Human Security:
Evolution and Conceptualization

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Abstract:

The nature of international politics has undergone profound changes since the end of cold war. The end of the bipolar world order has marked with the emergence of a new set of challenges. The globalisation process accelerated by Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) has drastically transformed every sphere of human life in terms of time and space that unleashes opportunities as well as challenges to nation states. Infact, many issues such as environmental degradation, terrorism, inequality in income distribution etc., have now confronted across globe in our age that was either hitherto missing or less visible in the security debate. Also, the nature of wars and conflicts have changed from inter-state to intra-state on ethnic, religious etc, lines. These changes have raised new questions in the field of security studies which were, till then heavily focusing on nation-state centric security challenges. Thus, the traditional security understanding seems to be incapable of addressing many of these issues and, hence, attempts were made to incorporate such concerns within the ambit of Security Studies. The Conceptualisation of Human security approach has to be understood in the backdrop of such sweeping changes. This paper deals with the evolution and historical

roots of Human Security out of conventional notion of security and threats. In addition, it analyses Human Security in the light of critical scrutiny from different schools of thoughts, amid all these differences, this article seeks a broader agreement on Human Security concepts.

Key words: Security, Wars, Threats, Nation-State, Human Security.

Introduction

Security is one of the key issues in international politics. Traditionally, security analysis focussed on the security of states, seeing this security as a function of the levels of threats that states faced from other states in the inter-state system and the manner and effectiveness of state responses to such threats (Rajagopalan: 2012). The focus until recently has been what might be characterised as traditional security issues giving primacy to states. The referent object being the state and measures to adopt such policies towards protecting the national interest and values such as sovereignty, territorial integrity, economic and political stability etc. was the earlier idea. The threats at planetary level such as the global warming, international terrorism, dangers of nuclear accidents and breakdown of global monetary system etc. are viewed outside of the control of the state and which largely affect the human kind on this earth. Under this purview, there had been a paradigm shift particularly after the end of cold war in understanding the concept of security i.e, the non-traditional notion of the concept of security emerged and as such the area of human security came into picture. The security of today has come to embrace the protection of communities and internal violence apart from external attack (Annan: 2001). It is considered that security at the individual level is related to the security at national and international level. However, the notion of Human security is not confined to any event that occurs within geographical limits. It considers that the individual remains no longer only

frightened by the battles and weapons, but also when he is hungry, when his home is threatened, and when his day-to-day life is unsafe. The apparent distinction from conventional security discourse to human security underlies in protection from not only threats but enabling condition to make individual's life flourished.

The Security and safety with the protection and upkeep of individual rights is the prime concern of human security. *Freedom from want* such as poverty, diseases, hunger and *Freedom from fear* such as violence, war, conflict etc. is what human security entails. However, there is no unified definition of human security. The idea of human security is generally developed from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) report of 1994. The UNDP in 1994 listed out the few aspects of human security domains such as political, economic, environmental, food, personal, health and community security etc. but the list goes long (UNDP Report 1994). As Bajpai quoted from Mahbub-ul-Haq, that human security is not about states and nations, but also about the individuals and people and argued that the world is entering into a new era of human security in which the entire concept of security will change – and change radically. Under this new conception, security will be compared with the security of individuals, not only with the security of their nations or in a different way, security of people and not just security of territory.

Evolution of Human Security

The historical roots of human security may be traced much before the use of the term. However, it was UNDP's *Human Development Report 1994* that really made human security a common currency among scholars and practitioners of international affairs (Shinoda 2004). The political use of the term "Human Security" dates back from the period of Enlightenment, when notions of individual's liberty and self-

determination were advanced to counter the dictates of government. Along with the themes of human rights and individual's welfare, the term appeared again in 19th century political discourse with the rise of the nation state, and as regional alliances was formed – to enforce particular global regimes –the term began to be used to designate mutual strategic security, enforced through diplomatic means or military action. This is the sense in which the term was employed for most of the 20th century (Arie 2000).

During the 20th century, the human security was intended to link the freedom from want and freedom from fear; freedoms that lay at the heart of the United Nations. In June 1945, on the San Francisco Conference, the U.S. Secretary of State reported to his government that: there are two fronts for which the combat of peace has to be struggled. One is security front where victory spells freedom from fear and threat. While the second front is the social and economic victory which means freedom from wants and desire. The victory on both fronts can assure the world is enduring peace and stability (Alkire 2003).

However, at that stage, the phrase 'freedom from fear' was proposed to indicate freedom from violence, and the phrase 'freedom from want' to designate freedom from poverty. The Report thereby, makes a shift from the narrow concept of national security to the broader concept of human security. It signifies a change from an in-depth stress on territorial security to a much deeper stress on people's security and from security through armaments to security through sustainable human development (Shinoda 2004).

