

# HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX OF NIGERIA AND INDIA: AN OVERVIEW OBSERVATION

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## **Abstract**

*A long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a reasonable standard of living are the three fundamental dimensions of human development that the HDI measures in summary form over time. The life expectancy at birth is used to evaluate the health dimension. The mean number of years spent in school for adults 25 years and older and the anticipated number of years spent in school for young children are used to evaluate the education dimension. Gross national income per person is used to measure the standard of living dimension. The HDI uses the logarithm of income to reflect how income becomes less significant as GNI rises. The three HDI dimension indices' scores are then combined using geometric mean to create a composite index. This paper attempts to compare the Human Development Index of Nigeria and India in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

**Keywords:** *Human Development Index (HDI), India, Nigeria, Life expectancy at birth, Gross National Income.*

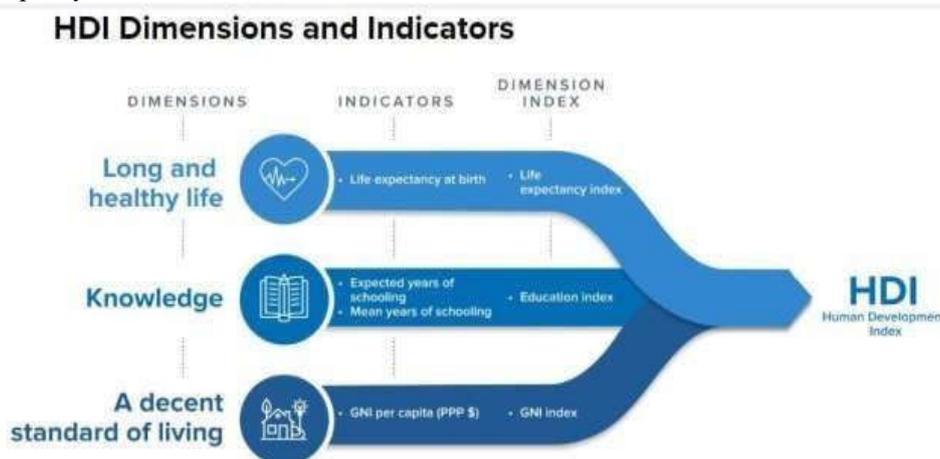
**Statement of Problem**

The bilateral ties between India and Nigeria are cordial, friendly, and firmly anchored. Nigeria, home to approximately 190 million people, and India, home to 1.3 billion people, are both sizable democratic emerging nations with multi religious, multi ethnic, and multi lingual communities. This paper aims to compare the Human Development Indicators in both the countries. In the early decades following the two nations' independence, the fight against colonialism and apartheid created a solid foundation for their engagement. In the South-South Cooperation, India and Nigeria are significant players. Both nations have been voicing the voice of the developing world in the multilateral organizations, particularly the United Nations, G77, and NAM, in a coordinated and effective manner.

Before Nigeria gained its independence in 1960, India established a diplomatic house in Lagos in 1958. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, paid his trip to a sub-Saharan nation to Nigeria in September 1962 in acknowledgment of the country's size, population, and resources as well as its then effective government and robust economy. Although there was the potential for a tight, mutually advantageous bilateral partnership, it lacked significant momentum in the 1970s and 1980s. The failure of Nigeria's attempt at democracy and the rise of a predatory state in that country concerned democratic India. Despite concerns that India was losing prominence, influence, and control over its image in the region between 1962 and 2002, the Ministry of External Affairs of India seemed to push Nigeria to the side. Agriculture, defence, trade, healthcare, infrastructure, and ties across cultures are just a few of the areas in which the two nations have relations.

The areas of defence and education have seen collaboration between India and Nigeria. India assisted in the construction of Nigeria's National Defence Academy and Naval College, and between 1963 and 1986 it provided funding for the country's armed forces. Several of Nigeria's top military leaders, including former presidents Buhari, Babangida, and Obasanjo, received training in India's defence establishments. The range of India-Nigeria defence cooperation has been expanded to cover defence trade and technical cooperation in areas like armaments and ammunition, helicopter trainer aircraft, fast-attack patrol boats, assistance in setting up joint ventures, and renovation of Nigerian dockyards. Nigeria sought to raise its educational standards after becoming independent and welcomed lecturers from all over the world to teach in its universities and high schools. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, it hired a significant number of Indian teachers, particularly in secondary schools in northern Nigeria, mostly for subjects like maths, chemistry, physics, and English literature.

Human development is oversimplified by the HDI, and only a portion of it is actually captured. Inequalities, poverty, human security, empowerment, etc. are not addressed. As a broader proxy for some of the important issues of human development, inequality, gender disparity, and poverty, the HDRO offers other composite indices. Analyzing additional indicators and data from the HDR statistical annex is necessary to get a more complete picture of a nation's level of human development. The HDI can be used to analyse the effectiveness of national policies by comparing the levels of human development in two nations with comparable GNI per capita. These contrasts can spark discussion about the top priorities for governmental policy.



