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# UNIT 1    DEFINING HUMAN SECURITY

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

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Human security refers to the security of a person or group of persons. Human beings need security to live, work and develop. The concept of security developed with the concept of power and relations between individuals and communities. The idea was to create safety for a community from physical attacks by others. The evolution of the nation state coincided with the development of concepts of state security linked to specific territories. The idea of securing individuals in general has been in existence for a long time since the Habeas Corpus (1679) and Bill of Rights (1689) that sought to protect the security of a person and provided him the right of petition and the right to individual liberty. However, the concept of security of the state has been given priority to that of the individual. It is only in the last few decades that the belief in conferring on individuals more freedom, dignity and rights as part of the security concept has witnessed paradigmatic shifts. A study of the evolution and process of human security seeks to provide such a significant study of the rights and dignity and protection of an individual who collectively becomes a part of the human society.

## Aims and Objectives

This Unit would enable you to:

- trace the evolution of the concept of human security.
- examine the scope of the application of the concept.
- identify the significance of the concept for the welfare of the disadvantaged sections of the society.

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## 1.2 THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN SECURITY

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The earlier concept of security of individual and nation was rooted in the concept of sovereignty. The security of citizens was secured by promoting state or national security. It has been traditionally assumed that if a state is secure then its citizens will be secure since security will trickle down to the citizens. Such a security is achieved by securing the elements of the state. This security covers people living in the geographical boundary of the state and protecting the frontiers of the state securing both territorial integrity and security of the state. People are also protected as a group or collectively by protecting them from external threats and by investing for their development which in turn promotes national security. The government undertakes the responsibility of protection of state power or sovereignty. When sovereignty is ensured and enforced, the state security is automatically ensured. The state activities to develop the territory, including the infrastructure and people, ensure the development of the whole society.

### 1.2.1 Shift to ‘people-centered’ concept

The Second World War and subsequent deliberations in various UN-based conferences brought out the limitations of state or national sovereignty-based security and the need for protecting people’s lives. Subsequent discussions on human rights led the United Nations General Assembly to adopt the ‘Universal Declaration on Human Rights’ that called for safeguarding the rights of the people and protecting them in various ways to ensure a good life for the people. The declaration adopted on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 1948 states at the end of its Preamble that the United Nations General Assembly:

“Proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the people’s of territories under their jurisdiction.”

These human rights are stated to be valid universally and eternally and get strengthened more and more as time passes. However the implementation of these rights is heavily dependent on states and the international community can do little when these rights are violated. These rights underwent extensive and in depth discussions during the 1993 UN Conference on Human Rights at Vienna. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1993 states clearly, among other things, that:

“The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the solemn commitment of all states to fulfill their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights, and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question.

In this framework, enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of the governments.”

A significant contribution to the human rights movement was made by the President of the USA, Franklin D. Roosevelt who in his address to the Nation in 1941 outlined four essential freedoms stating that “we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

‘The first is freedom of speech and expression – everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way – everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want – which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings that will secure to every nation a healthy peace-time life for its inhabitants – everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear, which translated in into world terms means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such thorough fashion that no nation would be able to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbour – anywhere in the world.’

President Roosevelt wanted these to be achieved not in a distant millennium but in the immediate future. This vision “is a definite basis for a world attainable in our own time and generation.”

Today, human rights occupy extensive human space and cover vast aspects of human life and society. Numerous international standards, procedures, institutions including NGOs exist to uphold and promote human rights. Here the issue is of rights calling for measures that promote human security, like Right to Food. Such rights strengthen human security,

### **1.2.2 Human Rights Approach to Development and Security**

In the earlier section, the focus was on rights and security of **people**. Here the focus is on human rights approach towards development and security that is part of the broad concept of human security. In fact human security, as it is discussed today, was less known till recently. But development policies were made more and more equitable and purposive with the ‘human rights’ touch. International institutions like the United Nations advocated intensively the human rights approach which can ensure that development is not just an economic phenomenon. It has other dimensions like social, cultural, civil, political and psychological which get inadequate attention while treating development purely as an economic phenomenon. Human rights approach takes into consideration such non-economic aspects also. Thus human rights demand a pattern of development that promotes human security. For example, right to a minimum education ensures that poor

people achieve some knowledge that may enable them to earn a living and thus offer some human security. Thus the paradigm of human development is in strong contrast to that which equates just high growth to development.