The concept of human security can also be traced to the notions of development that took place in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s.In the early 70s, the Club of Rome group produced a series of volumes on the "world problematique" which were designed on the idea that there is a complex concerns which troubling human beings of all nations: poverty, environment deprivation, loss of faith in institutions, employment insecurity,

dehumanisation, rejection of traditional values, and economic disruptions (Bajpai 2000). The Report argued that there is the complex global system influencing the individual's life and needed a proper attention to overcome these insecurity dilemmas.

The two other independent commissions contributed to the changing thinking on development and security appeared in the 1980s concerning human-centred development. The first was the Independent Commission on International Development Issues chaired by Willy Brandt which, in 1980, issued the so called "North-South report" (the independent commission on international development issues, North South: A programme for survival 1980). The report contended that the simplest common interest is that human beings wants to survive, and one might even add has the moral responsibility to survive. This not only advances the questions relating to peace and war, but also how to overcome world hunger, suffering of human beings and alarming inequalities between the living conditions of rich and poor. The crux of the report was the spirit to overcome dangerous tensions and to produce significant and useful results for nations and regions but primarily for human beings in all parts of the globe.

The second commission of the same decade was the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security Issues (chaired by Olof Palme), focussing on common security. The report gave primacy to military issues and national security but subsequently ushered the need to recognise issues like poverty and deprivation particularly in the developing world due to economic disparities. The Report also noted that Common security requires people to live with honour and peace, that they have plenty to eat and are able to find daily livelihood and live in a world without poverty and scarcity (Bajpai 2000).

After the end of the Cold War, a new thinking in security concerns developed rapidly. The Stockholm Initiative on Global Security and Governance in 1991 issued a call for

Common Responsibility and focussed on the threats that stem from failures in development, environmental deprivation, uncontrolled population growth and movement, and lack of progress towards democracy (Government of Sweden 1991 17-18). The initiative viewed that concept of global security must be broadened from the traditional focus on the security of states to include the security of people and the security of the planet. These commissions and reports may be viewed as the precursors to human security thinking that in a way helped shift the focus of security analysis from national and state security to security for the people. However, it was only in 1994 that the term human security appeared in mainstream development circles through the global United Nations Development Program (UNDP) report. The report widened the scope of security from external aggression to include the safety and security of individuals and groups from threats like hunger, disease and political chaos; and protection from sudden and hurtful troubles in our daily lives. The report went on to further identify seven core elements that reflect the basic needs of human security including economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security (UNDP 1994: 22).

The human security concept is enriched by extending its realm in democratization and civic education in the Costa Rica (1994), by then President Oscar Arias; later on it has been incorporated in the conception whereby demilitarization and disarmament becomes integral ingredient paved the way for increasing human security concerns in many countries (Jolly and Ray 2006). Moreover, after 1994, the concept of human security became a major figure of many governments through their Defence and foreign policies. Since 1995, the leading contributor to the human security dialogue has been the government of Canada, Japan and Norway led the way in institutionalizing human security concerns into their respective foreign policies (Arie 2000).The governments of these countries

viewed human security as a tool to provide safety for people from both violent and non-violent threats and also to ensure people's rights, safety and security or even their lives.

In the 1999, the secretary general of UN- Kofi Annan adopted the human security agenda in a personal quest for a new UN mandate labelled under Millennium Declaration to encompass economic progress, social justice, environmental protection, democratization, arms reduction and respect for human rights and the rule of law (Tajbakhsh 2005). It was intended to involve the UN in a more global forum to influence and exert pressure on governments in order to implement more feasible development agenda. The report however laid greater stress on human-centred approach to security but did not provide a formal definition of how this should be articulated or measured (Arie 2000).

In 2001, the Commission on Human Security, chaired by Amartya Sen and the Sadako Ogata was set up to explore the concept of human security and to recommend for policy implication. The report illustrated the connection between well-being and state security and how individuals (or communities) are subjected to threat not only from violent conflict but the obstacles (or insecurity) of achieved well-being (Jolly and Ray 2006). By 2005, attempts were made to clarify human security threats and what the international community should do about them under the theme of two important UN reports. One was the report from the UN High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change issued in December 2004 and the other was the reform agenda proposed by Kofi Annan in Towards All Freedom (Tajbakhsh 2005). These reports focus the need to readjust to the new realities of the 21st century and to found means of mounting collective responses to new threats like terrorism, the doctrine of preventive interference, and humanitarian interference in the name of human security.

