

What is Development? Alternative Perspectives

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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!

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

- Chennai Super Kings
- Delhi Daredevils
- Kolkata Knight Riders
- Mumbai Indians
- Rajasthan Royals
- Sunrisers Hyderabad

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

M Liberia

N Mozambique

O Thailand

P Vietnam

Q China

R Philippines

S Indonesia

T Cuba

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 is development studies about?

- How to make the world a better place
- The big issues:
 - What is 'better'?
 - 'How'
- Key struggle between the state and markets:
 - Structuralism
 - Neoliberalism

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

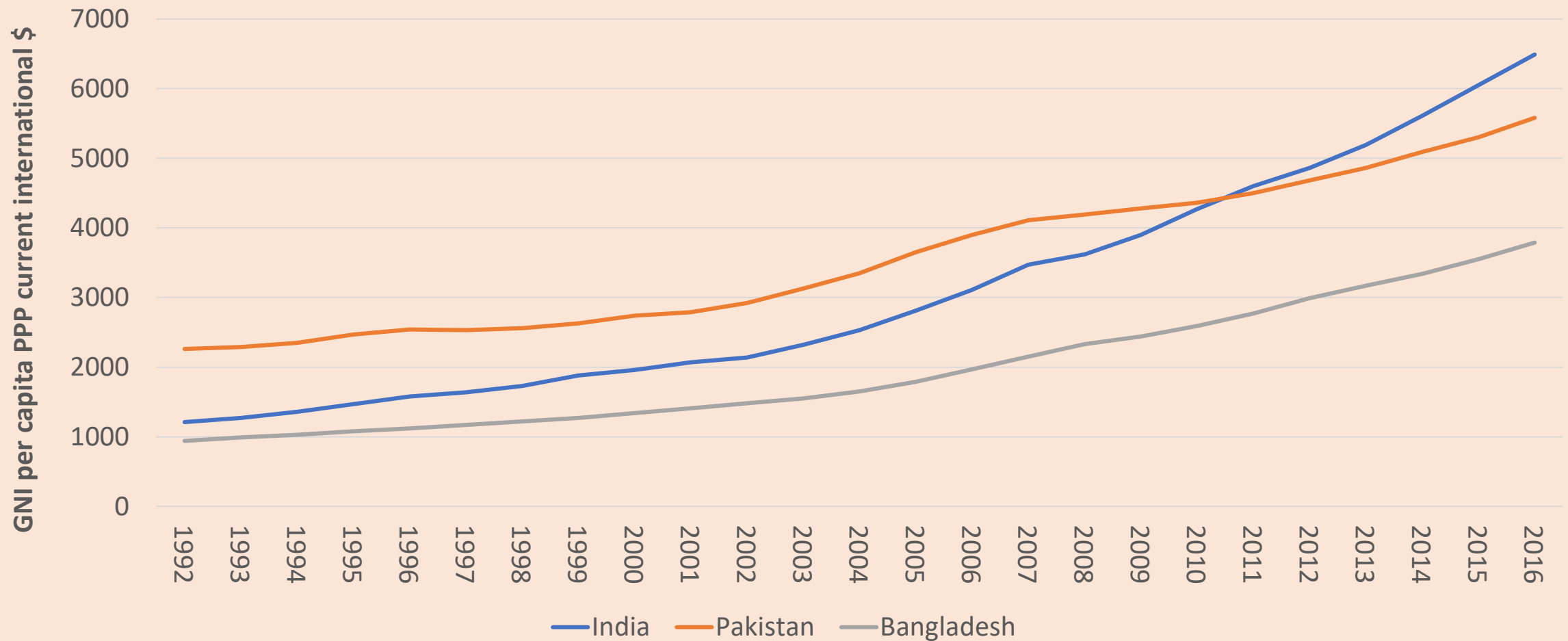
Development as economic growth

- 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?