Thus the human rights approach to development ensures a balanced and integrated societal development that goes a long way to achieving human security. The advocates of human development like the UNDP stimulate balanced development by insisting on conditions like observance of human rights and equity as opposed to growth that leads to great inequality between classes and people. For example, the human rights approach demands that project-affected people (PAPs) are properly compensated and rehabilitated so that development of the areas includes them and their families. Similar are the cases of labour exploitation and of gender discrimination issues. It also helps developmental agencies in planning and promoting a more holistic development that ensures human security. Such development outcomes protect the vulnerable sections of the society and promote human security. It also ensures that the developmental process does not overlook welfare and equity considerations that are reflected in the human rights and their observance in development administration.

### **1.2.3 Modern Concept of Human Security**

During 1990s, especially as the Cold War ended, it became clear that the traditional concept of security was not enough to accommodate human welfare, especially the emancipation of poor, marginalised sections and disadvantaged groups. It was realised that the human rights approach should be reinforced with developmental measures and security of the people across the globe. It was clearly understood that people-centred security or human security is essential for national, regional and global stability. What was needed was a multi-dimensional concept of human security that covered human development, international relations, strategic studies and human rights. In this context the UNDP's 1994 Human Development Report (HDR 1994) was a milestone which highlighted the need for 'human security' to fight global insecurities haunting people, especially the poor, marginalised and disadvantaged.

The HDR 1994 has brought out convincingly the need for the 'human security' concept and its operationalisation. It also introduced the concept of 'sustainable human development'. It was highlighted that the world can never be at peace unless the people have security in their daily life. It warned that future conflicts may often be within a nation rather than between them, with their origin buried deep in a growing socio-economic disparities and deprivation. It points out that the search for security in such a nation lies in development and not arms. It suggested that we must seek a new concept of 'sustainable human development' that can satisfy the expanding frontiers of the human security. Job security, income security, health security, environmental security, and security from crime – these are the emerging concerns of the human security all over the world.

The Report states that the battle for peace must be fought on two fronts. First is the security front where victory indicates 'freedom from fear'; second is the economic and social front where victory means 'freedom from wants'. Victory must be secured on both the fronts. Only then there can be enduring peace. 'Freedom from fear' and 'freedom from want' constitute two components of the human security. However, over a period of time, attention shifted relatively more to the first. But the latter is equally, if not more, important.

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## 1.3 CONTEMPORARY VIEWS

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The concept of human security dealt in the UNDP HDR 1994 reflects the modern concept of human security. The International Commission on Intervention and Sovereignty viewed human security as a central concept for national and international institutions, particularly in view of United Nations' endorsement of this concept stating that "ensuring human security is, in the broadest sense, the cardinal mission of the United Nations".

There are other expressions also, which bring out the content and significance of the human security. Such views can help in the formulation of policies and programmes for the implementation of the schemes of human security. Lyal S. Soonga advocates a concept of human security that is fully informed by international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law, and international refugee law, and takes into account the international legal norms.

King and Murray take a focused view to emphasise human security measures in terms of 'years lived outside a state of generalized poverty'. Some consider human security as a pre-condition of human development. Some view it in broad terms covering not only right to basic material needs but also human dignity and democratic practice.

### 1.3.1 Working Definition of Human Security

Sabina Alkire argues that "the objective of human security is to safeguard the vital core of all human lives from critical pervasive threats, in a way consistent with long-term human fulfillment."

This working definition includes:

- i) maintains the joint focus on both poverty and violence,
- ii) maintains its 'people-centered' nature,
- iii) maintains multi-dimensionality
- iv) focuses on 'cultural and pervasive threats to the vital core of peoples' lives' and,
- v) proposes that the objective of human security be specified and translated into operational policies and projects by principled procedures.

