

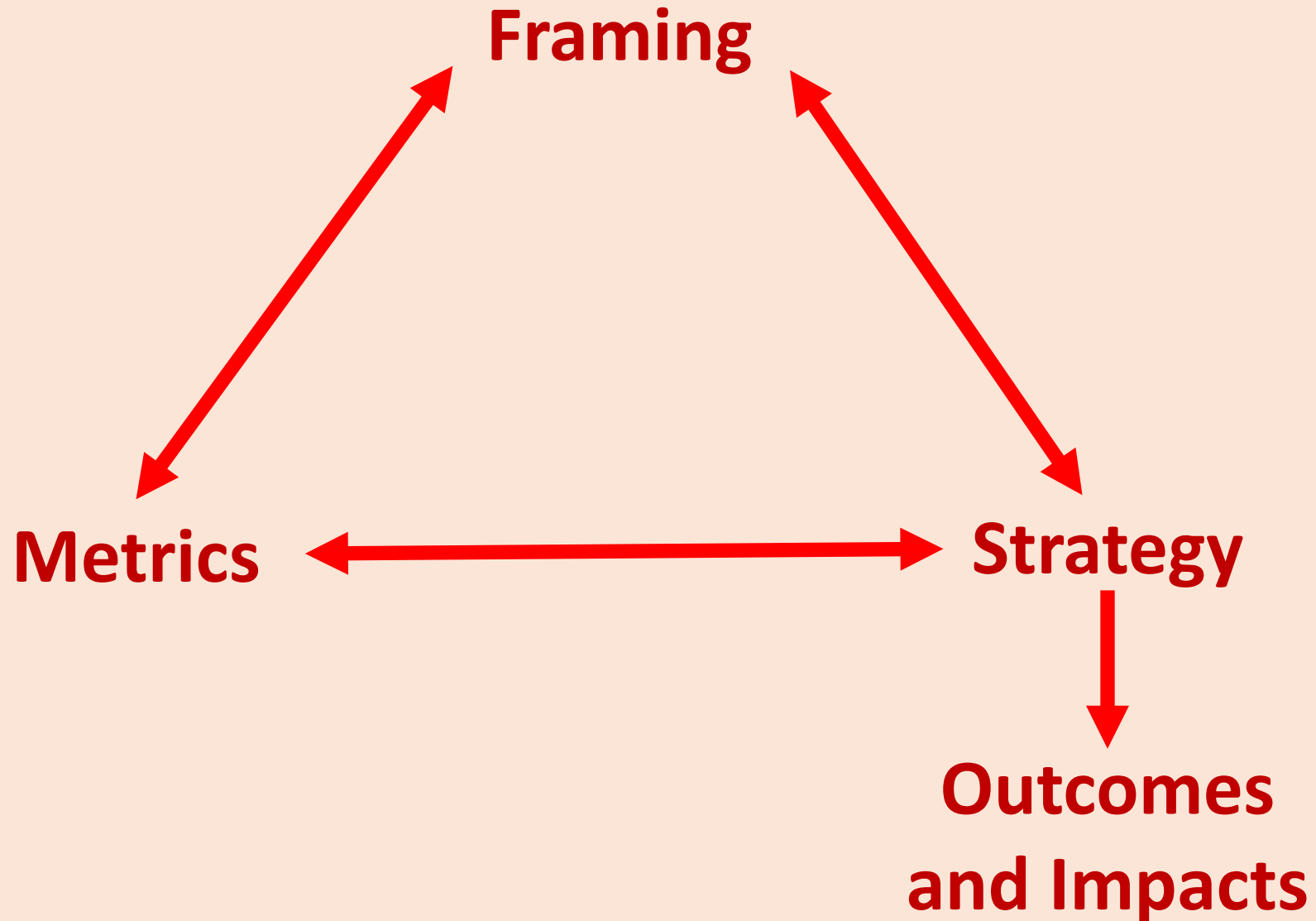
# What is Development?

Spencer Henson  
University of Guelph

# Foundations to 'development'

- Notion of 'human progress'
- Enlightenment notions on human interventions to improve human condition
- Differing conceptualizations of what is 'progress':
  - Individual
  - Economic, social, cultural, etc.
- Evolving ideas on what development is and how can be achieved:
  - Processes
  - Outcomes
- Changes in dominant paradigm over time
- Political!

# Why does it matter?



# Ranking countries by their level of development

- Task:
  - Order the countries according to their level of development using the criteria on the information cards
- Process:
  - Designate a rapporteur
  - Decide how you are going to do the ranking
  - Rank the countries

# The teams

- Delhi Daredevils
- Gujarat Lions
- Kolkata Knight Riders
- Mumbai Indians
- Royal Challengers Bangalore
- Rising Pune Supergiants

# Some questions....

- How did you define the criteria by which the countries were ranked?
- How did you do the ranking?
- Were any criteria missing?
- Did you face any difficulties in ranking the countries?
- Were there differing views within your group over the criteria used and/or how the countries were ranked?

A	India
B	USA
C	Qatar
D	Bangladesh
E	Tanzania
F	Rwanda
G	Denmark
H	Ghana
I	Poland
J	Canada
K	Chile
L	Nigeria
N	Mozambique
O	Thailand
P	Vietnam
Q	China
S	Indonesia
U	Mexico
V	Germany

# Framing development

- How development is defined and measured is value-laden
- Based on assumptions about development processes and their outcomes and impacts
- Has significant implications for development policy and practice
- Rarely framed in the language of human rights...at least explicitly



What are your views on Mohammad Amir?