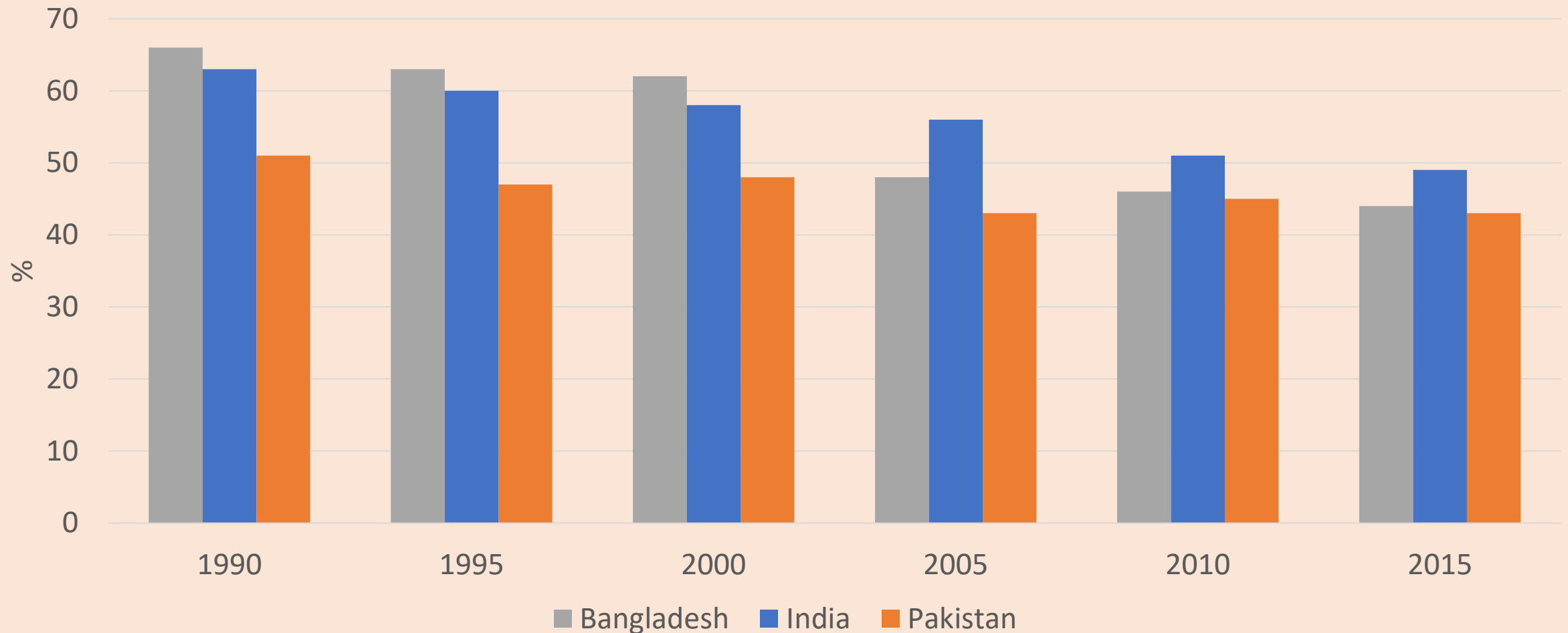
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Development as economic, social, political and institutional change

- 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, 1990-2015



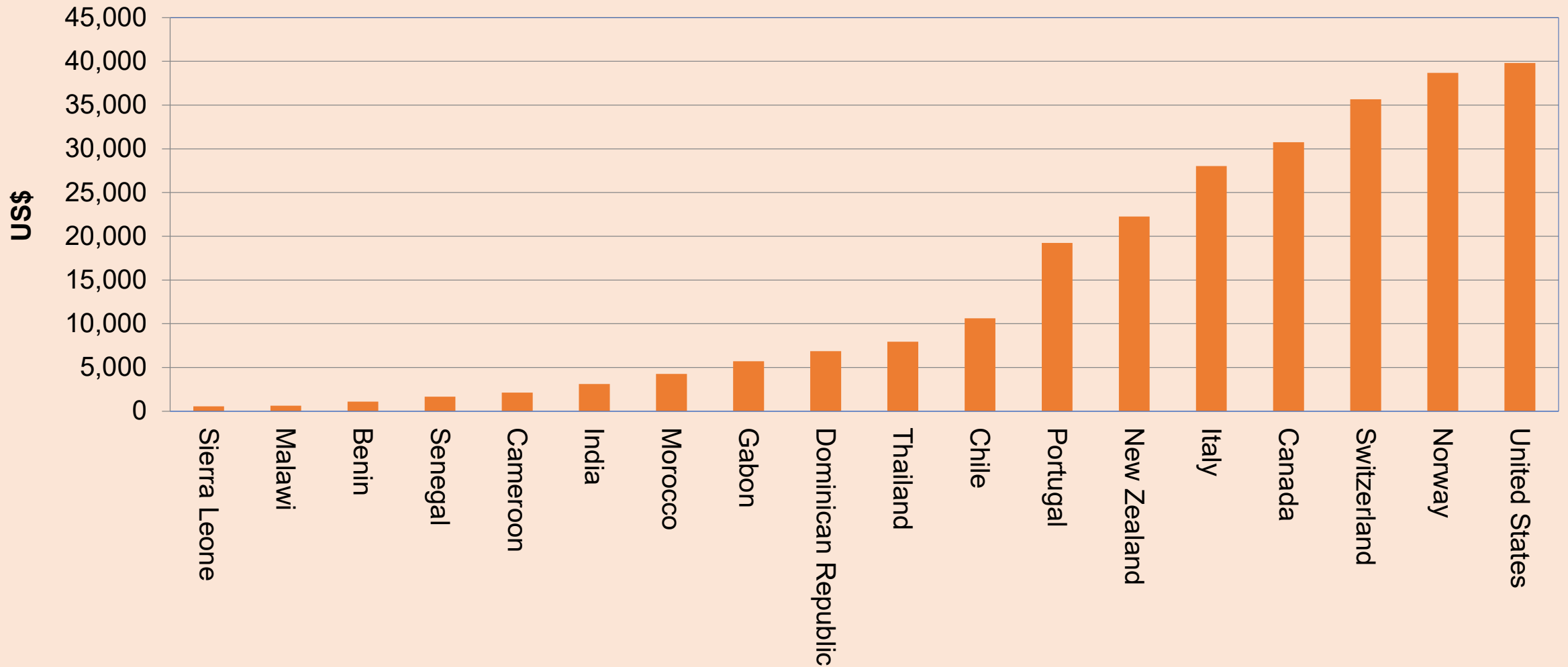
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Development as avoiding appropriation and dominance