Conceptualisation of Human Security

The concept of human security has been too long narrowly viewed as security of territory from external aggression or as securing the national interest in foreign policy or as global security from the threat of a nuclear holocaust (human development report, 1994). It has been related more as state centric than people centred. However the paradigm of security began to shift with the end of cold war and conflicts began to arise within nations rather than between nations. It also led to a feeling of insecurity among people about their physical security and protection of basic liberties in their daily life. The cause of these conflicts were seen to be linked to non-state and non-traditional factors such as internal socio-political conditions, swiftly deteriorating economic conditions, environmental hazards and identity politics (Human development report 1997). It was in this context that the concept of human security has evolved. As such, human security served as an instrument to reduce the human costs of violent conflicts, to counter balance the inequalities of globalisation, to enable governments to address basic human needs and to provide social safety to the poor and marginalized people from severe economic crises (Acharya 2001).

There are various scholars apart from the policy makers who tried to explain the concept of human security under the paradigm of the national security. The various theories developed in the study of international relations which deals with the idea of security in various aspects. Within its theoretical framework, liberalism holds the notion of human security. In international relations, liberalism entails its concern for welfare of the states and with that of the individuals as well. It tries to explain the role of the state and non-state actors in promoting security of individual's i.e. human security (Burchill 2001). Also, the post-cold war witnessed severe challenges posed to realism by alternate approaches to

security shifting the focus from the State to the individual and from a military centred concept to a people centred concept of security. The Copenhagen school argued for broadening the security agenda to include the individual as a referent of security (Tsai 2009). Barry Buzan, Ole weaver and others redefined the concept of global and national security by privileging individual security as the prime concerns.

After the end of cold war, the concept of human security appeared on the international scenario. Respect for sovereignty was shaken by too many examples where states themselves became causes of insecurities, not only failing to achieve their responsibilities toward their subjects but threatening their very existence. Also, the dangers of global confrontation and major inter-state conflicts decreased with the end of bipolarity. New actors appeared on the scene: international organizations, private investment companies, NGOs and non-state entities that were to play an active role in international relations. However, the emergence of new threats began to appear as intra-state conflicts, ethnic confrontations, terrorism, and forced displacement, extreme poverty, HIV/AIDs etc (Tajbakhsh 2005). Human security was a step in that direction to confront with these threats.

The human security owes its origin to the 1994 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (Acharya 2001).The second important aspect contribution to human security is the Canadian and Japanian approaches who consider it as the guiding principle of their foreign policies. However, the fundamental goal of the human security agenda is to support and help the vulnerable people and to provide the means to combat with them. Approaches have so far identified two groups of means or measures: preventive and reactive. The Preventive measures denote to all methods that intend to minimize the vulnerability of human beings, while reactive means are assumed to provide human

security as secondary means. The use of force is interpreted only as a last alternative (Prezelj 2008).

Human security and UNDP:

The Human Development Report imports to provide a systematic substituent to conventional notion of security and a necessary supplement to human development. It has provided a comprehensive conceptual model of Human Security by shaping the main orientations towards the development of practical values of human freedoms (Kis 2010). The UNDPs conception of human security is based on two principal components i.e, freedom from fear and freedom from want. This kind of security presented protection from chronic threats such as disease, hunger and repression as well as safety from sudden and harmful disruptions of daily existence (Bajpai 2000). It deals with the treatment of security values by two folds: firstly, it makes a number of general statements about values which emphasize the safety, welfare and dignity of individual human beings in their daily lives and secondly makes aware of the dangers faced at every turn by ordinary men and women (Ibid).

The UNDP report further argued that for many, security symbolized protection from the threat of disease, poverty, unemployment, offense, social conflict, political repression, and environmental dangers (UNDP 1994 229). Hypothetically, human security is a kid who did not die, a disease that did not expand, a work that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not burst in violence, a rebel who was not silenced. Human security is not a concern with armaments it is a concern with human life and self-esteem. It is concerned with how people live and breathe in a society, how freely they exercise their several choices, how much access they have to market and social prospects and whether they live in peace or in conflict (Ibid: 230). Hence, there are broadly four fundamental pillars of human security that the report identified:

1. It is universalistic in nature and its applicability.
2. Interdependence of the components of human security.
3. It is preventive in applicability and cost effective.
4. Its locus is individual life rather than state and institutions.

Therefore, the concept of human security intended to extend the orbit of security in broader level whereby, one can apply as well as evaluate the individual's opportunities and threat.

The UNDP further distinguishes seven components or specific values of human security: Economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community and political security. Economic security assures every individual a basic or minimum required income. Food security refers to an individual's access to food via his assets, employment, or income. Health security guarantees an individual a minimum protection from various diseases, devastating illnesses and unhealthy lifestyles. Environmental security refers to the protection of people from natural hazards, man- made threats in nature and deterioration of the natural environment. Personal security guarantees an individual from crime and physical violence, whether from the state or from external states or from sub-state actors. Community security refers to the protection of people from loss of traditional relationships and their cultural dignity. Lastly, political security guarantees the freedom to individuals against human rights violations (Henk 2005).

The idea behind the UNDP report was both political and practical. In its political dimension, the UNDP contended that human security offered a ground for the individuals to enable them to live in a society that honours their basic human rights.