**Image 1:** HDI Dimensions and Indicators

Source: [hdr.undp.org](http://hdr.undp.org)

**Literature Review**

Sulaiman B.K. (2009) conducted historical research and discovered that the India-Nigeria trade balance favoured Nigeria due to Nigeria's large oil exports to India. The politico-diplomatic and economical links between Nigeria and India precede their political independence, as discussed in this research. The two nations have great grounds for cooperation because they were colonized by the same colonial force and have other characteristics. They have strong motives to communicate with one another in bilateral encounters. Nigeria has been a partner of the United States from the commencement of their relationship. India and the United States have never been at odds. Instead, their connection has progressed. Mutual

camaraderie and understanding have characterized the relationship. Despite the fact that India has been unable to analyse the scope of their military contact due to a lack of data. Nigeria's military sector has been helped to flourish. The most significant components of collaboration between companies are consulting.

Rupa et al. (2010) looked at the trade perspectives of China, India, and five African countries, including Nigeria, and found that India and Nigeria have reached the pinnacle of their product trade prospects with Nigeria, whereas Nigeria has little trade vision. In terms of commodities trade, India has nearly exhausted its trading potential with African nations, as anticipated by the gravity model. China, on the other hand, is not in the same boat. China has a lot more room to grow in the commodities trade with Africa. Given its expanding competitiveness in the services trade, India might seek to trade in services to strengthen its economic links with Africa. India might also look at investment opportunities and market expansion in Africa to improve its product trade prospects.

Falvey et al. (2012) used threshold regression methodologies on crisis indicators to classify the relevant crisis values and the differential post-liberalization growth impact in crisis and non-crisis regimes. Their findings imply that an economic recession at the time of liberalization influences post-liberalization growth in a way that varies depending on the severity of the crisis. Many economic changes are implemented during a recession, but is a recession the best moment to implement trade reform? We study if a country's subsequent growth performance is influenced by an economic crisis at the time of trade liberalization. To identify the "crisis values" and evaluate the differential growth impacts in the crisis and non-crisis regimes, we use threshold regression approaches on five crisis indicators. Although trade liberalization increases future growth in both crisis and non-crisis eras, we show that an internal crisis has a lower acceleration and an external crisis has a larger acceleration than the non-crisis regime.

According to the paper of Mustafa, Rizov and Kernohan (2017), trade liberalization and policies connected to international commerce have a critical role in achieving higher growth and advancement. As a result, trade liberalization has been implemented in industrialized countries in order to stimulate growth. Economic growth, human development, and openness are all linked, according to the findings. While trade openness has a favourable influence on both economic growth and human development, we also find that in our sample nations, economic growth does not have a positive impact on human development. Human development, on the other hand, can help to accelerate economic progress.

By using case studies of poverty and inequality, as well as concerns with employment, health, and gender, Matthew McCartney (2019) demonstrated the human narrative underneath the economic statistics and performance indicators. The demographic dividend of a young population is one element pointing to a good economic future for India, yet its customs and political systems are still hotly contested. The reasons that have made India distinctive are examined in depth, including its internal geography and languages, the significance of the service industry, and the "democratic conundrum of public service delivery."

**Objective of Study**

In this paper, we would like to compare the Human Development Index of India and Nigeria in the 21st century. It is argued that India performs better than Nigeria in terms of Human Development Index in the 21st century.

**Research Methodology**

This paper is written using the descriptive and analytical method of research from the primary and secondary sources of data from official sources of institutions and organizations.

**Data Analysis and Interpretation**

This research paper will examine the following factors: Life expectancy at birth, Gross National Income/Gross National Product, Literacy Rate (% of people ages 15-24), School enrollment (primary), School enrollment (secondary), School enrollment (tertiary), Gender Parity Index, Gender Development Index, Inequality-adjusted HDI, Gender Inequality Index and overall Human Development Index.

**I. Life expectancy at birth**

Life expectancy at birth indicates the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life.

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
India	62.9	63.3	63.7	64.1	64.5	64.9	65.4	65.8	66.2	66.7
Nigeria	46.5	46.8	47.2	47.7	48.3	48.8	49.4	49.9	50.4	50.9
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
India	67.1	67.5	67.9	68.3	68.6	68.9	69.2	69.4	69.7	69.9
Nigeria	51.3	51.8	52.2	52.7	53.1	53.5	54.0	54.3	54.7	55.0

\*All the figures are in years.

**Tab. 1:** Life expectancy at birth, total (years)

Source: Collated from Data.worldbank.org

**India's Life Expectancy** at birth has increased from 62 to 69 years from 2000-2020. It is still lesser than that of most developed and developing nations. The major reason for this can be the accessibility issue. As per the data, over 600 million people in India are with little or no access to healthcare. Indian government should take steps to build a quality and affordable healthcare for the citizens.

**Nigeria's Life Expectancy** is among the worst in the world. It was as low as 46 years in 2000 and has increased to 55 years by 2020. The major reasons behind the low life expectancy of Nigeria are deaths caused by influenza and pneumonia. Black soot is another major respiratory concern for the people living over there.

