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Economics

The Development

Question 1.

What is per capita income? Mention any two limitations of per capita income as an indicator of development.

Answer:

The total income of a country divided by its total population gives the Per Capita Income.

Money cannot buy all the goods and services that are needed to live well. So income by itself is not a completely adequate indicator of material goods and services that citizens are able to use. For example, money can not buy a pollution-free environment or ensure that one gets unadulterated medicines, unless one can afford to shift to a community that already has all these things.

Question 2.

Kerala, with lower per capita income, has a better human development ranking than Punjab. Hence, per capita income is not a useful criterion at all and should not be used to compare States. Do you agree? Discuss.

Answer:

Per capita income is not a useful criterion at all to measure the human development ranking of a state. High per capita income is not the only attribute to a good quality life. Money cannot buy all the essential things required for a good life. Pollution-free atmosphere to ensure good health, protection from infectious diseases, lowering of mortality rate, promotion of literacy, etc. are essential for a good standard of living. In order to achieve these, joint efforts have to be

made by all members of a community, be it rich or poor.
Kerala ranks higher compared to Punjab even with a lower per capita income because—

1. mortality rate is lower
2. literacy rate is higher and
3. total number of children attending school (Classes I-V) is higher.

Question 3.

On the basis of which three indicators of HDI 2004 Sri Lanka has better rank than India?

Answer:

Three indicators of HDI 2004 in which Sri Lanka has better rank than India:

1. Per capita income—The per capita income of Sri Lanka in US dollars was 4,390 US dollars while that of India was 3,139 US dollars.
1. Life expectancy at birth—The life expectancy at birth for Sri Lanka was 74, higher than that of India at 64.
1. Gross enrolment ratio for three levels—Sri Lanka had Gross Enrolment ratio of 69 while that of India was 60.

Question 4.

‘Conflicting goals can also be developmental goals’. Elaborate with examples.

Answer:

All persons do not have the same notion of development or progress. Each one of them seeks different things. They seek things that are most important for them, i.e., that which can fulfil their aspirations or desires. In fact at times two persons or groups of persons may seek things which are conflicting.

A girl expects as much freedom and opportunity as her brother and that he also shares in the household work. Her brother may not like this.

To get more electricity, industrialists may want more dams. But this may submerge the land and disrupt the lives of people who are displaced, such as tribals. They might resent this and may prefer small check dams or tanks to irrigate their land.

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