It also argued that the totalitarian regimes, countries facing political chaos and unrest and those where military expenses are very high were not likely to be politically secure. The reason behind is that the governments in order to fulfil their political ends and objectives may sometimes use armed forces to supress their own people. Practically, it was expected

that an emphasis on human security would make it possible to capture the so-called "peace dividend" and to ensure that the resources devoted to the military through the Cold War were directed towards more productive ends (Krause 2007).

The UNDP also recognised two sorts of threats: localized and global. The localized threats are the threats observed in particular groups, societies and regions of the world. These threats differ from region to region in terms of the level of economic development and geographical location. However, the threats existing beyond the territorial limits of a state i.e, threats within countries are categorised as global threats (Bajpai 2000). The report argues that to have the clear understanding about the nature of localised threats, it is essential to understood them in relation with the seven basic tenants of human security. These are briefly mentioned below:

1) *Threats to Economic Security*: These threats evolve out of deficiency in productivity, large scale unemployment, lack of access to basic facilities and inadequacy of financial security in terms of vulnerability.

2) *Threats to Food Security*: These threats emerge due to the failure to provide basic food facilities including insufficient access to assets, work, and assured incomes.

3) *Threats to Health Security*: These threats develop due to the spread of transmitted and infectious diseases, diseases of the circulatory system and cancers, deficiency of safe drinking water and lack of access to health care facilities.

4) *Threats to Environmental Security*: These threats are the outcome of limited availability of   water and water pollution, cutting down of forests, air pollution, desertification, insufficient access to arable land, and natural disasters.

5) *Threats to Personal Security*: These threats arise out of human trafficking, drug trafficking, crimes and physical violence particularly to children and women.
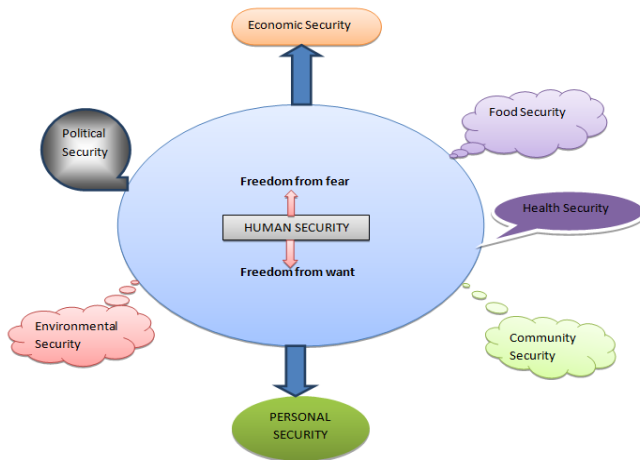
6) *Threats to Community Security*: These threats are related to the loss of traditional customs, languages and cultures, collapse of the family, ethnic conflict and discernment, and genocide.

7) *Threats to Political Security*: these threats stem from suppression on the part of government, massive human rights violations and military operations.

Apart from localized threats, the report further cited some global or transnational threats showing their presence well beyond any given national barriers (Ibid). These are categorised under six areas:

- the consistent alarming pressure of explosive growth of population on non-renewable resources -in some scholars account is the greatest threat of entire humanity- leads ultimately to global poverty, environmental degradation, and illegal immigration.
- the mounting of inequalities in world income due to greater consumption and production in the developed world have increased the gap between rich and poor, and the poverty, backwardness and environmental degradation in the developing world have led a troublesome environment in those countries.
- the drift of global migrants due to poverty, explosive population growth and the policies of the industrial countries resulted in the increase of refugees and internally displaced persons leading to the ethnic conflicts.
- the environmental degradation resulting in acid rain and global warming, loss of biodiversity and the damage caused to wetlands, coral reefs as well as deforestation.
- the trafficking of drugs along with containing anti-social activities that have developed into a global and multinational relation.
- the appearance of International terrorism as a global phenomenon and its impact on world community

The UNDP report has led to judge the concept of human security to be all encompassing for practical purposes. It has argued that human security is the idea that views the individual to be at the receiving end of all security concerns, whereby security is understood in terms of freedom from want and freedom from fear (Floyd 2007). The figure 2.1 entails a broad vision to understand the notion of human security as per the UNDP.

Contribution of Japan to Human Security

Japan has been among the major proponents of the concept of human security. Over more than a decade, Japanese government has continued to uphold the notion of human security besides the successive changes in government regimes from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) the democratic party of Japan (DPJ). To have the clear understanding of this persisting commitment, it is fruitful to analyse the reasons behind the adoption of the policy. In the breakdown of gulf war in1991, the US insisted japan to send self-defence force units to join the US-led coalition against Iraq. Japan, besides being long standing security alliance of US offered only the financial

assistance instead of logistic support. This experience ushered its political leadership to redefine Japan's potential role in its global security arrangement which provided a subtle ground for Japan to adopt the notion of human security in its foreign policy (Suzuki 2012).