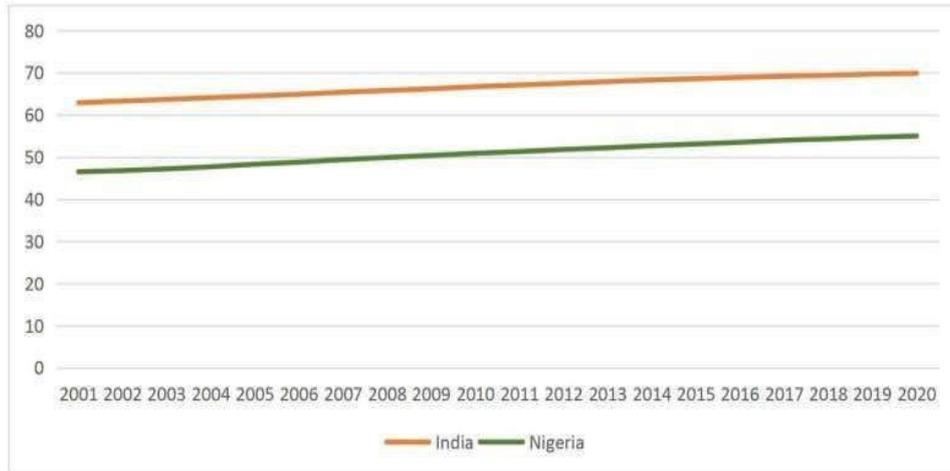


Fig. 1: Life expectancy at birth, total (years)

Source: Drafted by self

**Comparison:** India's and Nigeria's life expectancy has increased over the years to 69 and 55 years respectively. India's life expectancy, as shown, is higher throughout but it is still lesser than that of most developing and developed nations. Both the governments should work towards building an accessible, affordable and quality healthcare system for its citizens.

**II. GNI, Atlas method (current US\$)**

GNP (formerly GNP) is the sum of the value added of all resident producers plus all taxes on the product (except subsidies) that are not included in the product valuation, plus the initial net income from abroad (employee compensation and property income). Data is currently in US dollars.

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>India</b>	485	500	574	687	809	917	1082	1195	1358	1506
<b>Nigeria</b>	67	82	94	118	144	193	236	296	316	341
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>India</b>	1704	1871	1941	2021	2098	2226	2440	2714	2894	2652
<b>Nigeria</b>	356	409	462	518	511	453	399	385	408	413

\*All the figures are in billion US \$

Tab. 2: GNI, Atlas method (current US\$)

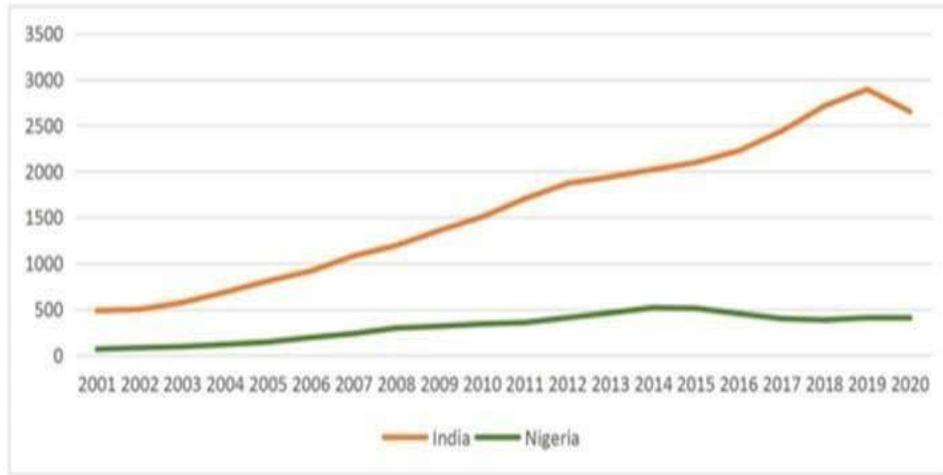
Source: Collated from Data.worldbank.org

**India's Gross National Income** showed a consistent increase from the year 2000-2019 from \$467.08 billion to \$2,894.03 billion which is more than 6 folds. In 2020, GNI showed a slight decrease of about \$200 billion to reach \$2,651.67 billion.

**Nigeria's Gross National Income** showed about 10 folds increase from the year 2000-2014 from \$57.03 billion to \$517.95 billion but after that GNI started falling from 2015 to 2018 from \$511.13 billion to \$384.74 billion. Again from 2019, it has started recovering and as of 2020, GNI is \$412.81 billion.

**Comparison:**

India's Gross National Income has been many folds higher than Nigeria's throughout both the decades. India's Gross National Income has consistently showed an upward graph. However, there have been frequent ups and downs observed in Nigeria's graph.



**Fig. 2:** GNI, Atlas method (current US\$)

Source: Drafted by self

**III. Literacy rate, youth total (% of people ages 15-24)**

Youth literacy rate is the percentage of people ages 15-24 who can both read and write with understanding a short simple statement about their everyday life. Generally, ‘literacy’ also encompasses ‘numeracy’, the ability to make simple arithmetic calculations.