- 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, 2016



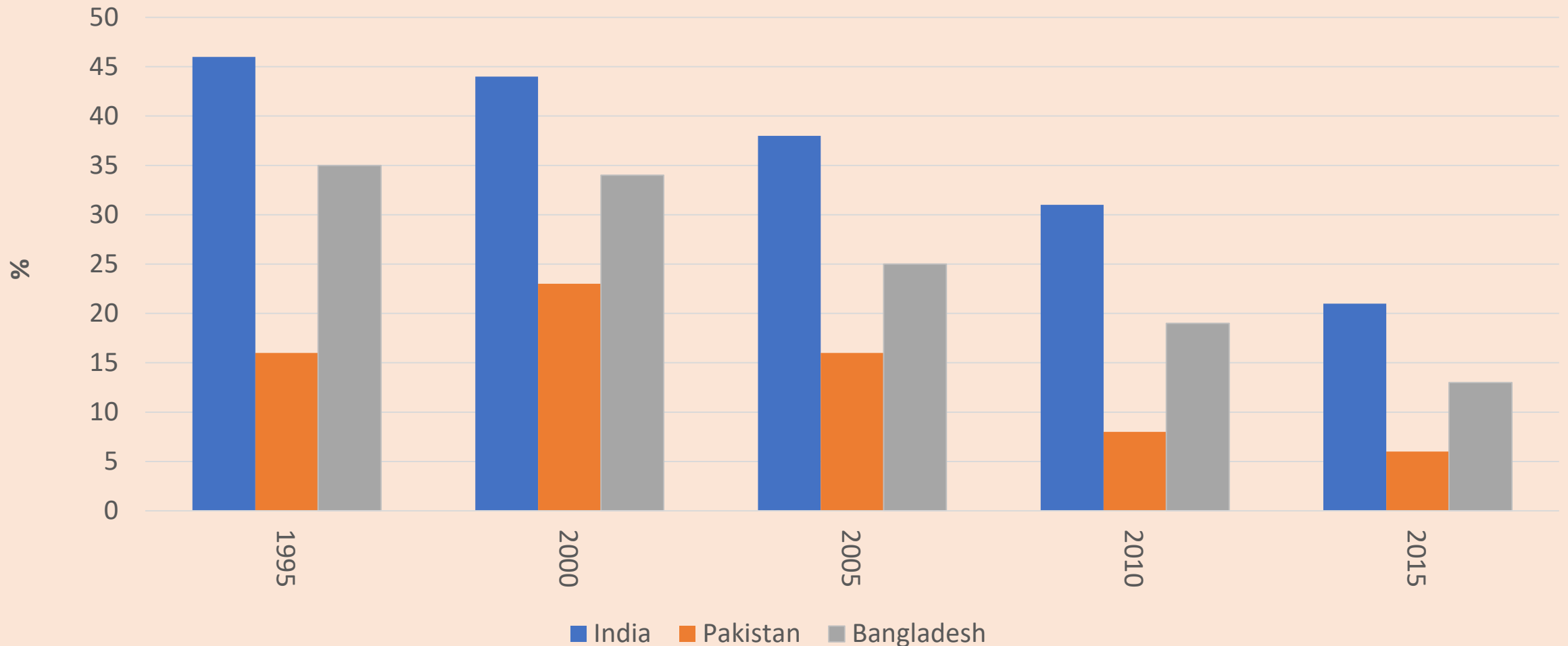
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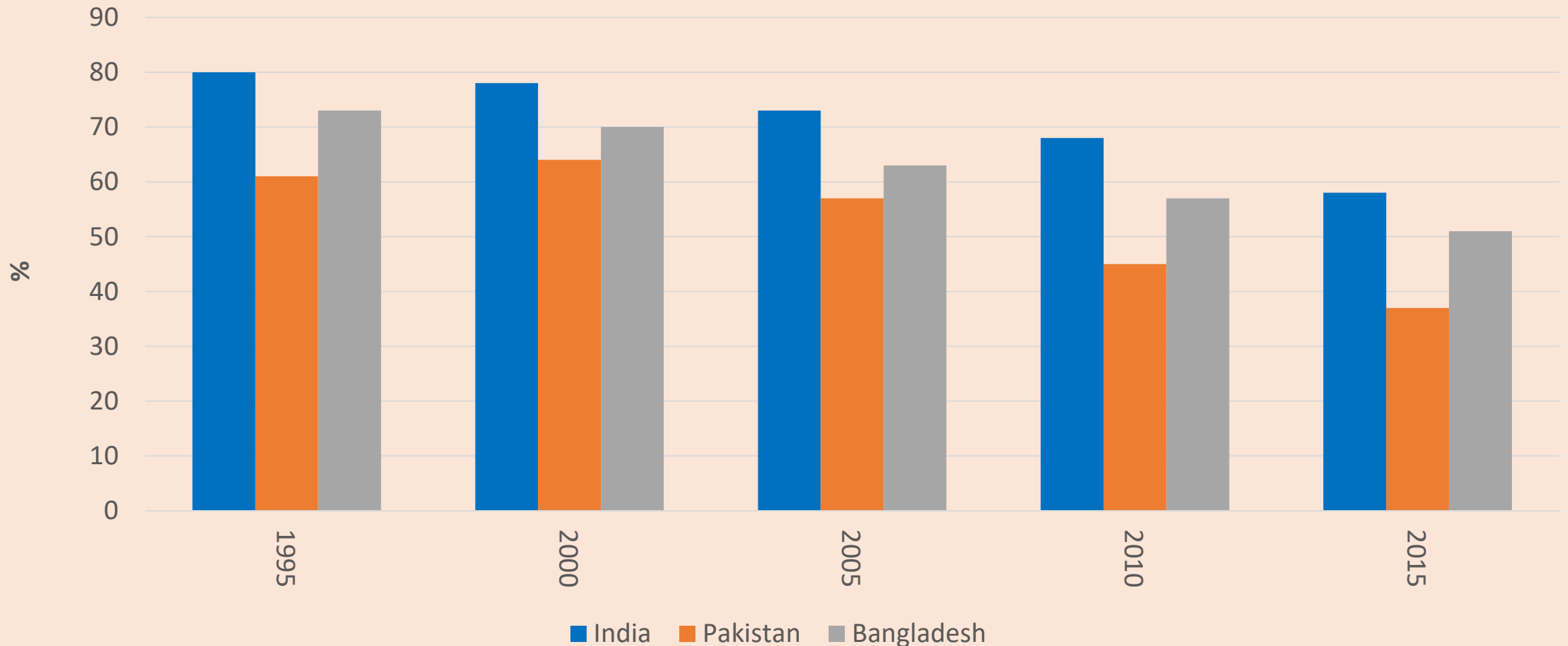
Development as alleviation of deprivation

