia Hills, we observe a reverse gender gap in enrolment, i.e. female enrolment rates are higher than male enrolment rates. In the three districts of Garo Hills, on the other hand, the gender gap in enrolment is negligible.

West Khasi Hills has the lowest GDI among all the districts. The reason lies in the disparity of wages between men and women. As per the data on Rural Labour Wages collected by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Meghalaya in 2005, the ratio of female to male wages is 54 percent in West Khasi Hills. The ratio is 68 percent in East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills, 81 percent in South Garo Hills, 83 percent in West Garo Hills, 85 percent in East Garo Hills and 73 percent in Ri Bhoi.

Table 2.4: Human Development Indices of Districts of Meghalaya

District	Infant Mortality Rate	Literacy	Combined Gross Enrolment Ratio	NSDP Per Capita at current prices (Rs.)	HDI	HDI Rank
East Khasi Hills	34.51	76.98	63.10	24793	<b>0.676</b>	1
West Garo Hills	18.13	51.03	65.99	13782	<b>0.571</b>	2
Ri Bhoi	60.63	66.07	50.47	14752	<b>0.496</b>	3
South Garo Hills	102.01	55.82	85.52	23321	<b>0.484</b>	4
Jaintia Hills	77.34	53.00	43.31	20405	<b>0.469</b>	5
West Khasi Hills	86.17	65.64	79.13	9926	<b>0.405</b>	6
East Garo Hills	90.60	61.70	60.91	12047	<b>0.396</b>	7
<b>Meghalaya</b>	<b>52.28</b>	<b>63.31</b>	<b>62.87</b>	<b>17595</b>	<b>0.550</b>	

Notes and data sources:

- (i) Infant Mortality Rates are as per the estimates obtained from the Birth & Mortality Survey, 2007
- (ii) Literacy rates are as per the Census of India, 2001
- (iii) The gross enrolment ratio is obtained by dividing the combined enrolment numbers by the population aged 5 - 19 years in 2001. The combined enrolment numbers are for Classes I - XII as per the All India Seventh Educational Survey, 2002.
- (iv) Net State Domestic Product Per Capita at current prices are for the year 2004-05 provided by Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Government of Meghalaya.

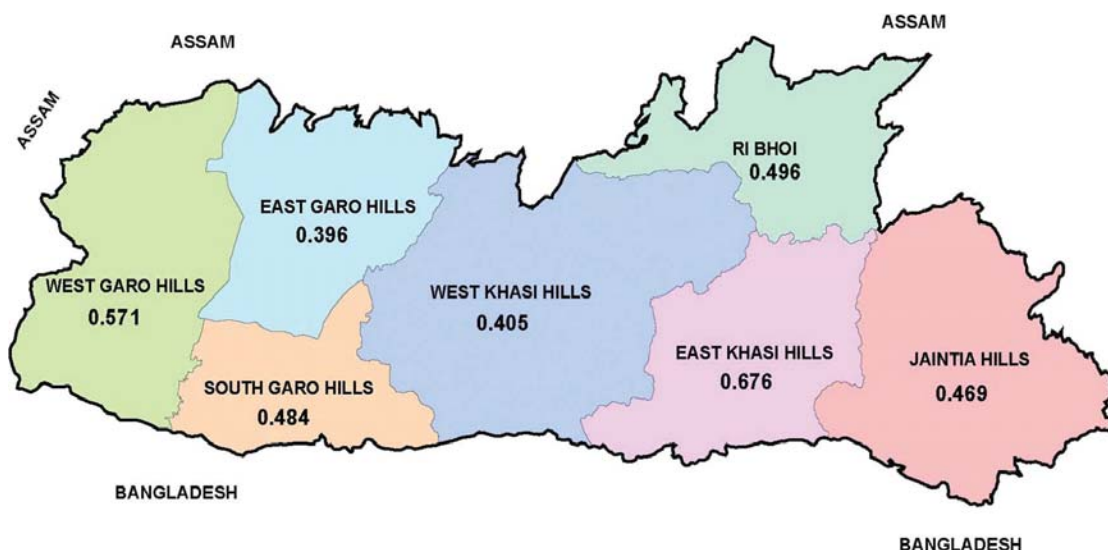


Table 2.5: Gender Related Development Index of Districts of Meghalaya

District	Sex	Population	IMR	Literacy	Combined gross enrolment ratio	Share in economically active population	Ratio of female to male rural labour wage	NSDP at current prices (Rs in lakh)	GDI	GDI Rank
East Khasi Hills	M	333187	27.26	78.12	60.67	63.03	0.679	171616	0.640	1
	F	327807	41.43	75.82	65.55	36.95				
West Garo Hills	M	259440	18.96	57.51	66.42	59.82	0.825	74764	0.550	2
	F	256373	17.32	44.51	65.54	39.99				
Ri Bhoi	M	99315	53.09	69.22	48.64	57.52	0.729	29769	0.478	3
	F	93480	68.28	62.67	52.39	42.47				
South Garo Hills	M	51051	88.08	62.60	85.74	55.38	0.813	24796	0.477	4
	F	48054	114.99	48.61	85.30	44.63				
Jaintia Hills	M	149376	97.64	50.52	37.94	57.10	0.683	63756	0.437	5
	F	146316	55.80	55.54	48.71	43.00				
East Garo Hills	M	126312	96.75	67.39	61.46	54.77	0.846	31630	0.392	6
	F	121243	84.83	55.74	60.36	45.26				
West Khasi Hills	M	149159	91.51	67.02	75.91	53.91	0.544	30692	0.321	7
	F	144956	81.14	64.21	82.53	46.06				
Meghalaya	M	1167840	51.55	66.14	61.12	58.51	0.742	427024	0.534	
	F	1138229	52.99	60.41	64.67	41.47				

Notes and data sources: As in Table 2.4

## 2.6 Summing Up

In this chapter we have discussed the concept and measurement of human development. We have presented a comparative picture of the level of human development in Meghalaya *vis-à-vis* other states of the country. We have also looked at the inter district variations within the state.

Meghalaya exhibits lower achievement in the sphere of human development compared to most of the states in India. Further, there seems to be no substantial improvement especially in the rural areas. There are wide variations across the districts within Meghalaya with five out of seven districts showing lower HDI values than the state average and at the same time HDI values that are below the half-way mark of 0.5.

In conclusion, it may be pointed out that the concept of human development is much broader and more complex than any summary measure can capture. The HDI is not a comprehensive measure. It does not include important aspects of human development, notably the ability to participate in the decisions that affect one's life and to enjoy the respect of others in the community. The indices give an overview of some basic dimensions of human development, but they must be complemented by looking at the underlying data and other indicators.