Year	2001	2006	2011	2018
<b>India</b>	76.43	81.13	86.14	91.66
<b>Nigeria</b>	68.99	78.69	68.98	75.03

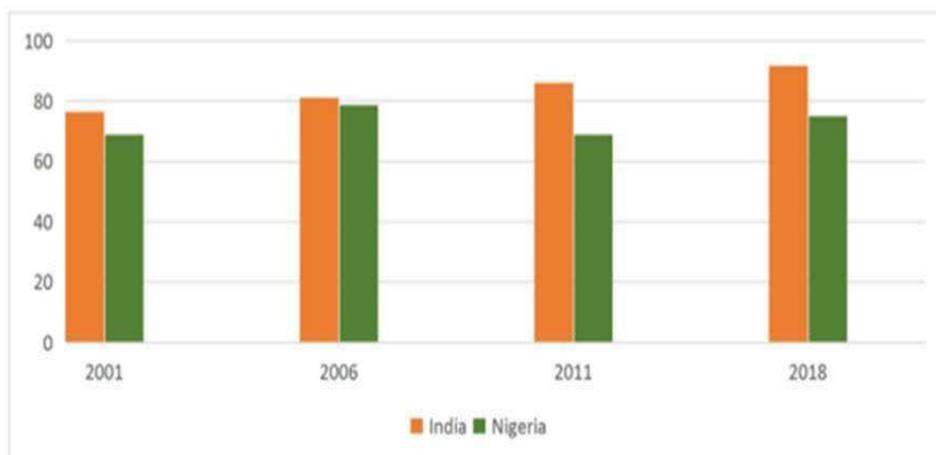
\*All the figures are in %

**Tab. 3:** Literacy rate, youth total (% of people ages 15-24)

Source: Collated from Data.worldbank.org

**India’s Literacy Rate, youth total (% of people ages 15-24)** has increased from 76 to 91% from the year 2000 to 2018. There is a complex web of social and economic divide in the country. There is a wider gap between the literacy rate of genders and various castes. The major causes of illiteracy in India are economic disparities, gender discrimination, caste discrimination, technological barriers etc.

**Nigeria’s Literacy Rate, youth total (% of people ages 15-24)** increased from 2003 to 2006 by about 10% and then showed a sudden downfall of about 12% in 2008. The next data available is of 2018 with 75%. There is a substantial gap between the literacy rates of men and women in both rural and urban areas.



**Fig. 3:** Literacy rate, youth total (% of people ages 15-24)

Source: Drafted by self

**Comparison:**

Literacy rate in India has been higher than that of Nigeria throughout the period of 2000-2020. However, there is a n urgent need of reducing the gender and caste literacy gap so that literacy rate can be increased which can further help in improvising the employment rate in both the countries helping in better economic growth and higher standards of living.

**IV.School enrollment, primary (% gross)**

Gross enrollment ratio is the ratio of total enrollment, regardless of age, to the population of the age group that officially corresponds to the level of education shown. Primary education provides children with basic reading, writing, and mathematics skills along with an elementary understanding of such subjects as history, geography, natural science, social science, art, and music.

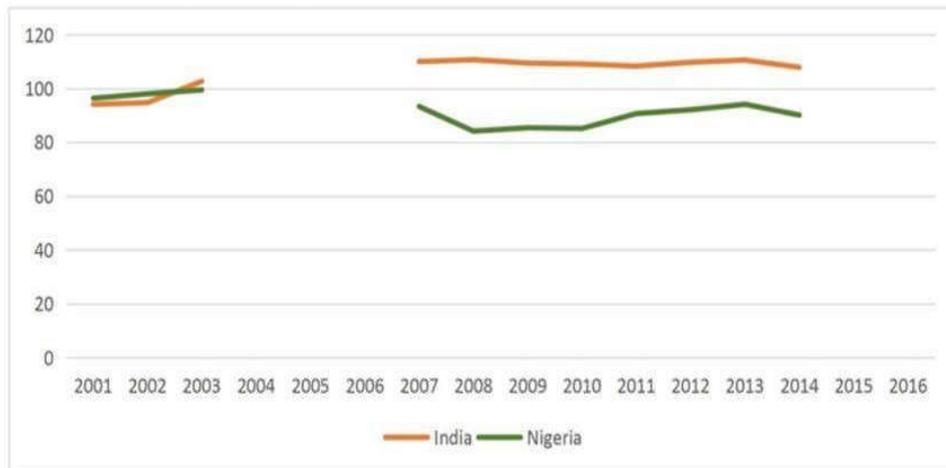
Year	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
India	45.15	47.07	51.37	53.97	54.88	57.28	60.36	59.61
Nigeria	27.03	29.61	35.00	34.96	34.46	31.87	35.39	39.23
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018
India	63.12	66.25	69.01	68.76	74.14	73.87	75.09	74.38
Nigeria	44.22	45.56	47.18	56.21	45.62	46.78	42.00	43.51

\*All the figures are in %

**Tab. 4:** School enrollment, primary (% gross)  
**Source:** Collated from Data.worldbank.org

**India’s school enrollment, primary (% gross)** showed various ups and downs from 2000-2020 period with highest in 2016 at 114% and lowest in 2000-2002 at 94%. Major reasons for low enrollment are shortage of teachers lack of availability of basic amenities like functional washrooms and drinking water. There is a teacher shortage of 689,000 teachers in primary schools, only 53 percent of schools have functional girls’ toilets and 74 percent have access to drinking water.