- 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



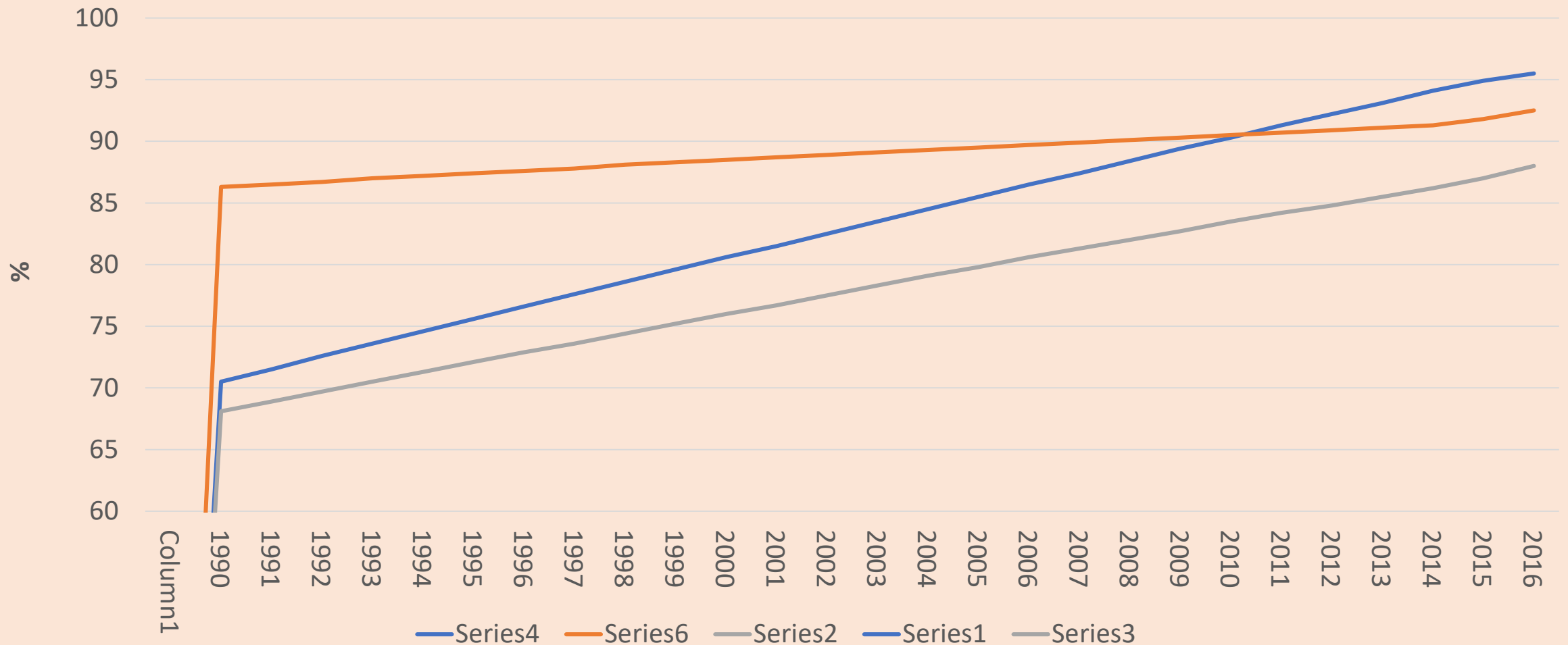
Proportion of population living on less than \$3.10 per day, 1995-2015