To explain this further:

1. Human security aims at safeguarding human lives from the threat of violent conflicts, diseases etc., through appropriate institutions. It attempts to offer institutionalised protection. It also seeks to introduce an element of 'respect' by which institutions do not act in a way that threatens human security. However, it must be borne in mind that the focus is more on human beings than on threat.
2. Human security does not seek to cover all aspects of human life but only some vital core activities like building capabilities among people to satisfy their basic needs, enabling people to enjoy fundamental human rights.
3. Human security is 'people-centered'. It means it is not obsessed with the traditional territorial concept, but its focus is on people. Again it is concerned with people as people irrespective of age, sex, race, religion, nationality etc.

4. Human security focuses on human lives and their protection from critical threats that affect basic functions of human life and pervasive threats that are of large scale and threats that can repeat like diseases, epidemics etc. Further such threats may be direct like rioting or pollution or indirect like distorted investment or defence rather than development. Human security identifies such costly threats and seeks to deal with them for peoples' welfare.
5. Human security aims at human fulfillment, though it focuses only on selected human aspects of human development and human rights. Here too it seeks to ensure that activities that promote human security consistent with people's long term good. Process of governance, or participation, of capacity building etc., are important but must not undermine long term public good. "In the final analysis, human security is a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not lost, or ethnic tension that did not explode in violence, a dissident who was not silenced". Human security must lead to optimum human fulfillment, both in short term and long term.

In addition to what is explained by Sabina Alkire, we may add two more points for enriching the coverage of human security.

6. Human security is a global concept. By ensuring human security in individual societies and countries, cumulatively at global level, human security is effectively achieved. It is thus a positive sum game, compared to national sovereignty that is obsessed with a particular country often presuming a hostile environment.
7. Human security is of special significance for a country like India. Such a country faces chronic problems of poverty, unemployment, inequality, malnutrition and underdevelopment. For such countries human development ensures not only economic development but also human development which, in long term, can achieve human capital formation making it easier to go in for a sustained human development.

### **1.3.2 Contribution of Mahbub-ul –Haq**

Mahbub-ul-Haq (1999) in his important work on human development gives an outline to human security. He points out that while in the classical economy the preoccupation was with all society, not just with economy, after Second World War, the focus was on economic growth. Resultantly, there was high growth but not improved lives. On the contrary, the structural adjustment programmes actually adversely affected poor and other disadvantaged sections of the society. The latter 1980s thus provided a right environment for a counter-offensive. And thus Haq's Human Development Report emerged in 1990 to become later a cherished annual report on human development and policy prescriptions. In the HDR 1994, the concept of human security originated, as an alternative to the prevailing obsession with economic growth and GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

In this Report, the idea and concept of human security was given a strong and positive consideration and recommendation. It is not confined only to GDP or individual countries or economies. The Report pointed out that poverty cannot be stopped at national borders –all of which spread globally. It was advocated that it is better to deal with new and recent issues of human security more upstream than downstream. For example it is better to concentrate on prevention of AIDS, HIV etc., rather than only on the disease themselves, which in the long run will be more beneficial for society.

This dimension of human security led to the search for a new development paradigm and new policies, with special focus on developing countries and also the development of human development index (HDI) as a concept to measure human development with limited variables reflected in the composite index. The variables covered were life expectancy, education and income. Analysis of the HDI would throw up policy issues to tackle the shortfalls in the human development by promoting human security dealing with insecurities (discussed later under the section dealing with scope of human security).

Dr.Haq has pointed out that in several developing countries, the income was a small share of world income, but their imports of arms were much larger. Also, the human development ranks in several African and Islamic countries were also generally lower. Dr.Haq had anticipated the great significance of human development. He stated that new imperatives will emerge, ranking peoples' good life as better security. He has said that the world is entering a new era in which the very concept of security should change dramatically, if life has to be sustainable. Security should be interpreted as security of people and not just territory. It should be broadened to be security of individuals and of nations. Again, security is sought to be achieved through development, not through arms. Above all, security will be for all people everywhere—in their homes, in their jobs, in their streets, in their communities, in their environment.