**Nigeria’s school enrollment, primary (% gross)** has also shown various dips from the year 2000 to 2020 with highest in 2006 at 102% and lowest in 2008 at 84%. The main concern in primary schools is lack of funding leading to poor infrastructure like benches, textbooks, water and washroom facilities.



**Fig. 4:** School enrollment, primary (% gross)  
**Source:** Drafted by self

**Comparison:**

Roughly speaking, Nigeria’s primary school enrollment was higher in initial years but afterwards India’s primary school enrollment has been on the higher side from the year 2007.

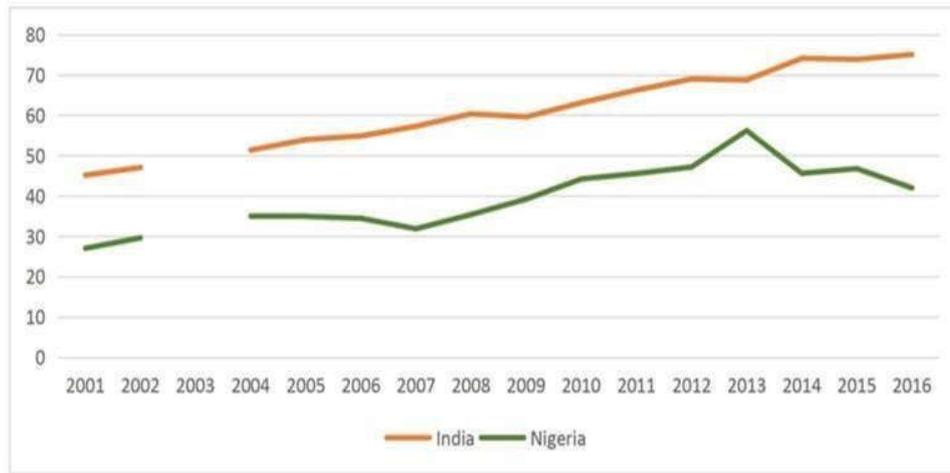
**V. School enrollment, secondary (% gross)**

Gross enrollment ratio is the ratio of total enrollment, regardless of age, to the population of the age group that officially corresponds to the level of education shown. Secondary education completes the provision of basic education that began at the primary level, and aims at laying the foundations for lifelong learning and human development, by offering more subject- or skill-oriented instruction using more specialized teachers.

Year	2001	2002	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
India	45.15	47.07	51.37	53.97	54.88	57.28	60.36	59.61
Nigeria	27.03	29.61	35.00	34.96	34.46	31.87	35.39	39.23
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018
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Nigeria	44.22	45.56	47.18	56.21	45.62	46.78	42.00	43.51

\*All the figures are in %

**Tab. 5:** School enrollment, secondary (% gross)  
**Source:** Collated from Data.worldbank.org



**Fig. 5:** School enrollment, secondary (% gross)

**Source:** Drafted by self

**India’s school enrollment, secondary (% gross)** has increased from 44 to 60% from the year 2000-2008. After that, there has been many ups and downs in the enrollment. India has made significant improvement in improving the primary enrollment rate with schemes like Mid day Meal but preventing dropouts is till a major challenge for the government and school authorities.

**Nigeria’s school enrollment, secondary (% gross)** cannot be presented in form of a proper increase or decrease in the given period as major shifts can be seen throughout. Low socioeconomic status, family support, parental education, social conformity and acceptance are the main factors causing dropouts.

**Comparison:**

India’s secondary school enrollment has been on the higher side throughout the period of 2000-2020 but India also needs to work on bringing new schemes and ensuring proper implementation of previous ones to decrease the dropout rates.

**VI.School enrollment, tertiary (% gross)**

Gross enrollment ratio is the ratio of total enrollment, regardless of age, to the population of the age group that officially corresponds to the level of education shown. Tertiary education, whether or not to an advanced research qualification, normally requires, as a minimum condition of admission, the successful completion of education at the secondary level.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2010	2011
India	10.63	10.93	10.68	17.83	22.76
Nigeria	9.71	9.93	10.49	9.57	10.17

\*All the figures are in %

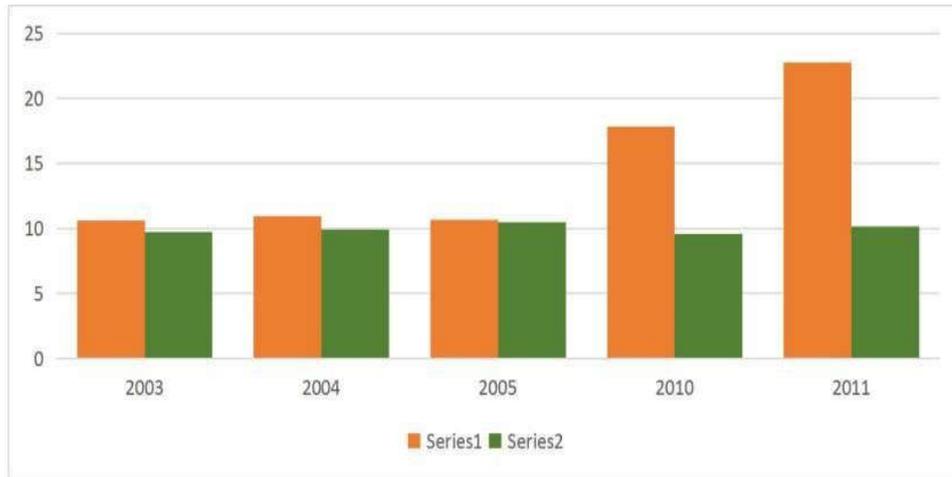
**Tab. 6:** School enrollment, tertiary (% gross)