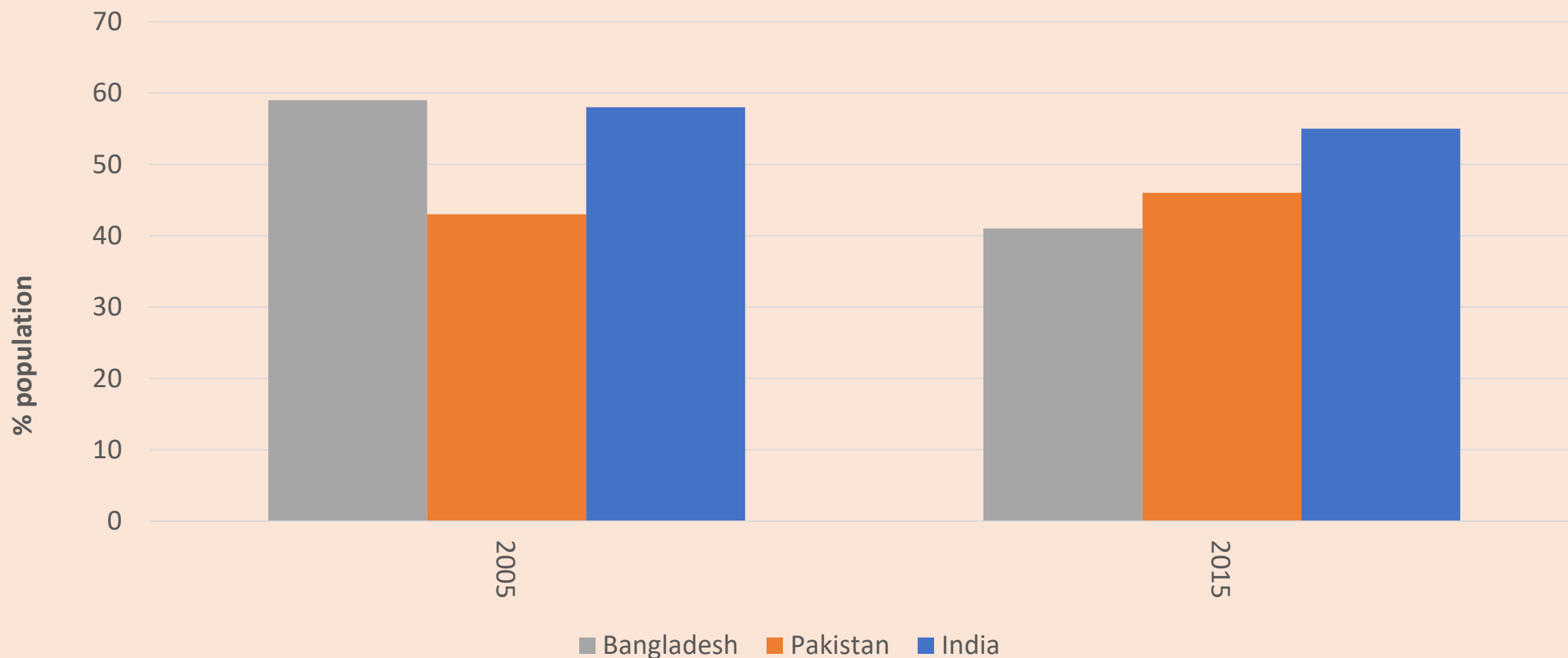
Basic human needs....ILO (1977)

