QS101: Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Social Science

Week 8: Conceptualisation, Operationalisation and Measurement: Economic Development

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Conceptualising Economic Development

Stata Stuff

Empirics, Empirics, Empirics

Next Week

Conceptualising Economic Development

Group Work

- Come together in attribute-related groups
- Prepare to present to the seminar:
  - The purpose of your attribute for measuring development
  - An overview of variables used to measure the attribute
  - Pay attention to their strengths and weaknesses

Preparation: 20 minutes.

Stata Stuff

Overlay of Graphs

```
graph twoway line (life) year if
countryname==“Ghana” || line (life) year if
countryname==“Equatorial Guinea”,
legend(rows(2) label(1 “Life Expectancy
Ghana”) label(2 “Life Expectancy Equatorial
Guinea”))
```

Empirics, Empirics, Empirics

Task

- Two Country Combinations:
  - Equatorial Guinea and Ghana
  - Ghana and The Gambia
- Select one of these pairs
- Compare the trajectory of per capita GDP in these countries. What do you learn from this with regards to economic development?
- Now compare levels of schooling, levels of health and degrees of urbanisation in those countries. What are the implications for the level of economic development in these countries?

Task (contd.)

Consider:

- How do conclusions about the level of development differ depending on the measure employed?
- Which approach would you suggest?
- Can we trust the data?

The Human Development Index (HDI)

- Consists of three Components:
  1. per capita Gross National Income (GNI) in purchasing power parity US dollars (PPP US$)
  2. Health: life expectancy at birth
  3. Education: mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling

The HDI in Practice

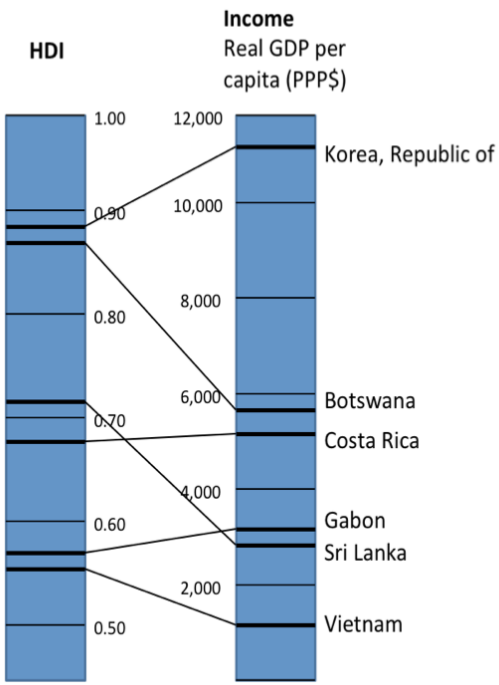

Figure: Similar HDI, different income

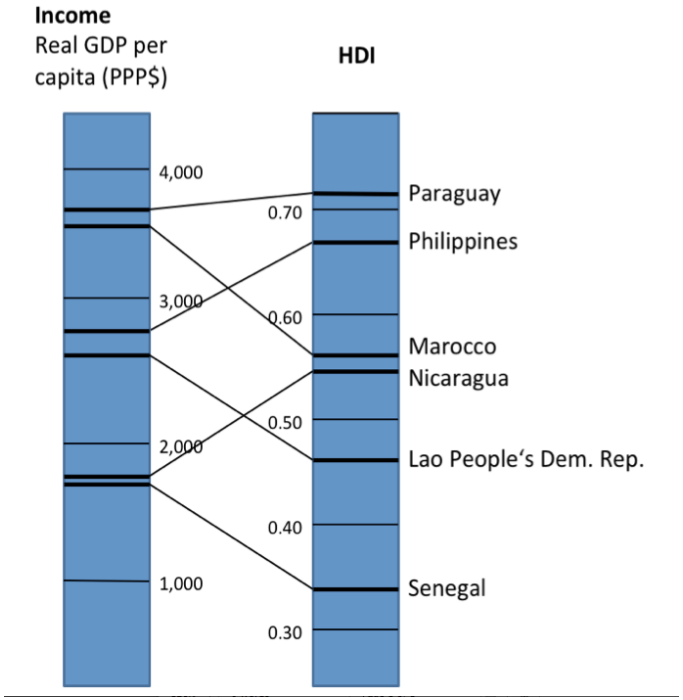

Figure: Similar income, different HDI

Homework

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- Read the required literature
- Critically reflect on the problems involved in conceptualising inequaity
- Find at least two real-world examples of inequality and prepare to give a short presentation on these
- You are expected to put **at least** 4 hours into this!