**Source:** Collated from Data.worldbank.org

**India’s school enrollment, tertiary (% gross)** has shown consistent increase from 200-2020 except minute declines in 2005 and 2013 but the figures are extremely low starting with 9% in 2000 increasing to 29% by 2020. The main reasons for low tertiary education statistics are lack of funding and quality in higher education sector.

**Data for Nigeria’s school enrollment, tertiary (% gross)** is not available for maximum years. For the years 2003-2005 and 2010-2011, the percentage is extremely at 9-10%. The main challenges in higher education of Nigeria are inadequate funding, lecturers, infrastructural facilities and unstable academic calendar.

**Comparison:** India’s tertiary school enrollment is higher than Nigeria’s tertiary school enrollment for the given period but India still has a long way to go in increasing the higher education enrollment and improving the quality education.



**Fig. 6:** School enrollment, tertiary (% gross)

**Source:** Drafted by self

**VII. Gender parity index (GPI)**

Gender parity index for gross enrollment ratio in primary and secondary education is the ratio of girls to boys enrolled at primary and secondary levels in public and private schools.

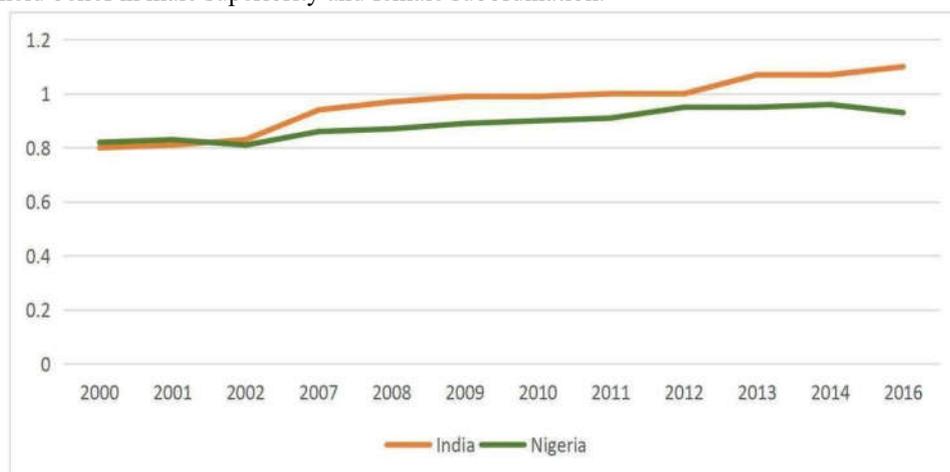
Year	2000	2001	2002	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2016
India	0.80	0.81	0.83	0.94	0.97	0.99	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.07	1.07	1.10
Nigeria	0.82	0.83	0.81	0.86	0.87	0.89	0.90	0.91	0.95	0.95	0.96	0.93

**Tab. 7:** School enrollment, primary and secondary (gross), gender parity index (GPI)

**Source:** Collated from Data.worldbank.org

**India’s Gender parity index (GPI)** has improved over the years from being in favor of males from the year 2000 to 2011 to equal access in 2012 and then being in favor of females from the year 2013 to 2019; consequently, touching unitary level back in 2020. There are many factors which affect the Gender Parity Index such as poverty, drop-out, social status etc.

**Nigeria’s Gender parity index (GPI)** has not shown much improvement as we can see that it has been in favour of males throughout the comparison bracket of 2000-2020. Nigerian researcher Okon (2016) identified a host of constraints with 'Nigerian tradition' being named as top of the list as it attaches higher value to a man than a woman, whose place is believed to be the kitchen. A study by the University of Ibadan linked the imbalance in boys' and girls' participation in schooling was to the long-held belief in male superiority and female subordination.