Another key event that further solidified the incorporation of the concept of human security into Japan's policy making was the signing of the convention on the prohibition of use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personal mines and their destruction in 1997 (Ibid). In addition, Japan played a leading role in the 1997 Asian economic crises and thereby stabilising the region's economy through Trust Fund by adopting a long term agenda which the human security was in a position to provide (Tajbakhsh 2005). It led Japanese government to promote the concept of human security with a view to embrace the new economic challenges in Asian region as well as opened a way for Japan to play an autonomous role without being an alliance partner of US (Minami 2006). As such, human security became a corner stone of Japan's foreign policy and an alternate way to define its overseas development assistance policy (Remacle 2008). These historical events show that how the human security approaches became a guiding principle for Japan's foreign policy.

Japan has been the vocal champion of the concept of human security. In 1998, Japan's the then Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi introduced the concept of human security in his policy speeches (Ibid). Japan holds a wider view of human security encompassing all the menaces that dangers human survival, daily life and dignity, for instance, human rights violations, environmental degradation, poverty, transnational organised crimes, prohibited drugs, illegal immigration, anti-personal landmines and infectious diseases such as AIDS (Paris 2001). The strengthened efforts are needed to confront these threats. Apart from these threats, the government of Japan holds to ensure human freedom by focussing on the

individual and non-state actors and aimed at promoting economic development and individual self-reliance. This demands cooperation among the various actors in the international community including governments, international organisations and civil society (Alkire 2003).

In 1999, the government of Japan supported the creation of United Nations Trust Fund for human security (UNTFHS) and in 2000; Japan initiated a Commission on Human Security (CHS) co-chaired by Sadako Ogata and Amartya Sen (Ibid). However, in 2003, the CHS consequently issued its report entitled as "Human Security Now" (Cornelis 2012). The report of CHS argued that human security aims at protecting the vital core of all human lives so as to enrich human freedom and human fulfilment (Remacle 2008). In addition, the Japanese government created an informal network called "Friends of Human Security" in collaboration with Mexico along with many UN member countries to propagate a vision of human security approach through non-military means (Cornelis 2012).

The Japanese approach to human security concentrates on "Freedom from Want", one of the two goals set by the 1994 UNDP report. But, the notion of human security for Japan is a broader concept, with freedom from want being no less critical than freedom from fear and therefore, it was .necessary to go beyond thinking of human security solely in terms of protecting human life in conflict situations (Ibid).However, there is no humanitarian intervention (use of force) on the part of Japanese government in terms of ensuring human security (Takasu 2000). Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution prohibits the use of force to solve disputes, thereby, leading Japan with only forces of self-preservation for international security purposes.

The Japanese approach is largely related with the basic human needs model and lays stress for the promotion of human needs and human development rather than on protection of

people from violent conflicts. In addition, emphasis is imparted for the promotion of peace.

Contribution of Canada to Human Security

In 1990s, Canada is crediting of adopting the notion of human security as a key component of its national security discourse. The foreign minister of Canada Lloyd Axworthy has been pioneer in adopting human security as 'much more than the absence of military threat' including an acceptable quality of life, security against economic deprivation and a guarantee of fundamental human rights (Axworthy1997). He renowned the requisite to restore the Canada's foreign policy by adopting new measures to address the problems of post-cold war period such as menaces of terrorism, increase in drug trafficking and arms smuggling and the condition of children caught in war zones. Further, he called for addressing these problems by shared responsibility through humanitarian interventions (Tajbakhsh 2005). However, the core elements adopted by the Canadian government in terms of human security includes"security of the people" and the identification of UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions (Acharya and Acharya 2001).

The Canadian formulation much focussed on the 1996 UNDPs report focussing on freedom from fear and thereby calling for the safety for people from both violent and non-violent threats (Axworthy 1999). Quoted in Leaning, M.D., S.M.H. and Arie (2000), the report on human security, the government of Canada entails:

> In essence, human security entails safety for people from both violent and non-violent threats. It is a situation or state of being characterized by freedom from pervasive threats to people's rights, their safety, or even their lives. ... From a foreign policy perspective, human security is possibly best understood as a shift in perspective or orientation. It is a substitute way of looking the world, taking people as its

reference point, rather than focusing entirely on the security of territory or governments. Like other security concepts – national security, economic security, food security – it is about protection. Human security involves taking preventive measures to reduce vulnerability and minimize risk, and taking remedial action where prevention flops.