- 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

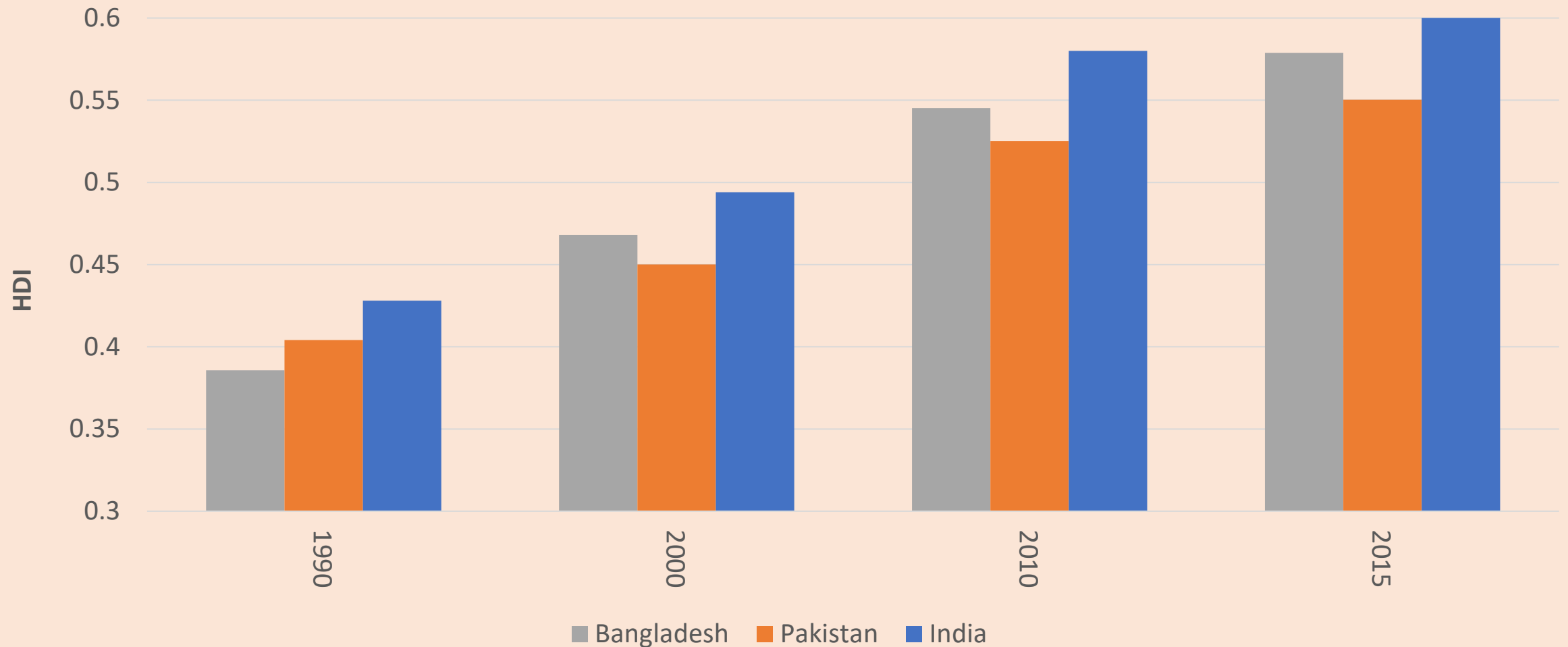
Proportion of population with access to improved drinking water, 1990-2016



Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2005-2015



Human Development Index, 1990-2015



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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