# Key development 'schools of thought'

- Development as economic growth
- Development as economic, social, political and institutional change
- Development as avoiding appropriation and dominance
- Development as alleviation of deprivation
- Development as promotion of human capabilities
- Feminist discourse on development
- Post-development discourse

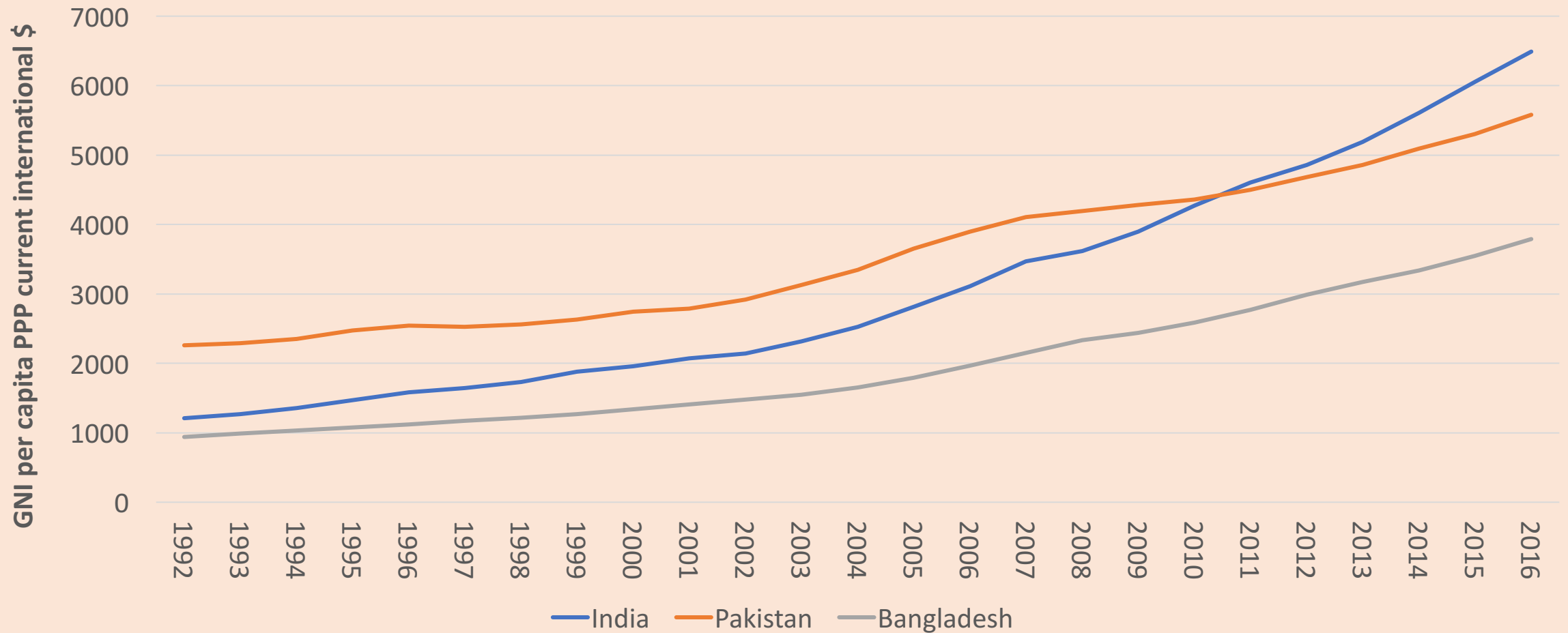
# Development as economic growth

- Development about more productive use of resources to maximize production of goods and services for human consumption
- Growth in income per capita is key metric
- Based on key economic concepts:
  - Specialization
  - Comparative advantage
  - Utility
- Focus on understanding processes through which economic growth is achieved most effectively:
  - Harrod-Domar growth model
  - Indigenous growth theory

# World Bank country classification

- Low-income
- Lower middle-income
- Upper middle-income
- High-income

# Growth in income per person, 1992-2016



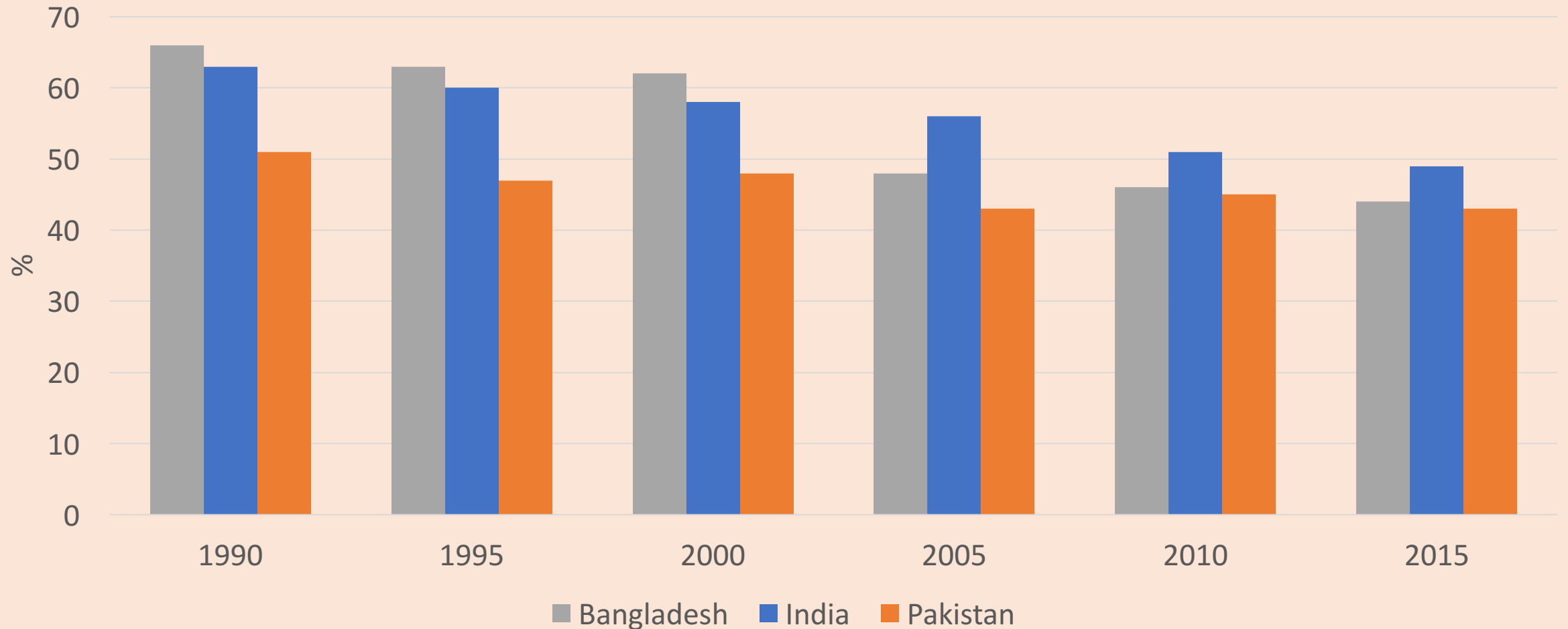
# The concept of 'utility'