Dr.Haq states that human security will be regarded as universal, global, and indivisible. According to him, five steps are needed to achieve human security. These are:

- a) A new concept of development, which is based on equity, must become the paradigm.
- b) It is necessary to move from arms security to human security and the peace dividend that we are enjoying must be used for social welfare.
- c) A new framework of development cooperation is needed at global level with a partnership between North and South countries.
- d) There should be a new framework of global governance.
- e) Countries must move towards creating a global civil society.

It can be concluded that Dr.Haq's thinking, philosophy, and policy suggestions can be interpreted as a Gandhian approach to global and human security.

### **1.3.3 Juan Somavia's 'Peoples' Security'**

Juan Somavia's 'peoples' security' is another expression of human security, though he has also explicitly used the term 'human security' but with minor differences. In his words, "it is high time that we acknowledge the primary importance of human security, define it as our new organizing principle for international relations and operationalise that change." He pointed out that times have changed from the earlier military security to the present concept of security that is people-centered. He has discussed security in the South American context which is valid in general also. According to Somavia, an analysis of security concepts brings out the following common principles:

1. Security cannot be based on the insecurity of others. This type of security does not last long.
2. Building up of arms does not lead to more confidence. It leads to more distrust.

3. Security is not a strategic or military question. It covers economic, social, cultural, environmental and other aspects. And
4. Security of the human being is as important as the security of the state.

He rightly asserts that the objective of a security policy is to reduce insecurity. For dealing with insecurity, one has to explore the origin of insecurity. He cites three perceptions of sources of security:

1. The first origin of insecurity is poverty. Poverty, marginalisation, destitution, the resulting social tension, violence, armed struggle and terrorism are all sources of insecurity. Poverty also generates insecurity for the rich. It produces insecurity all across the society.
2. The second source of insecurity is the instability of political systems.
3. The third source of insecurity is the economic uncertainties of unemployment and low income.

Somavia adds that narcotics in some South American countries is leading to more money laundering, corruption etc. He has highlighted prominently political and economic uncertainties. According to him human rights have introduced a process of humanisation of politics. But this is associated with the dehumanisation of the economy through uncertainties. So, in politics we are people, but in the economy people are just aggregates for the market. The combination of these two situations is extremely explosive, deserving United Nations' attention.

#### **1.3.4 Amartya Sen's View**

Amartya Sen was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1998 for his contribution to welfare economics. He opines that welfare economics should pay attention to the issues concerning the development of capabilities of human beings. He has studied about food and famine and has highlighted the importance of food security as an important part of human security. He has pointed out that what a person can enjoy in terms of goods and services at his command is his entitlement which mainly depends on how much he is endowed with. Poor have very little endowments in this sense.

Capabilities creating functional abilities among poor can help them in having better entitlements and better life. He has advocated regular assured food entitlements and control of inflation that hurts poor the most. Such measures can boost human security. He appreciates and advocates public action which covers not only governments but also NGOs and similar institutions working for poor. He also advocates social security as the use of social means to prevent deprivation and vulnerability, and for preventing a fall in their training skills that can raise capabilities. The activities that help poor and disadvantaged sections and raise their entitlements and capabilities deserve high appreciation.

#### **1.3.5 Gandhi's Views**

Mahatma Gandhi did not use the word 'human security' perhaps because that word and that concept of security was not prevalent, and the problems of poverty, inequalities was dealt with as economic problems only but not as security issues. Issues of terrorism and violence of many types were dealt with as issues of internal security. But the Mahatma's views on society, politics, and economics clearly indicate that he would have welcomed the concept with open hands and deep sincerity.