The Canadian government included the conception of human security in its foreign policy agenda as an attempt to play a greater role in international scenario and also to reduce threats to its own security as being a middle power. The human security agenda undertaken by Canada led it to play a leading role in the campaign of banning against anti-personal landmines. The other important outcome of this policy is the signing of Ottawa treaty in December 1997 (Remacle 2008). The treaty was signed by 122 countries on the Prohibition, Practice, Storing, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Landmines and their Destruction. Further, the agenda had led the Canadian government to adopt the policy of peace building to address complex challenges of societies in conflict and to manage conflict without violence by focusing on the political and socio-economic context of internal conflict (Acharya and Acharya 2001). According to Tajbakhsh (2005), the human security policy of Canada is prioritised in five directions which are inter-related:

- The safety of citizens from threats like drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal immigration etc.
- Protection of citizens through legal norms, demilitarization and operationalization of human rights.
- Preservation of conflict to reduce tensions whether local or international without using the violence.
- Deepening the governance, making it accountable and promoting freedom of expression to its citizens.
- Supporting peace in international relations.

The government of Canada in collaboration with the Norwegian government established a Human Security Partnership under a joint Canada-Norway initiative in 1999. This understanding of human security was jointly adopted by other middle powers under Human Security Network (Remacle 2008). This network was launched primarily to discuss the international campaign against the banning of landmines (Henk 2005) but later its meetings emerged to cover a wide range of issues. By 2004, 12 countries joined the network including Canada, Greece, Austria, Chile, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Slovenia and Thailand while South Africa played a part as an observer (Ibid).

The network served as a platform to strengthen the political process and to encourage peace and development by curtailing the conflicts within the countries of network. In addition, it also led to the inculcation of NGOs with a view as to create a more humane world (Paris 2001). It recognised a nine point agenda for human security including elimination of landmines, establishment of the International Criminal Court, human rights education and human rights law, proliferation of small arms, struggle against international crime, fight against disease like HIV and AIDS, child labour, children and women in armed conflict and cooperation of the developed world (Henk 2005).

In summary, the Japanese approach to the notion of human security recognises critical security threats but provides a tactics to cope these threats by intending to foster the economic growth and prosperity as well as to reduce or prevent conflict. On the other hand, the Canadian approach mainly focuses and attaches priority to the protection of people in times of war and complex emergencies.

Approaches of Human Security

Human security is an all-encompassing concept which includes within its ambit a wide range of neologisms ranging from security of people to security; and from cooperative to comprehensive security. There are three schools of thought/approaches to understand the concept of human security: Rights-based approach, Humanitarian approach and sustainable human development approach.

Rights Based Approach:
The rights based approach also called as rule of law/ human rights approach have its roots in liberalism focussing on individuals basic rights and the responsibility of state towards granting and protecting these rights. Its focus of concern is the promotion of rule of law, democratic system of governance as well as securing of fundamental human rights (Donnelly 1993). It considers international institutions as instruments in providing new human rights rules and for bringing about a convergence in different national values and practices (Hampson 2002).

The approach is largely based on wider definition of human security aimed to strengthen value based lawful structures at both national and international levels. It also lays emphasis about the denial of minority rights which under certain circumstances could pose a threat to human security (Kymlicka 2000). The threats arise out of weak judicial and political system, hence the need to strengthen international norms and provisions.

At global level, the belief of respecting the human rights and minority rights were being considered necessary for the promotion of peace and security more particularly with the promotion of nation-state. The treaty of Westphalia not only came up with the principle of sovereignty but also with the guaranteed rights of religious minorities (Krasner 1999). Also,

the establishment of special minorities committee in the League of Nations was a step forward in this direction. With the end of Second World War, the United Nations came into being primarily to maintain peace and cooperation in the world. Article 1 of the UN charter "reaffirms faith in the equal rights of men and women and of nations, in fundamental human rights and in the dignity of a person (Hampson 2002). Further, the UN declaration of human rights in 1948 identified certain rights including personnel rights, legal rights, subsistence rights, political rights, economic rights etc.

In addition, certain UN Conventions and Covenants have been added to attach great importance and meaning to these rights including the international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination(1965), the international covenant on civil and political rights (1966), the international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights (1966), the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (1979) and the convention on the rights of the child (Lauren 1998).

The rights based approach apart from focussing apart from focussing on international institutions aimed to provide different strategies for the promotion of human security. The first instrument is to deny access to domestic groups from foreign commodities, services and capital which would generate interest among the domestic elites and led them to shift their attention in favour of greater protection of human rights (Doxey 1996). Another way is the establishment of international bodies to monitor the human rights violations and also containing information about the people whose rights have been denied or violated should be made available publically. Finally, the establishment of the regional or international courts having the authority to judge and enforce human rights which, ultimately leads to the promotion of democracy (Moravcik 1995).