- Goods and services valued according to degree to which they satisfy human wants
- Critical distinction between 'needs' and 'wants'
- Way in which individuals make choices in a world of scarcity and opportunity costs...notion of rational choice
- Welfare associated with utility derived from consumption....and more?

# Development as economic, social, political and institutional change

- Development fundamentally about processes of transformation over time
- Conceptualizations:
  - Economic restructuring
  - Modernization
- Focus on obstacles to 'modernization'
- Achieving modernization:
  - 'Natural' process
  - National policy
  - Diffusion and contact

# Proportion of economically-active population employed in agriculture, 1990-2014

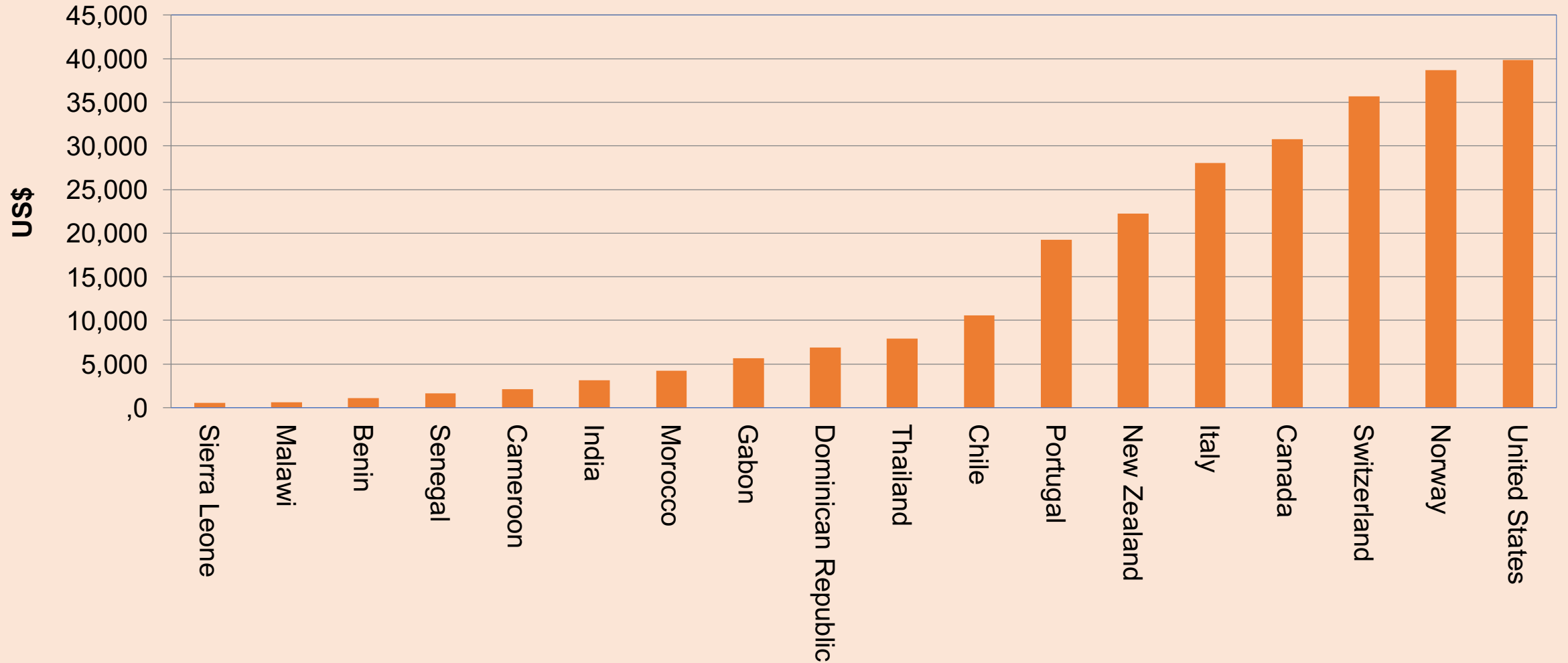




# Development as avoiding appropriation and dominance

- Development a global process rather than being state-bound
- Global developmental interdependencies and linkages
- Development occurs within prevailing economic and political global structures and institutions
- Active/purposeful underdevelopment of 'peripheral' states
- Inequitable distribution of 'benefits' of economic progress within and between countries