There are many of his views which show that he would have been very happy with the concept of human security. He was against monopoly. He said: "I hate privilege and monopoly. Whatever cannot be shared with the masses is taboo to me". He also identified himself with the humanity. He said, "I believe in absolute oneness of God, and therefore, of humanity". He also claimed his message to be universal. He advocated that all- rich and poor—should be equal. "If all worked for their bread, distinction of rank would be obliterated". He also advocated equality of wages. According to him, production should be determined by social necessity and not by personal greed. He believed in the dignity of labour and pleaded for universal education. He strongly advocated the trusteeship principle in business which would bring benefit to all, especially labour. He strongly believed in the principle of 'from each according to his abilities to each according to his needs.' He advocated 'Sarvodaya' and 'Antyodaya' meaning 'development of all and development of the poorest (of the last man). To him 'plain living and high thinking' was the ideal.

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## 1.4 SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF HUMAN SECURITY

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The concept of human security has vast scope in several areas of human life and endeavours. Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq suggested that the scope of global or human security should be expanded to include threats and insecurities in the following seven areas:

1. **Economic Security:** Refers to right to basic minimum income and productive work. Presently about one fourths of world's population is economically insecure. Economic insecurities prevail not only in developing countries but also in developed and advanced economies. Absence of economic insecurity can lead to political tensions and violence affecting law and order. In India, the government's aim in passing legislation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was to ensure some economic or income security to the rural poor.
2. **Food Security:** Refers to access to basic food, both physical and economic access, to all people all the time. Food security is a major problem in developing countries. The problem is not only the overall availability but also its physical distribution and lack of purchasing power with the poor masses. This problem is prevalent both at national and global levels. Attempts by the states at national and international levels have met with limited success. The problem can be solved by ensuring access to productive assets, remunerative work, and assured minimum income. Food security here overlaps with economic security. In large countries like India, this attempt involves mobilisation of vast funds which is a difficult task.

It is strange that hunger threatens on the one side whereas there is indulgence in wasteful consumption by the rich. Gandhi's saying that 'there is availability for everyone's needs but not for everybody's greed' should be always kept in mind to ensure economic security for all, rich and poor.

3. **Health Security:** Refers to right to minimum protection from dangerous diseases and unhealthy lifestyles. The general causes for sickness and death are infectious diseases. In developing countries there are also diseases like T.B. Many of the diseases are chronic arising from malnutrition, lack of immunity etc. The Global Hunger Index 2010 has brought out the extremely poor health of children in India. For example, underweight children of less than 5 years in India constitute 42% of such children in

the world. Children need special protection under health security. Similarly people living in rural areas in countries like India also needed health security.

4. Environmental security: This security includes protecting people from chronic ravages of nature and bad effects of abuse of nature like pollution, degradation of nature and others. Exhaustion of natural resources like water and petrol-oil is to be dealt with so that future generations can also be assured of the availability of these resources. This needs as much of international action as of domestic programmes and operations.
5. Personal security: People are also to be protected from physical violence from stronger people and groups including the state. It also includes protection from domestic violence, predatory adults and criminals. Basic protection in terms of law and order and free movement are necessary.
6. Community security: Protection from disorders arising from loss of traditional relationship and human values is necessary to ensure peaceful community living. Minorities, small ethnic groups, indigenous people and other weaker communities need to be protected from an oppressive majority. To highlight these aspects the United Nations declared the year 1993 as the 'year for indigenous people' to draw attention of the society to the pitiable conditions of about 300 million aboriginals in about 70 countries who became victims of sectarian violence.
7. Political security: People must be enabled to enjoy basic and fundamental human rights necessary for a decent living. Amnesty International has been periodically drawing the attention towards political violence, inhuman torture, ill-treatment, exploitation and disappearance of people. During situations of political unrest, there can also be state violence to prevent spread of ideas and information that may not be liked by the state or may be a threat to some groups.

The above are the various aspects or elements of human security. Their prevalence may differ from country to country and from advanced to developing countries. In individual countries too there can be differences. In some poor countries food security and health security aspects may be more important and imperative while environmental security may be more relevant to large countries in which environmental degradation may be more important. But on the whole, human security highlights the need to deal with the above aspects of human security. The scope and need for applying the concept of human security to the disadvantaged sections is indeed very high and crucially important.