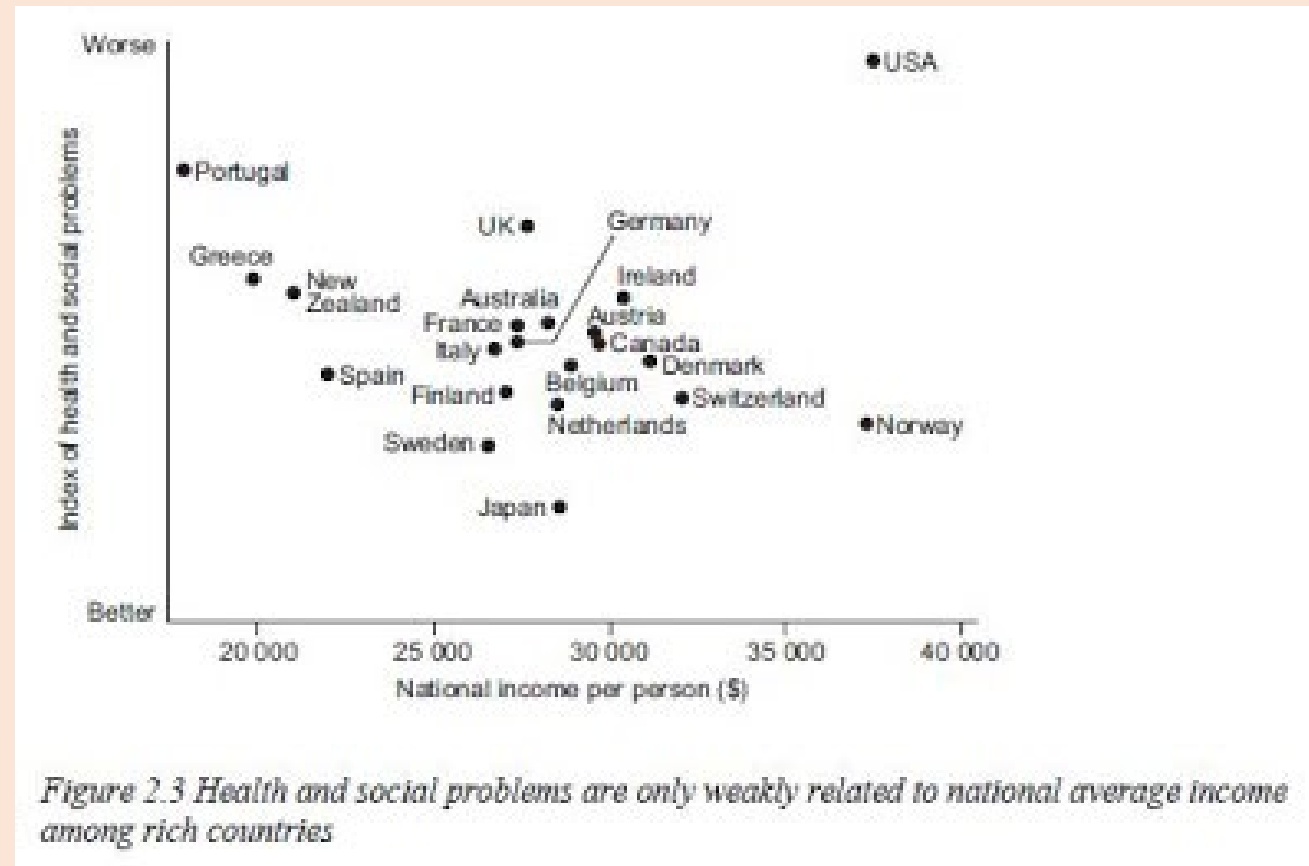
Nature of human capabilities (Nussbaum)

- 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

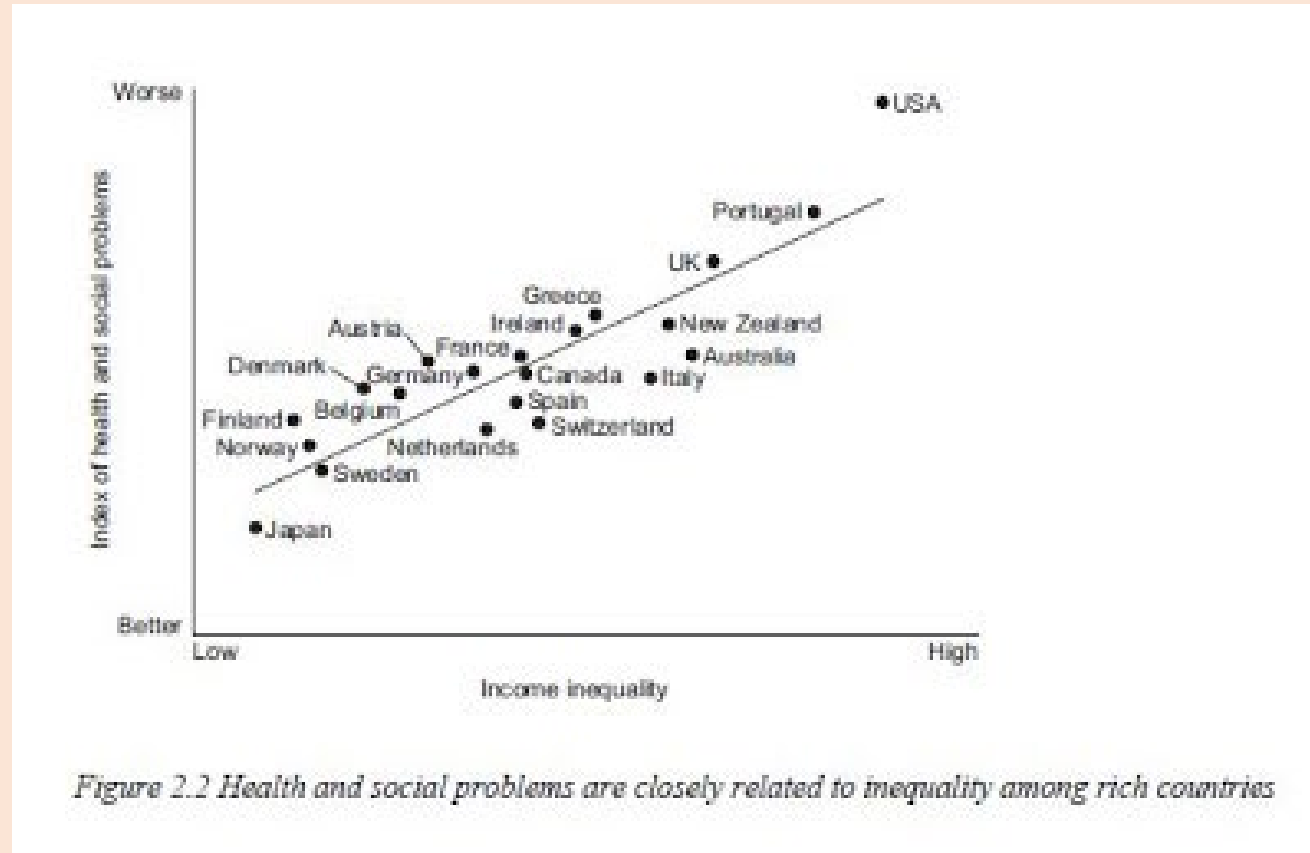
Nature of human capabilities (Nussbaum)