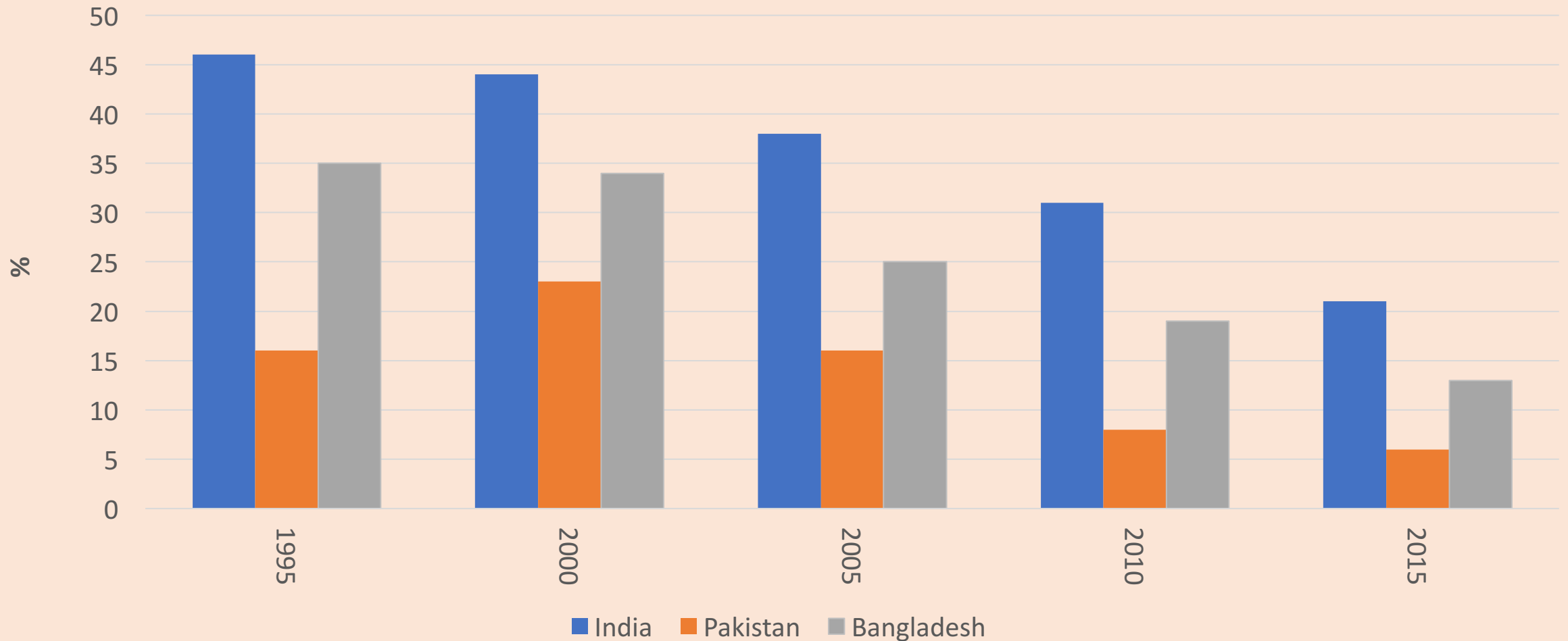
# Income per capita at purchasing power parity, 2013



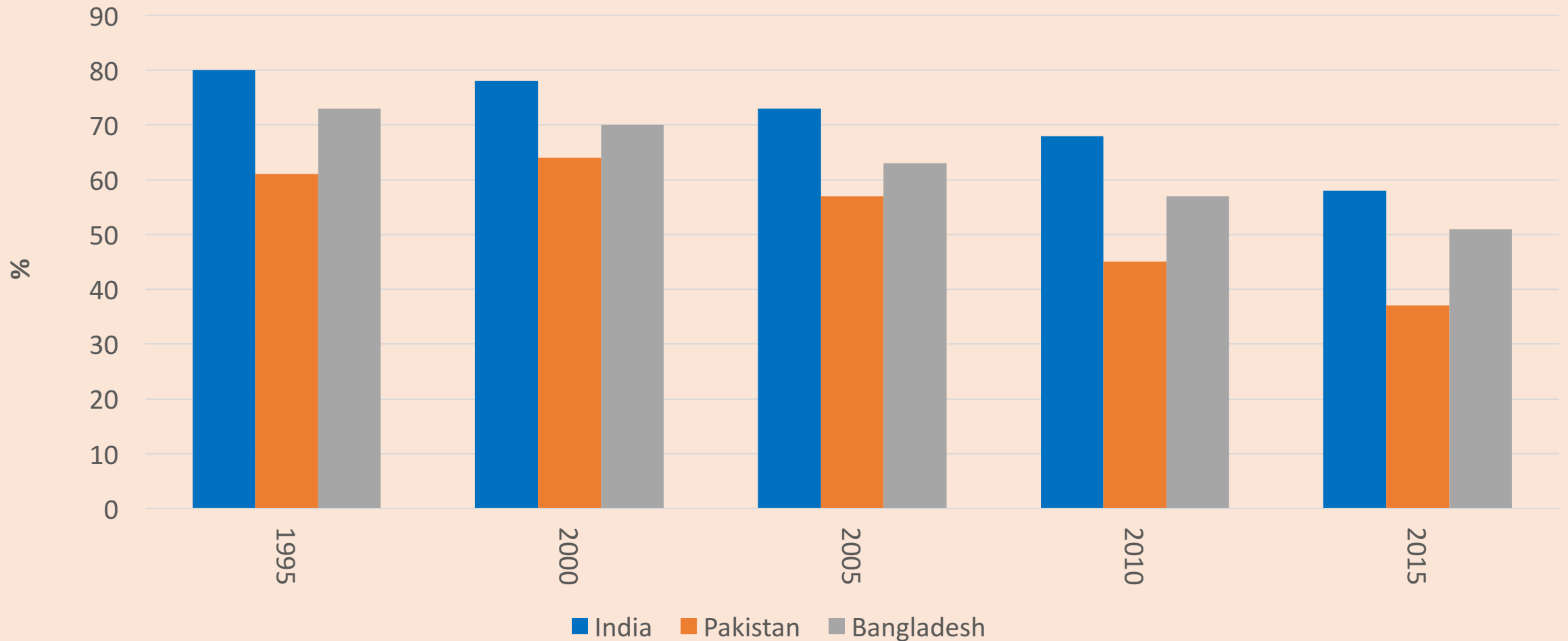
# Development as alleviation of deprivation

- Development as the process by which the essential needs of humans are achieved....lifting people out of a condition of deprivation
- Focus:
  - Eradication of income poverty
  - Achieving basic human needs
- Development relates to degree to which poverty alleviated or basic human needs met....both relate to consumption deprivations
- Questions:
  - What are poverty/basic human needs?
  - How might these be achieved?

