SELECTED CHALLENGES AND TRENDS IN FORMULATING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICES

by Wilfredo G. Nuqui

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Selected challenges and trends in HDIs

(Providing a context for the CDI)

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Outline

I. Concept

II. HDI measures

III. Challenges
I. Underlying concept of HDI

- \[ HD = f(\text{values, rights, law, politics and other factors}) \]
- HDI has multiple variants
  - goes beyond income: includes entitlements and access to public services
  - tracks changes and developments over time
  - creates positive competition
  - advocates policy reform, budget re-allocation and program action
  - promotes results and accountability

HDI as a development statistic

- Similar in concept and purpose to other global-level indexes which track, among other things
  - Economic competitiveness
  - Enabling trade
  - Quality of physical infrastructure
  - Public and corporate governance
  - Bureaucracy
  - Peace
  - Hunger
II. Existing HDIs

- CDI: Save the Children UK, India and Brazil (with geo components)
- YDI: Global Plan of Action and UNESCO
- HDI, HPI and MPI: UNDP
- HCI and QLI: Social Watch and others
- Ideally HDI = population weighted \((CDI+YDI+\ldots)\)

III. Challenges

- Database: official regular surveys, private surveys e.g., SWS (unemployment and hunger) and administrative data
- Choice of indicators e.g. use of MD/MDG indicators and is nutrition inclusive of WASH?
- Decomposition: by age, gender, income/social class, ethnicity, geography and political subdivision
- Equality and universality HD measures e.g. Gini coefficient and dispersion ratios (decile/quintile)
  - Inclusive economic growth demands and promotes inclusive HD!
  - Inclusive HD demands an inclusive HDI!
III. Challenges

- Human Rights Based Approach
  - The case for a duty bearers’ capacity (index)
  - Linking duty bearer and input indexes (in the framework of the HRBA and results chain) to HDI
- What are the methodological and empirical standards for HDI e.g. (stability and predictability)?
- Derivative statistics (e.g. index) vs basic statistic: a social marketing challenge
  - How can politicians appreciate HDIs as a supplement to basic statistics?
- Developing a technical, public and political constituency

III. Challenges

- Philippine HDI, HDR and HDN: A lesson source for the PCDI
- PHDI: national version of global HDI, estimated every 3-4 years, and with gender and geographic dimensions
- PHDR: adopts special themes, includes policy studies and is funded from non-state sources
  
  Good policies raise the PHDI!
  HRBA: obligation of duty bearers to act and deliver results
- PHDN: A collaboration between state and non-state members