The Institute for Human Development (IHD) is committed to an inclusive growth path. Its vision is one of a society which fosters and values an integrated, social, economic and political system that is free from deprivation, poverty and inequality.

IHD's Strength
Ever since its foundation in 1998, under the auspices of the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE), IHD has focused its activities on topics related to human development. The Institute has undertaken some 100 research projects, sponsored by both national and international organizations; organized seminars, workshops, conferences and policy dialogues; and implemented training and capability-building activities, including a PhD programme. Furthermore, the institute participates in a wide array of networks, both in India and abroad, particularly in South Asia.

IHD has developed a number of competencies, among which the salient ones are as follows:

- Research into the main dimensions of human development;
- Primary survey-based research to analyse policy impacts and social and economic change;
- Capacity to mobilize State and non-State actors and engage them in policy debates;
- Ability to provide a critical, independent view on development issues;
- Conversion of research findings into educational and training material;
- Networking at national and international level;

Research Thrust

- Growth and employment
  - Employment is key to inclusive growth. The Institute plans to expand its work on how to make growth inclusive, employment-intensive and sustainable while taking into account the needs and constraints of globalization. It will address issues of inequality, discrimination (in terms of gender, caste, tribe and religion) and social exclusion. It will look into dichotomies such as formal/virtual and rural/urban; into the problem of slow growth of formal employment; and into regional patterns of labour markets and labour mobility. The problem of the gendered nature of employment relationships, both in formal and informal sectors, will also be studied. An important area of research will be to examine the roles of agriculture, manufacturing and services in ushering in a labour-intensive and sustainable growth path. While designing the studies on the above issues the macro perspective will be explicitly kept in view.

- Education and capabilities
  - The theme of education encompasses all levels from pre-school to higher education. Since enrolment in primary education is well on its way to universality, IHD will focus its research on issues of quality of education, learning outcomes, and the impact of the curriculum. The research will also be involved in understanding the linkages between, on the one hand, education and vocational training and, on the other hand, the organized and unorganized labour markets. Vocational training is rather poor in India and needs to be strengthened. Finally, IHD plans to look into the interaction between research and innovation in educational systems and the productive capacity of the economy and society. The insights from these studies would contribute to policy reform.

- Health and nutrition
  - The research undertaken at IHD on the subjects of health and nutrition is guided by its underlying three core approaches of generating evidence, monitoring and evaluating progress and impacts, and facilitating capacity building. It aims to contribute to the strengthening of health and nutrition systems in the future through the critical understanding of key policies. Five priorities have been identified around the emerging challenges and opportunities in the Indian health system: inclusive healthcare, service delivery, financing healthcare systems, strengthening of health systems, and improvement in child nutrition and care practices.

Gender and development
Four broad themes have been identified for IHD research on gender and development. The first concerns the institutions and structures that affect women in their everyday lives. Legislation and affirmative actions constitute important means for the advancement of women, and in this context the Institute will carry out evaluations of government programmes and policies. The second theme focuses on women’s work and employment in both traditional and modern sectors. The third theme centres on enhancing capabilities (in particular through education and training). And the last theme looks into violence against women (new forms, experiences of violence, multiple contexts and levels).

Security and vulnerability
The sources of human insecurity and vulnerability in India are multiple. Some are structural (caste system, patriarchy, under-development and lop-sided development), others conjunctural (natural disasters). More recently, globalization and climate change have tended to exacerbate existing conditions. This research has also created new risks and insecurities. International competition has resulted in greater financial and market volatility. The precariousness of employment has increased and the social protection of workers has diminished. IHD plans to focus on the various types of vulnerability that threaten livelihoods and analyse the factors and processes leading to conflict and violence as well as those fostering social cohesion.
groups, non-government organizations; the effectiveness of alternative ways of delivering social programmes such as targeted versus universalized programmes, cash transfers versus kind transfers; and some new themes such as the implication of rising social awareness, the impact of the mass media and the changing patterns of labour and social movements.

Teaching And Training

The M.Phil and Ph.D. programme courses (in Labour Economics and Human Development) that IHD has conducted in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) will continue and be expanded and strengthened. Efforts will also be made to provide fellowships to the Ph.D. students. In addition, the institute will organize regular training courses and workshops on research methodologies pertaining to the issues of labour, employment and human development. Capacity building for policymakers and practitioners, especially in the areas of healthcare and nutrition, will be undertaken through workshops and the development of a training curriculum.

Public Debates And Policy Dialogues

IHD’s programme of high-level public debates on topical academic and policy issues will be further developed. In addition to the two lecture series—the Foundation Lecture and Distinguished Lecture—interactive dialogues on issues of current policy concerns will be organized, whereby representatives of academics, policymakers, development practitioners, social activists, labour representatives, and trade and industry associations will be engaged in constructive debates.

Partnerships And Networking

IHD already benefits from a well-established range of partnerships and networks. It plans to expand and strengthen it further in India, South Asia and other countries, particularly the developing countries. Long-term relationships will also be forged with new institutions to facilitate work in the emerging topics of common interest. Collaborative research projects and the joint organization of seminars/workshops/conferences will be undertaken and the exchange of scholars between partner institutions will be encouraged.

Communications And Outreach

Apart from its newsletter and various publications, including books, monographs, and working papers, the Institute plans to bring out a series of policy briefs. The key findings of the relevant project reports, seminars and workshops, conferences and policy debates will be disseminated through both printed (English and Hindi) and electronic means. The Institute’s website will be made dynamic and interactive. Efforts will also be made to disseminate the findings of research undertaken at IHD and its other activities through both mainstream and social media. Senior faculty members of the institute will be encouraged to publish the outcomes of their research in newspapers as well as academic journals.