#### **1.4.1 Significant Dimensions of Human Security**

The idea of human security is simple in its expressions but it will, according to the HDR 1994, revolutionise the 21<sup>st</sup> Century because of its significant features, which are given below:

1. Human security is a universal concern. It is not confined to only national limits nor is it only a territorial concept. For example, it is concerned with poverty and diseases cutting across the frontiers of nations as these threats are universal.
2. Its components are interdependent. Famines, diseases, drugs, pollution, terrorism etc feed on one another. Famines reduce resistance to disease and can cause epidemics, drugs lead to crimes and terrorism. Environmental pollution can affect public health.
3. Human security is easier to ensure through early prevention than later intervention.

Problems like poverty, inequalities, and lack of health need long term approach and are amenable to early and effective intervention.

4. Human security is people-centered. People will have to be enabled and empowered to take care of themselves, by coming together and forming social groups.

We can add additional features for a more enlightened understanding.

5. Human security is an integrated approach where concerted and collective action is carried out on interdependent problems faced by the people. It is not a defensive concept; it calls for a proactive and positive approach.
6. Human security is related to people in all types of countries, rich or poor and at all times. It deals with issues like disease, crime, drug, hunger etc., which are faced by people everywhere from country to country and time to time.

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## 1.5 HUMAN SECURITY AND TRADITIONAL SECURITY

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Human security and traditional/national/state security are often compared to understand the objectives, significance and features of both.

1. Traditional security gives priority to the protection of a state's territory and preservation of national sovereignty. It is considered that if a state is secure, this security will trickle down to its citizens. Human security deals with people's protection in terms of the threats they face individually and collectively. Thus both national security and human security should have similar objectives. For example, threat of food insecurity, dangerous diseases, terrorism and economic insecurity should be the concern of states just like safeguarding their own security is. This also implies that states should prioritize their expenditure on human security needs as opposed to spending far too much on military security.
2. Further it can be argued that one cannot be attained without the other. In fact human security emerged as a challenge to the idea of traditional security. Traditional security cannot deal effectively with international/global phenomenon like environment, climate, disease etc., It needs international cooperation which imply some compromise on traditional/national sovereignty.

However there are some significant differences between traditional security and human security in several aspects. These are briefly stated below:

1. Traditional security policies promote state's demands. They seek to protect state's territories, people and interests. Other interests are subordinate. Human security is more people-oriented. It seeks to protect individual's well being and responds to threats like diseases and underdevelopment.
2. Both have wide scope but different emphasis on different threats. State/traditional security aims to deter or defeat external aggressions on its soil or people. Human security goes further to deal with threats like environmental pollution, dangerous diseases, and economic deprivation.
3. In traditional security, state through government is the sole actor, though its executive strategies involve people. It is presumed that without state role there would be

anarchy. In human security, along with government, people, regional and international organisations like the United Nations, NGOs and local communities also play a part.

4. Traditional security seeks to build national military power to protect territorial integrity and people's lives. In human security, not only government, but also social groups, NGOs etc. contribute by helping in the identification of various social, economic, and political insecurities.

Thus, both traditional and human securities have their important roles to play in their respective spheres. But human security is important to people's lives, health, economic security and socio-economic development.

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## **1.6 TRANSITION FROM NUCLEAR SECURITY TO HUMAN SECURITY**

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Till the end of Second World War, there was an obsession with military security. The dropping of atom bomb in Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan carried this concept to its end of nuclear security. Nuclear power became the most feared and hence respected. It was believed that nuclear security can remove all military threats. In the second half of 20<sup>th</sup> Century till the end of Cold War in the 1990s, nuclear power was considered to be the ultimate security.

However, as the danger of military conflicts can be appreciated, there was a realisation that people's insecurities in terms of famine, diseases, drugs, pollution, terrorism etc, were a greater danger. Besides it was realised that people's welfare should be the ultimate goal and securing this goal would not only lead to prosperity and peace to people but also lead to effective cooperation among countries. The United Nations picked up this situation to advocate peace and cooperation for global peace and harmony.