# Proportion of population living on less than \$1.90 per day, 1995-2015



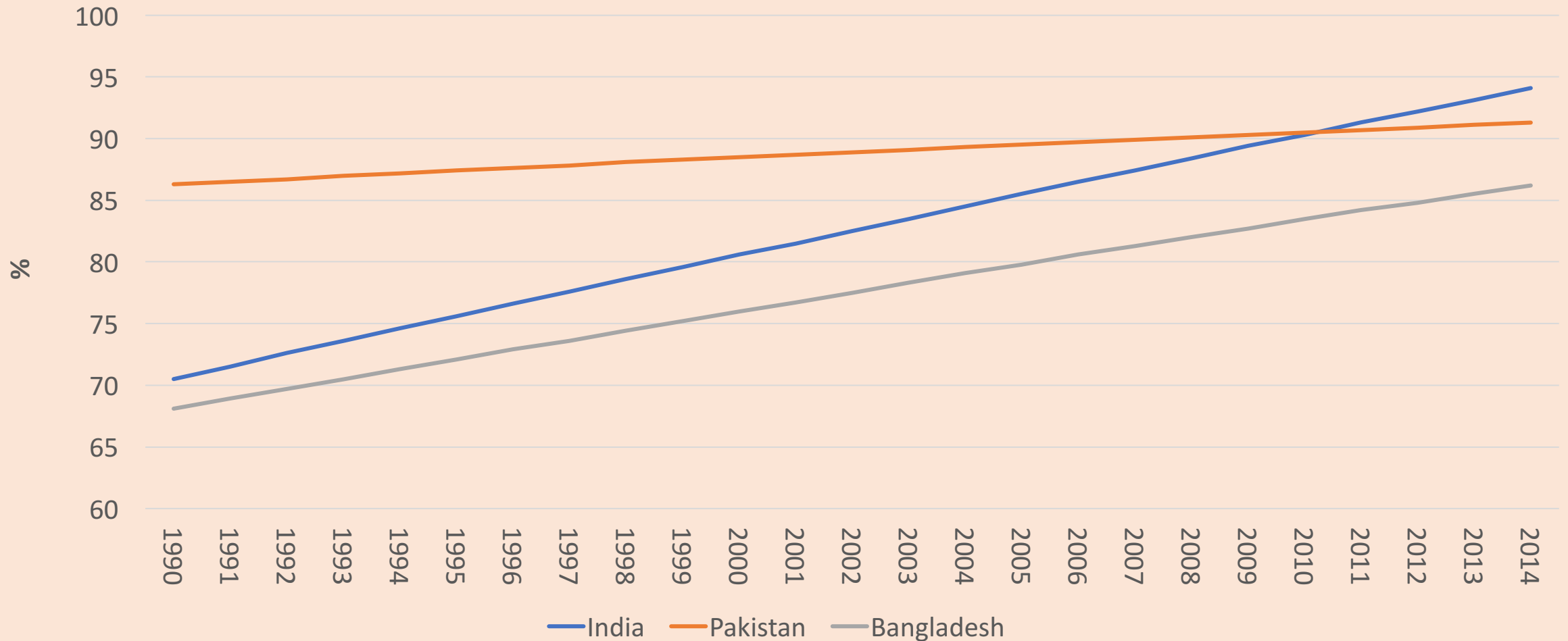
# Proportion of population living on less than \$3.10 per day, 1995-2015



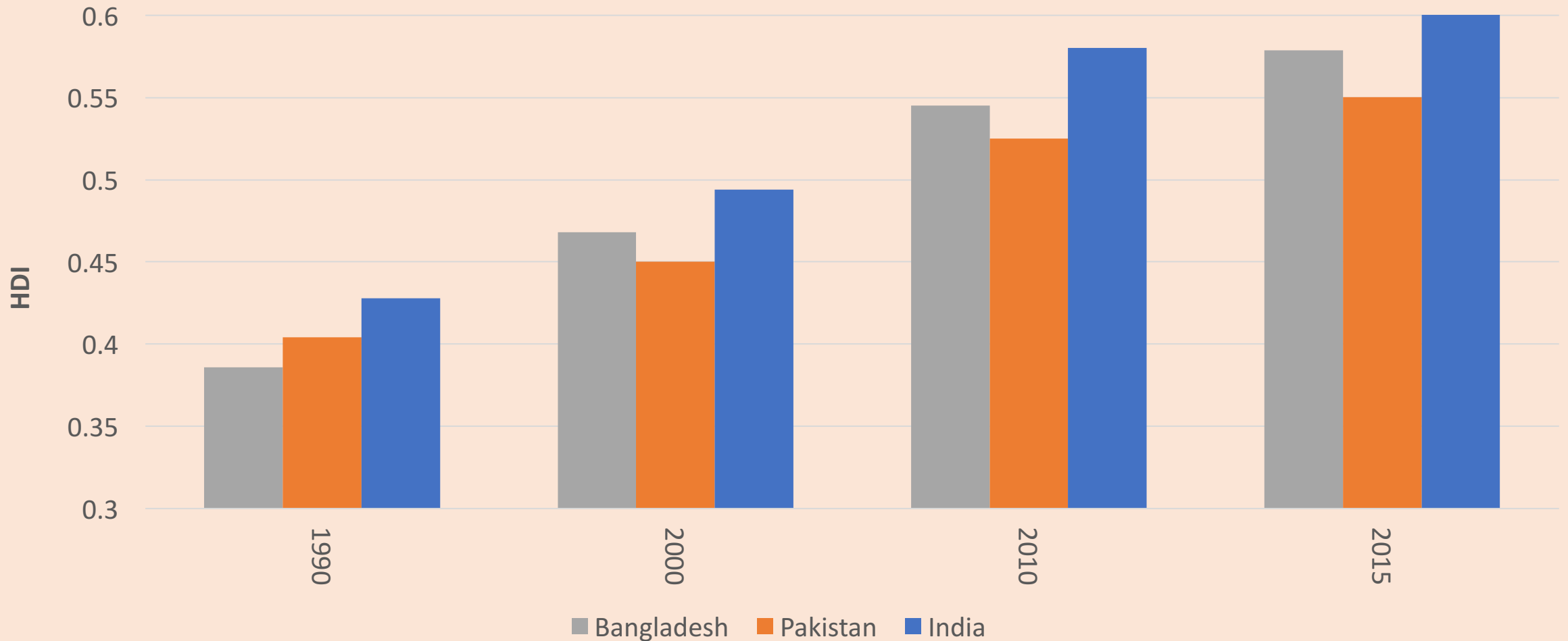
# Basic human needs....ILO (1977)