**Fig. 7:** Gender parity index (GPI)

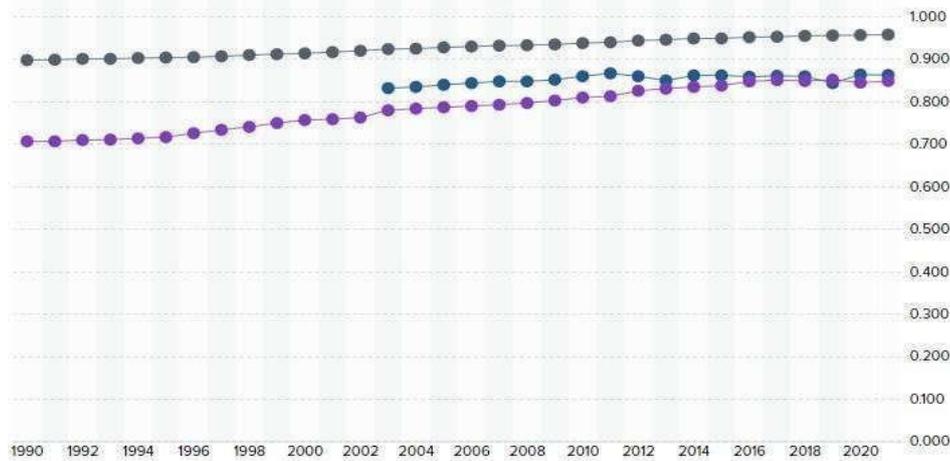
**Source:** Drafted by self

**Comparison:**

India’s GPI is better than Nigeria’s but this fact cannot be denied that there is a room of improvement, not just in the numbers but in the mindset of people.

**VIII. Gender Development Index**

The GDI tracks gender disparities in three key areas of human development: health (based on life expectancy at birth for both sexes), knowledge (based on mean years of schooling for adults 25 and older and expected years of schooling for both sexes), and living standards (measured by female and male estimated GNI per capita). It measures the female to male HDI ratio. Nigeria's 2021 female HDI value is 0.495, while the male HDI value is 0.574. This results in a GDI value of 0.863, which places Nigeria in Group 5. India's 2021 female HDI value is 0.567, while the male HDI value is 0.668. This difference results in a GDI value of 0.849, which places India also in Group 5.



**Image 2: Gender Development Index**  
Source: hdr.undp.org

**IX. Inequality-adjusted HDI**

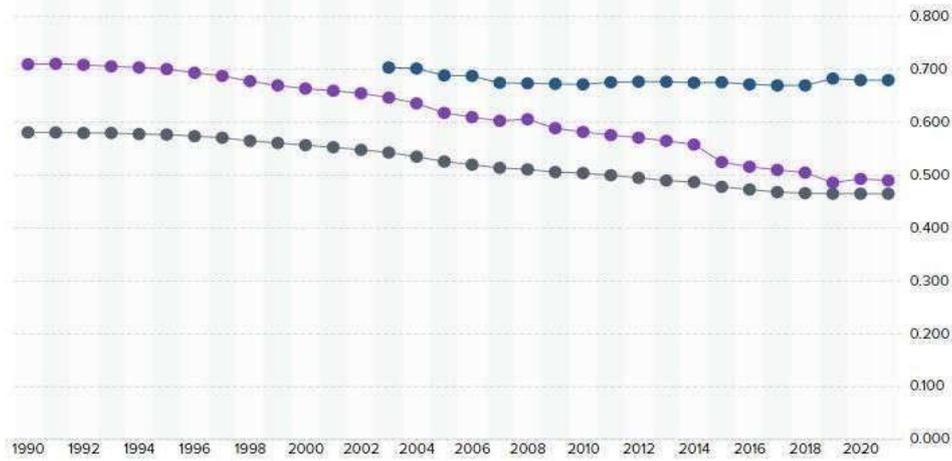
The IHDI takes into account inequality in each of the three HDI dimensions by "discounting" the average value of each dimension based on the degree of inequality in the distribution. The discrepancy between the HDI and the IHDI indicates the "loss" in human development brought on by inequality. The loss of human development grows along with the level of inequality in a nation. Nigeria loses 36.3 percent to inequality, bringing the HDI down to 0.341 in 2021. India loses 25.0 percent because of inequality, bringing down the HDI to 0.475 in 2021.



**Image 3: Inequality-adjusted HDI**  
Source: hdr.undp.org

**X. Gender Inequality Index**

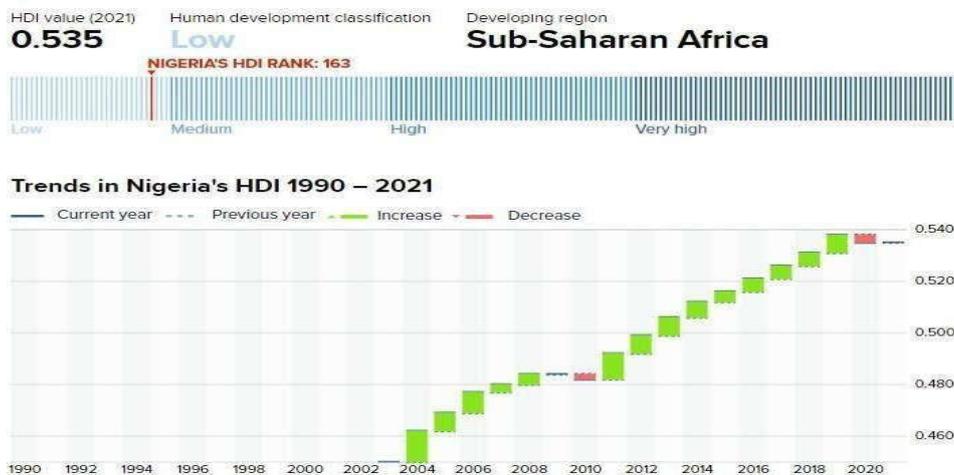
The GII measures gender inequalities in three important areas: reproductive health, empowerment, and the labour market (the loss in human development caused by inequality between female and male achievements). Maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates are used to assess reproductive health; parliamentary representation and the percentage of people with at least a secondary education are used to assess empowerment; and rates of labour force participation for both men and women are used to assess labour market participation. Nigeria is ranked 168th out of 170 countries in 2021 with a GII value of 0.680. India ranks 122 out of 170 nations in 2021 with a GII value of 0.490.