- 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



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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.....

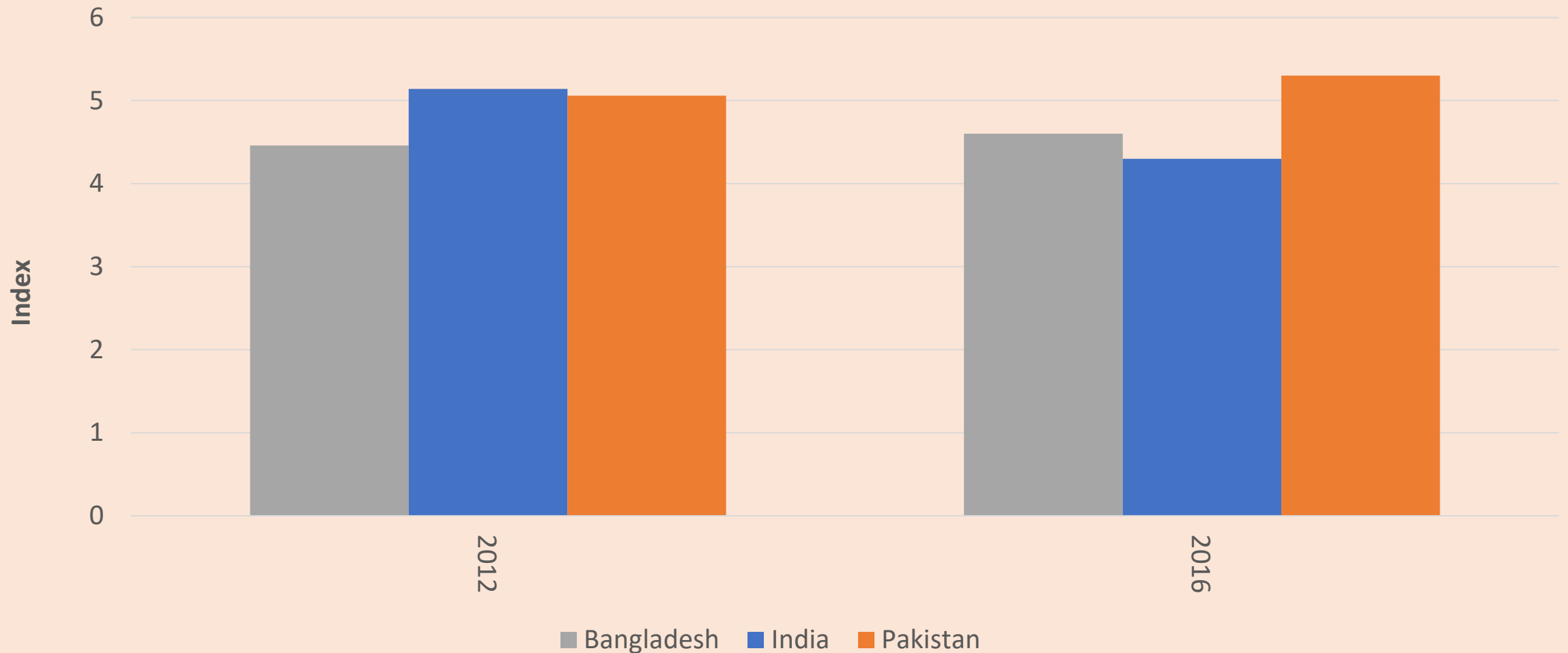
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Post-development discourse

- 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



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?