- Basic goods (e.g. food, shelter, clothing, etc.)
- Basic services (e.g. education, health, access to water, access to transport, etc.)
- Participation in decision-making
- Fulfilment of basic human rights
- Productive employment

# Proportion of population with access to improved drinking water, 1990-2014

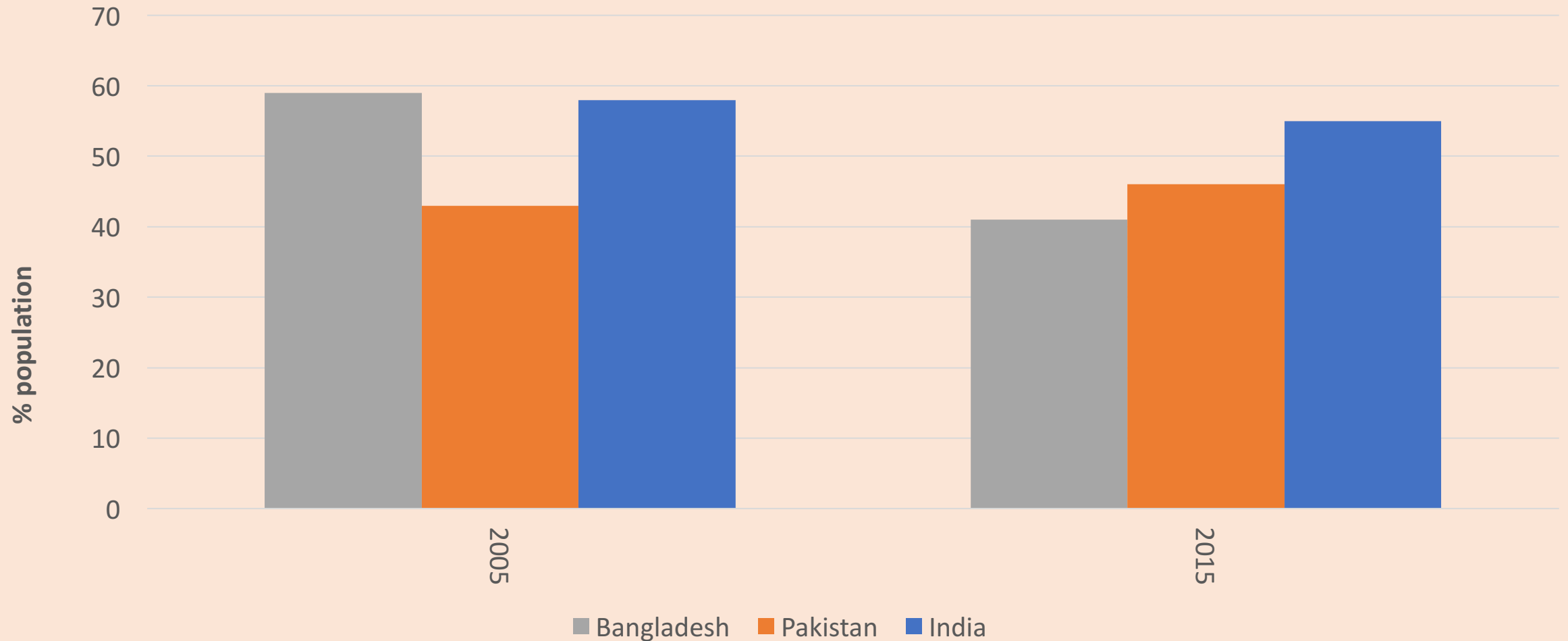


# Human Development Index, 1990-2014





# Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2005-2015



# Development as promotion of human capabilities

- Development associated with achievement of ability of people to do things they value doing or being...expansion of capabilities
- Associated with freedom to choose to lead life in the way desired
- Focus on enhancing personal capabilities and lifting external constraints
- Focus on all aspects of human life and not just material consumption
- Does not prescribe a standard set of goods and services to which an individual should have access