Humanitarian Approach:

This approach is often described as safety of peoples approach and provides a humanitarian basis to the notion of security. It primarily focuses on securing the moral and legal rights of citizens in times of violent conflicts and war. It considers war the greatest threat to human security (Hampson 2002) as it leads to large human rights violations, atrocities and huge loss of lives of citizens apart from combatants. The approach viewed that international interventions are necessary for securing the safety of people. Also, international law needs to be strengthened for the purpose of reducing war-crimes as well as abandoning of all armaments of warfare that are harmful to civilians. That is the reason many intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations have their origin in wars (Ibid). In addition, the approach also laid emphasis to provide assistance and relief to the people harmed or injured during wars or residing in conflict situations.

After the end of First World War, the League of Nations was created for the purpose of avoidance of war and subsequently the UN set up this as its ultimate objective and purpose. In terms of helping the victims of armed conflict and war, many UN agencies were established including World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (Moore: 1996). Also some non-governmental organisations have come up to play a pivotal role safeguarding the interests of victims as well as advancing the human security needs. Some of them are Red Cross, Catholic Relief Services, Doctors without Borders and the World Vision (Anderson 1996).

The humanitarian approach apart from concentrating upon avoidance of war, strengthening of international law and relief assistance also focuses on the peace building and conflict prevention operations for maintaining peace and reducing

human rights violations. It further emphasis upon the need of redefining the role of military and police forces in the maintenance of law and order, rebuilding small or medium firms, reformation of economic policy and the needs of vulnerable groups of society particularly women and children (Boutros-Ghali 1992).
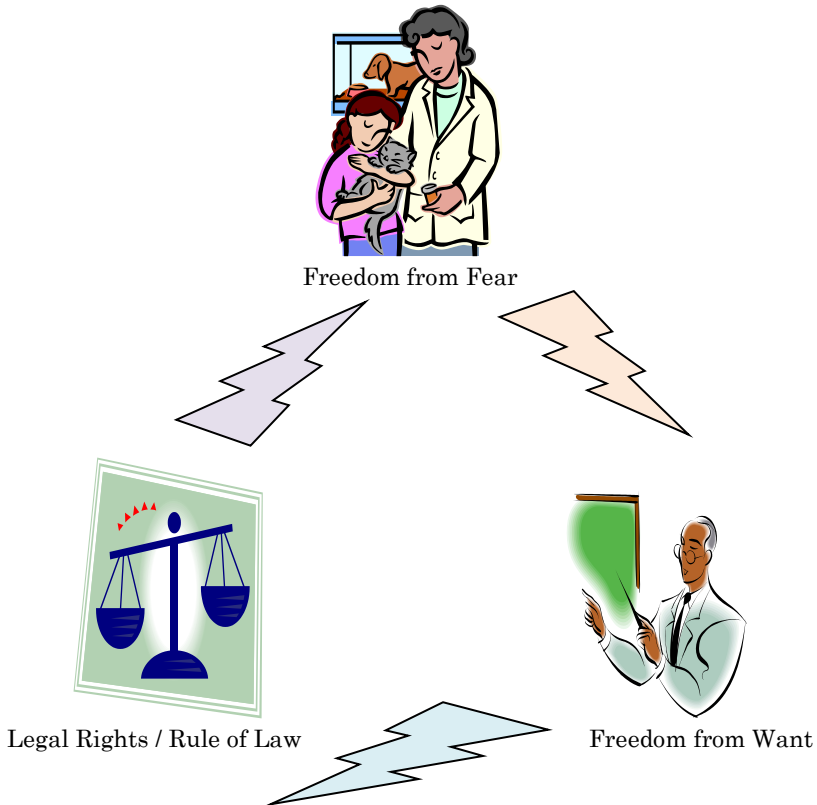
Sustainable Human Development Approach:

The approach is largely based on the United Nations development programme (1994) and includes within its ambit a wide variety of security of security concerns such as food, health, economic, environment, personal, community and political security. It also focuses with the impact of security in the individual in concern with the world economic disparities, globalisation, environmental degradation, illegal immigration, uncontrolled population growth, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, global terrorism and diseases like AIDS etc (Hampson 2002). However, the conception traces its genesis from 1960s by the adoption of Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural rights which guaranteed the right to the security of an individual and also the social security (Ibid).

In addition, the Brandt Commission in 1980s argued about security not only in military terms but also on the global cooperation and sustainable development and prosperity based on equally shared resources (Independent commission on international development 1980: 24). Also in 1987, world commission on environment and development gave an expression of sustainable development and argued about the maintenance and promotion of peace, development as well as environmental concerns (World commission on environment and development 1987: 290). The report mainly focussed on the environment and viewed that environmental degradation leads to political tension and military conflicts.

In short, the approach mainly deals with the instruments of human development more particularly at global

level by visiting through socio-economic inequalities. Also, the civil society and its organisation have to play an important role in the advancement and execution of human security concerns apart from international institutions.

