The Human Capital Index

A child born in India just before the pandemic will be 49 percent as productive when she grows up as she could be if she enjoyed complete education and full health. This is higher than the average for the South Asia region (48 percent) and Lower Middle Income countries (48 percent).

**The Human Capital Index Components**

- **Probability of Survival to Age 5.** 96 out of 100 children born in India survive to age 5.
- **Expected Years of School.** In India, a child who starts school at age 4 can expect to complete 11.1 years of school by her 18th birthday.
- **Harmonized Test Scores.** Students in India score 399 on a scale where 625 represents advanced attainment and 300 represents minimum attainment.
- **Learning-adjusted Years of School.** Factoring in what children actually learn, expected years of school is only 7.1 years.
- **Adult Survival Rate.** Across India, 83 percent of 15-year olds will survive until age 60. This statistic is a proxy for the range of health risks that a child born today would experience as an adult under current conditions.
- **Fraction of Children Under 5 Not Stunted.** 65 out of 100 children are not stunted. 35 out of 100 children are at risk of cognitive and physical limitations that can last a lifetime.

**Differences in HCI across Gender and Socio-economic Groups**

In India, the HCI for girls is higher than for boys. The table below shows gender disaggregation for each of the HCI components. The ratio in HCI between the richest and poorest 20 percent of the population in India is 1.39 (global average: 1.35; global range: 1.12-1.68).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HCI and its components</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Overall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCl</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survival to Age 5</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Years of School</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonized Test Scores</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning-adjusted Years of School</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Survival Rate</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Stunted Rate</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes for all figures in this brief:
- 🌍 represents India.
- 🌍 represents the average for Lower Middle Income countries.
- 🌍 represents the average for South Asia.
- 🌍 represent other countries in the World.
Human capital, a crucial ingredient for economic growth, is multi-dimensional and cumulatively built over the lifecycle. Due to the slow moving nature of the HCI, an additional set of Human Capital Complementary Indicators (HCCIs) offer a snapshot of proximate dimensions of human capital in India that can be monitored to measure simultaneous progress in intermediate outcomes. These selected HCCIs are based on the latest available data (italics and shown in parenthesis) and benchmarked against regional and country income group averages. They highlight where the need is for investment in people in each stage of life and for data collection and updates for evidence-based policy making.

### Early Childhood

- **Neonatal mortality (deaths per 1,000 live births).** The neonatal mortality rate is **20 per 1,000 live births** (2020), lower than the regional average (21) but higher than the income group average (18).

- **Children receiving minimum meal frequency (%).** Adequate meal frequency among children 0-23 months is **39 percent** (2017), below the regional (56%) and income group (53%) averages.

- **Pre-primary school gross enrollment (%).** The pre-primary school gross enrollment ratio is **61 percent** (2020), lower than the regional average and higher than the income group average.

### School Age

- **Primary school completion (%).** Primary school completion rate is **95 percent** (2020), higher than both the regional (89%) and income group (89%) averages.

- **Gross secondary school enrollment (%).** The secondary school gross enrollment rate is **75 percent** (2020), similar to the regional average (75%) and higher than the income group average (70%).

- **Learning poverty (%).** **56 percent** (2017) of 10-year-olds cannot read and understand a simple text by the end of primary school, compared to 59 percent at the regional level and 61 percent at the income group level.

### Youth

- **Adolescent fertility (births/1000 women).** The adolescent fertility rate, i.e., the number of births for every 1000 women aged 15-19, is **10** (2020). This is lower than both the average for its region (41) and the average for its income group (57).

- **Gross tertiary education enrollment (%).** Tertiary education gross enrollment ratio is **29 percent** (2020), higher than the regional (18%) and income group (24%) averages.

- **Youth unemployment (%).** Youth unemployment is **26 percent** (2022), higher than both the regional (18%) and income group (16%) averages.

### Adults & Elderly

- **Female labour force participation (%).** The female labour force participation is **23 percent** (2022), lower than both the regional (40%) and income group (56%) averages.

- **Male labour force participation (%).** The male labour force participation is **82 percent** (2022), lower than the regional average (83%) and higher than the income group average (81%).

- **Life expectancy at birth (years).** Life expectancy at birth is **70 years** (2020), lower than the regional average (71 years) and higher than the income group average (69 years).