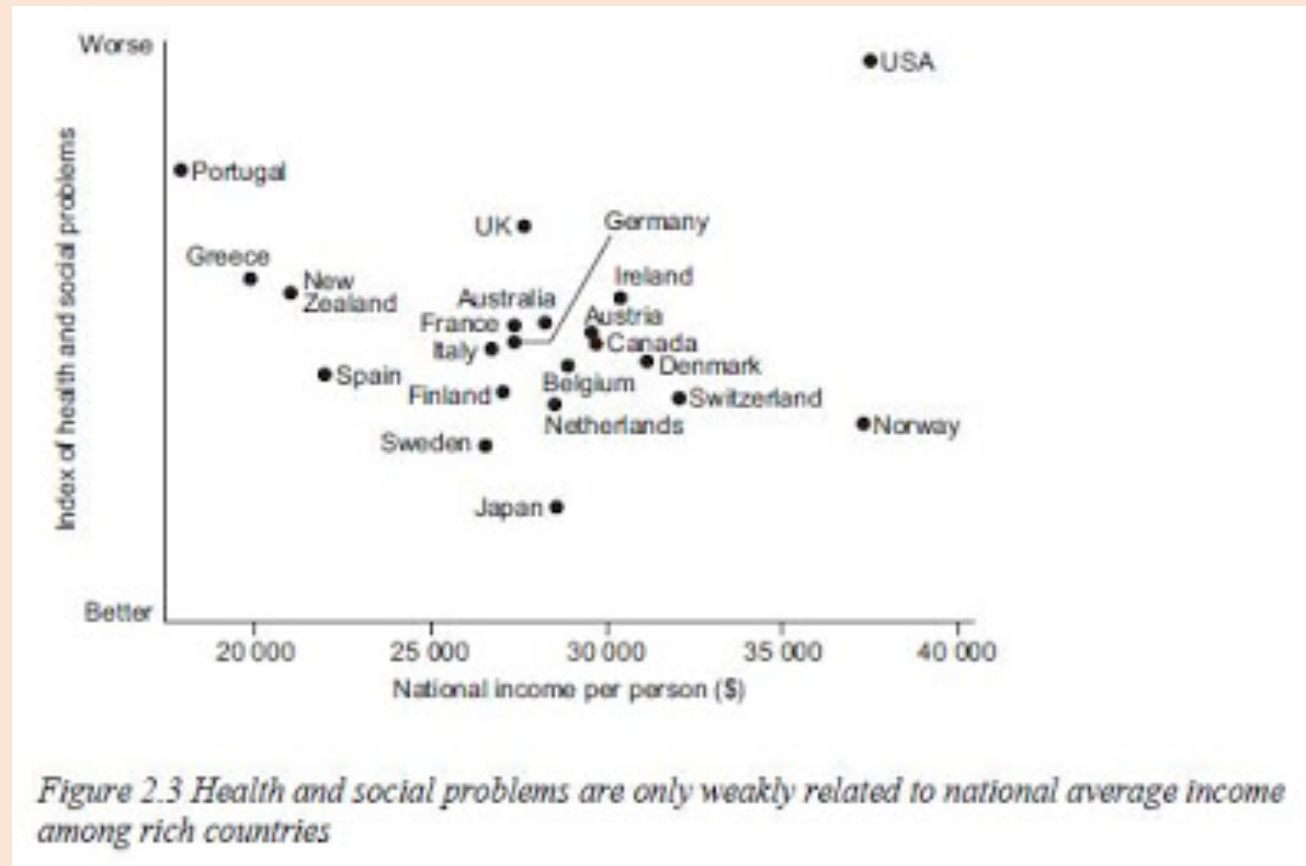
# Nature of human capabilities (Nussbaum)

- Live human life to normal end
- Have good health and adequate food
- Be secure and able to move and have sexual satisfaction (bodily integrity)
- Use the senses, imagination and thought for education, art, science, religion and political expression
- Be able to experience emotions
- Form a conception of the good
- Experience friendship and respect through affiliations
- Live with and have concern for other species
- Be able to laugh and play
- Control one's environment through politics and property

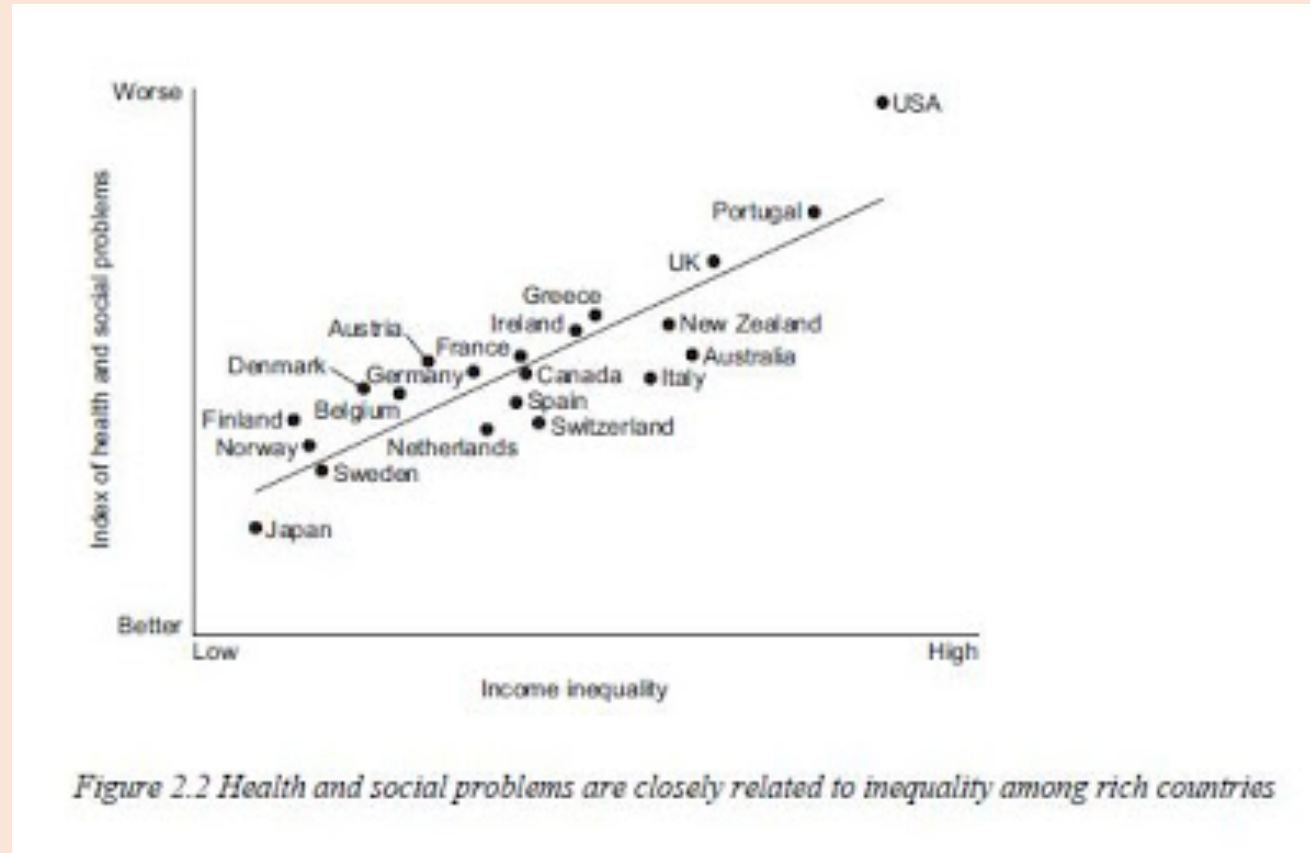
# Nature of human capabilities (Nussbaum)