The environment became more opportune with the end of Cold War and attention shifted to the need for making conscientious efforts towards eradication of poverty and inequalities on the one hand and promotion of human rights on the other, covering all basic rights that empowered people for good life. The UNDP's HDR1994 brought out prominently the concept of human security. According to this Report we need a profound transition from nuclear security to human security. The Report also strongly advocated a change or transition from the narrower concept of national and nuclear security to human security, i.e from the existing territorial concept to people's security. The change is from military and nuclear might and armaments and move towards 'sustained human development'.

Sustainable human concept is a highly valuable multi-dimensional concept. It aims at ensuring people empowered to work for development of the society. As the report says 'sustained human development' is pro-people, pro-job and pro-nature and addresses both inter-generational and intra-generational equity.

In order to mobilise the needed resources for sustainable human development for achieving such development, the Report recommends some fundamental changes. These include the following:

1. Foreign assistance linked to a policy of poverty, employment and sustained human development.

2. One percent of donor's GDP to poorest nations as global social security net.
3. Cooperation to include all flows, not just aid but also trade, investment, technology and labour flows.
4. New initiatives of cooperation that should help developing countries in environmental control, narcotics control etc.,
5. New sources of international funding like global taxation, carbon credit etc
6. New framework of governance.

Such changes will enable the achieving of sustainable human development ensuring human security.

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## **1.7 CRITICISM OF THE HUMAN SECURITY CONCEPT**

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Though the concept of human security is overwhelmingly endorsed and supported, there are some criticisms also. These are mentioned below:

1. The concept of human security is considered much too broad and inclusive of everything and thus vague and its vagueness underwrites its effectiveness.
2. It does not help the research community which needs empirical and objective data. For example concepts like 'security' are not easy to measure.
3. It does not enable decision makers in effective policy making. It is difficult to arrive at consensus policies with differences among countries and their viewpoints.
4. Another important criticism is the implementation of the policies effectively. For example, acute poverty though is coming down, it constitutes to be large and glaring. Similarly events like terrorism, torture, rape etc., continue making a mockery of human security.
5. The richer nations have been reluctant to help in concrete terms and stop with lip sympathy.
6. Some of the challenges like elimination of child labour, forced labour and exploitation of women need vast resources and strong implementation which has been difficult to mobilise and monitor.
7. The 1993 Vienna conference stated that "It is essential for states to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision making process by the community in which they live, the promotion of human rights and efforts to combat extreme poverty". Ensuring such participation has been a Herculean task.

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## **1.8 SUMMARY**

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The concept of human security has been evolving over a period of time. While earlier the focus was more on the personal rights for the people, the emergence of modern democratic governments and the concept of security has focused more in favour of common man. From the earlier times to the end of Second World War security was based on territorial integrity, national sovereignty and protection of people from external

aggression. But after the end of the war and the emergence of the United Nations organization, the concept of security moved away from these, though not rejected. The United Nations General Assembly Declaration of Human Rights aimed at making common people's life more free and safer, and healthier. The Vienna Declaration on Human Rights and Programme of Action has given enormous rights to the people.

The HDR 1994 came out with a very significant contribution by Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq in the introduction of the human security concept. He introduced the security concept to give a special place to common people and safety of their lives leading to economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security and political security. These significantly expanded the scope for the application of the human security. Of late, Mahatma Gandhi's views are being interpreted in terms of human security. It was concluded that Gandhi would have welcomed and approved the concept of human security with open hands and deep sincerity. The concept of human security is accepted now by the people, governments and international institutions. There needs to be deliberations on the criticisms, planning and implementing remedial measures to overcome the negative effects and strengthen the implementation of human security in all its aspects.

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## 1.9 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

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1. Briefly discuss the evolution of the concept of human security over a period of time.
2. Explain the traditional/state/national security. How do you think is it different from human security?
3. Explain the human rights approach to development and security. How is it used to support inclusive development?
4. Discuss the concept of human security as suggested in the Human Development Report (HDR) 1994.
5. Comment on the transition from nuclear security to human security.

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## SUGGESTED READINGS

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