Preston Curve

Source: TH

The Preston curve refers to the **empirical relationship** between life expectancy and per **capita income** in a country, proposed by **American sociologist Samuel H. Preston** in 1975.

- The curve shows that **people in richer countries generally have longer life** spans compared to those in poorer countries, likely due to **better access to healthcare, education, nutrition,** etc.
- As a poor country's per capita income rises, its life expectancy increases significantly initially.
    - For example, **India's per capita income** rose from Rs 9,000 in 1947 to
- Rs 55,000 in 2011, while **life expectancy increased from 32 to 66 years.**
- However, the positive relationship between per capita income and life expectancy starts to flatten out beyond a certain point, as the **human lifespan cannot be increased indefinitely.**
- The positive relationship shown by the Preston curve applies can also be applied to **other** development indicators like infant/maternal mortality, education, healthcare, etc.

Read more...

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