- Live human life to normal end (UDHR art. 3)
- Have good health and adequate food (UDHR 25, ICESCR 12)
- Be secure and able to move and have sexual satisfaction (bodily integrity) (UDHR 3, 4, 5, 13, but not sexual satisfaction)
- Use the senses, imagination and thought for education, art, science, religion and political expression (UDHR 18, 19, 26, 27)
- Be able to experience emotions (UDHR 12, 16)
- Form a conception of the good (UDHR 18)
- Experience friendship and respect through affiliations (UDHR 18, 19, 20, 29)
- Live with and have concern for other species (Post UDHR documents on human rights and environment)
- Be able to laugh and play (UDHR 24)
- Control one's environment through politics and property (UDHR, 12, 19, 20, 21)

# Index of Health and Social Problems Versus Income per Person



# Index of Health and Social Problems Versus Income Inequality



# Feminist discourse on development

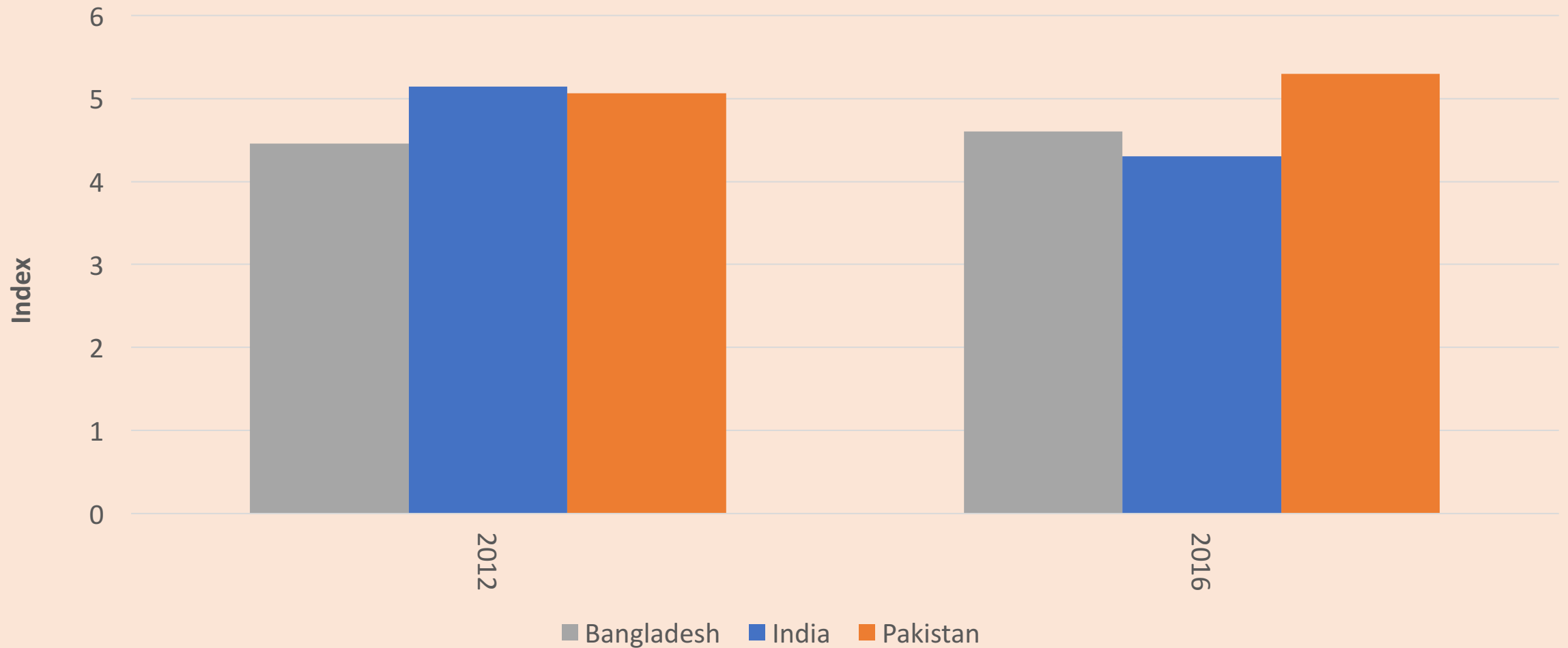
- Focus on inclusive development....'benefits' of development enjoyed by all
- Attention to economic, political, institutional and social structures and norms that act to disadvantage women
- Now extended to other marginalized groups:
  - Indigenous populations
  - LGBTQ
  - Etc.....

# Post-development discourse

- Raises fundamental questions about development:
  - Development as a good thing
  - 'Less' developed societies should become 'more' developed
- Development as discourse
- Questions ability to define progress beyond eradication of deprivations
- Concerned over diffusion of common institutions, norms, etc.
- Big questions over primacy of growth and sustainability
- 'Alternatives to development':
  - Community
  - Happiness



# World Happiness Index, 2012 and 2016



# Development in practice....the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



# Conclusions

- Development is contested:
  - What aiming to achieve
  - How to achieve it
- Could argue that various elements of human rights are implicit to the development discourse....but rarely framed in that way
- Development is about more than human rights....things individuals and societies would like to be achieved?