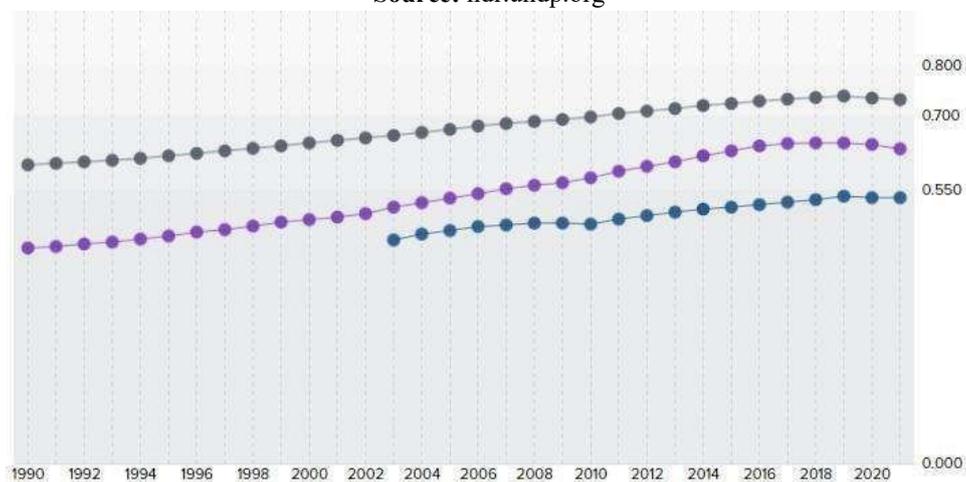
**Image 4: Gender Inequality Index**  
Source: hdr.undp.org

**Conclusion**

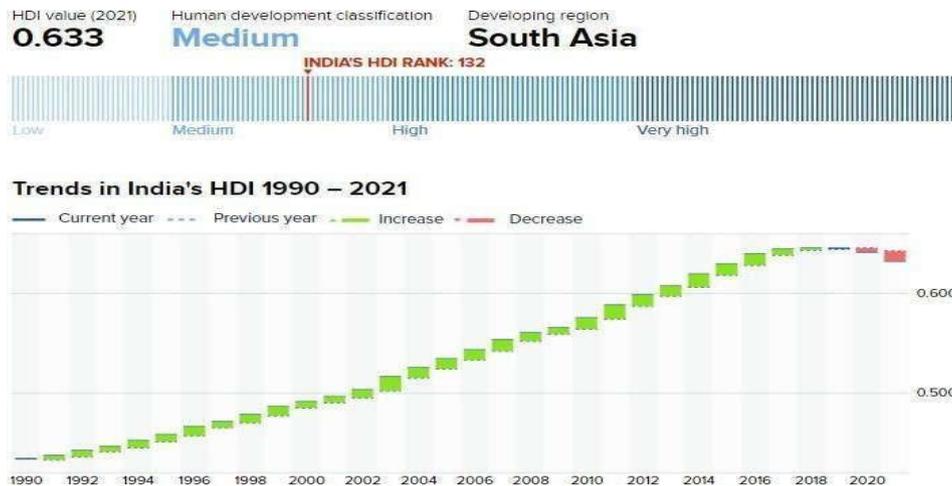
Nigeria's HDI score for 2021 is 0.535, placing it at 163 out of 191 countries and territories and placing it in the Low human development category. India's HDI score for 2021 is 0.633, placing it at 132 out of 191 countries and territories and placing it in the Medium Human Development category. Nigeria's HDI value increased by 18.9% between 2003 and 2021, from 0.450 to 0.535. India's HDI value increased by 45.9% from 0.434 to 0.633 between 1990 and 2021. Nigeria's life expectancy at birth changed by 4.2 years between 2003 and 2021, as did the mean number of years spent in school and the expected number of years spent in school. Between 2003 and 2021, there was a 45.3 percent change in the GNI per capita of Nigeria. India's life expectancy at birth changed by 8.6 years between 1990 and 2021, as did the mean years of education and expected years of education. Between 1990 and 2021, there was an approximate 268.1% change in the GNI per capita of India.



**Image 5: Human Development Classification of Nigeria**  
Source: hdr.undp.org



**Image 6: Human Development Classification of India**  
Source: hdr.undp.org



**Image 7:** Human Development Comparison of Nigeria and India  
**Source:** hdr.undp.org

As we can see from the above data, India performs strategically better than Nigeria in the 21st century owing to planned government policies, advanced technology, multi-channel income sources, higher education standards and better health facilities. Thereby, we can conclude that India performs better than Nigeria in all the Human development Indicators.

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