Freedom from Fear

Legal Rights / Rule of Law   Freedom from Want

In summary, the three approaches generate a sense of understanding in the evolution and promotion of the notion of human security at international level.

Addressing the Challenges to the Concept of Human Security

The concept of human security evolved in the post-cold war period as a serious challenge to traditional notion of security to

address a series of new security threats like global poverty, intra-state clashes, illegal immigration and scarcity of resources. It challenged the state centric traditional notions of security by proposing that individual people, not nations should be the focus of future security approaches (Cornelis: 2012). Since the inception of the phrase 'human security', its proponents have struggled to put a theoretical edge to the concept. However, most of the exponents of the concept argued that the ultimate threats to security arise from internal conflicts as well from state itself rather than from external opponents (Newman 2001). It does not led to suppose that human security is certainly in conflict with state security; the state remains the chief source of security in ideal situations, but the over-emphasis upon state security can be impartial to fulfil the human welfare needs. So, the conventional notions of state security are compulsory but not adequate conditions of human welfare (Ibid).

The concept of human security has attained great attention particularly after 1990s by shifting the focus from traditional security concerns to the individual. The proponents of the broader approach based on UNDPs report of 1994 argued that any conception of security which neglects the threats and security concerns as mentioned in the report is conceptually, empirically and ethically inadequate (Ibid). The critics of the broad vision argued that human security is nothing more than a shopping list; it involves slapping the label of human security on a wide range of issues that have no essential link. At a certain point, human security becomes a loose synonym for 'bad things that can happen' which results in loosing all utility to policymakers and incidentally to analysts (Krause 2007). It has also been challenged on a number of conceptual and methodological grounds of being so inclusive that the term becomes largely meaningless as an analytical tool. If every human dilemma is a security issue, so the argument goes, how will it be possible to recognise, classify, and prioritize what

actually must be protected? (Henk 2005). Further, the term human security itself is ambiguous, slippery in design and its appeal lies in its very vagueness (Floyd 2007).

The criticism is also posed in considering the definition of security. Conceptually, the difficulty arises out of endless debate about the threat spectrum as presented by the supporters of human security. The problem here lies is that who is to provide human security? The individuals themselves are in no position to provide security of their own, then how should they claim their own right to survival (Ibid). Thus, logically the notion of human security can only be protected as well as guaranteed by the larger entity like state or any international institution.

The concept of human security is criticised in terms of giving different prioritization to different threats as freedom from fear is sometimes mentioned as a key element of human security; at other instance, acceptable quality of life is considered inevitable (Prezelj 2008). This prioritization makes it difficult for the academicians and policy makers to implement and practice the term properly with regard to threat perceptions. Further, the concept is challenged on the multidimensional nature as it denotes all   aspects of human life, multiple of security threats and a wide ranging variety of means. Such an all compassing concept essentially lacks logic as well as focuses and becomes difficult to implement it in practice (Ibid).

Furthermore, the objection is raised in the exertion of drawing clear and rational connections between and within the component parts (Henk 2005) as well as in establishing causal relationship between political and economic issues or between the security of individual and the preservation of   international   peace which seems unjustified (Tajbakhsh 2005). The critics have also challenged the human security policy as adopted by some nations like Canada and Japan. They argued that the Canada adopted the conception of

human security in its foreign policy to enhance their role as well as to draw attention of the world towards middle power influence and status in the international scenario. On the other side, it is stated by the critics that the Japanese government in order to promote its own economic interests adopted the notion of human security in one of its policies (Ibid).

The critics of this conception further challenged it on the grounds for shifting the emphasis of security from the collective will of people to a wide range of individual and collective political, economic, and cultural rights as defined by international bodies or non-state actors like NGOs. This has diminished the very nature of nation-states and roles and responsibilities they have to play (Gasper 2008). In addition to all this criticism, many scholars and experts in international relations have raised doubts about the concept of human security. Quoting Jolly and Ray (2005), there are at least five points which remained in discussion around this uncertainty as:

- Human security simply comprises renaming many problems that have already been renowned in other frameworks and that already have perfectly good names. What has extended by relating them under a new title?
- Human security lacks definite limits and visualises everything as threat to security which sorts the nature of the term as ambiguous and makes it difficult to implement.
- Human security while enlarging its focus to broader aspects like global terrorism, diseases and climatic change makes it difficult for the international institutions to make decisions or taking action on the threats identified.
- Human security jeopardies the military engaging in concerns which would be actually handled through non-military means.

- Human security though raising high hopes with the UN is expecting to play a role beyond its capacity which it cannot accomplish.

Apart from all the criticisms and challenges posed by different scholars, it is generally argued that that the referent object of security analysis should be the individual, but the disagreement is raised only in terms of the threat perceptions and the means by which they should be combated. Thus, human security seems to appear as an unending debate between its advocates and opponents and even among its supporters, who have not agreed on a single unified definition.

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