

# International Development

Discipline/Multi-discipline or trans-disciplinary field

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# What is Development?

- a. Development as a **state** or condition-static
- b. Development as a **process** or course of change- dynamic

Long term process of structural societal transformation

Short-to-medium term outcome of desirable targets

dominant discourse of western modernity

Michael Paul Todaro (Development Economist) –

Development is not purely an economic phenomenon but rather a multi-dimensional process involving reorganization and reorientation of entire economic **AND** social system

Development is process of improving the quality of all human lives with three equally important aspects.

# Objectives of Development

1. increases in availability and improvements in the distribution of food, shelter, education, health, protection, etc. through relevant growth processes
2. improvements in 'levels of living, including income, jobs, education, etc. by creating conditions conducive to the growth through the establishment of social, political and economic systems and institutions which promote human dignity and respect
3. expansions in the range of economic and social choices available to individuals and nations e.g. varieties of goods and services

# Indicators of Development

Human Development Index (HDI), Gender Development Index (GDI),  
Human Poverty Index (HPI)

## **Economic Indicators**

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)  
Types of Work (Economic Sectors)

## **Social Indicators**

Education and Literacy  
Health and Welfare

## **Demographic Indicators**

Life Expectancy (37 - 80 years)  
Infant Mortality (<10 - >100 per thousand)  
Natural Increase (0 - 4.7 %)

# Strategies & Institutions for International Development

Self-Sufficiency Model

International Trade Model (Economic Growth)

Basic Needs Model/Appropriate Technology Model

Revolutionary/Radical Reform Model

United Nations – various agencies –

UNDP/UNWOMEN/UNICEF/UNHCR/IOM

World Bank/ International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/CSOs

# Rostow's Model

Five stages from traditional society to high mass consumption.

1. Traditional Society
2. Preconditions for Take-off - Elite Group Initiates Economic Innovations, Leads to Productivity.
3. Take-off - Rapid Growth in a Number of Specific Economic Activities, Technical Advances.
4. Drive To Maturity - Modern Technology diffuses to a Wide Variety of Industries
5. Age of Mass Consumption - Economy

# Critique of Rostow's Model

**Developmentalism:** the idea that every country and region will eventually make economic progress toward “high mass consumption” provided that they compete to the best of their ability.

**Increased dependence** on MDCs and their markets. Undue influence on many global policies, including those of the U.N. and World Bank.

**Market Stagnation:** the MDCs have less population growth, Developing countries produce low-cost goods and the growth has limits, competitive disadvantages faced by late starters

# Diversity in the Interpretations of Development

**Development as Economic Growth-** Focus on commodity output as opposed to people - measures of growth in GNP.

Export sector contains small number of workers /draws on technology as opposed to traditional sector with more labour force & inefficient technology (Akin Mabogunje - Geographer)

**Development as Modernization-** emphasizes process of social change which is required to produce economic advancement; examines changes in social, psychological and political processes; Focus on developing wealth oriented behavior and values in individuals; profit seeking rather than subsistence and self sufficiency; Shift from commodity to human approach with investment in education and skill training





**Development as Distributive Justice (Rawls)** - view development as improving basic needs

Goods and services provided by governments

Access of public goods for all social classes

Burden of development to be shared among all

**Development as Freedom (Sen)** - moral significance of individuals' capability

political freedoms

freedom of opportunity (access credit)

economic protection from abject poverty

## **Marxist View of Development**

Mode of Production - elements and activities necessary to produce and reproduce real, material life

Capitalist (market economy) mode depends on wage labor whose labor power produces a **surplus** - class conflict in capitalist societies

## **Neocolonial Dependence Model**

Historical evolution of an unequal international capitalist system of rich country-poor country relations

Sets up center (developed countries) versus periphery (developing countries)

Elites in the developing world (e.g landholders, industrialists) perpetuate inequality

# Sustainable Development

Defined as development that is likely to achieve human needs and improvement of the quality of life and encompasses:

Reducing Poverty

Environmental Protection

Sustainable natural resource management

Water and food security

MDGs - SDGs

# Theories of Development

**Keynesian growth theory** - process of capital formation is determined by domestic savings and investment in manufacturing leading to high productivity. Increase in income/savings allows growth and investment

**Modernization Theory** - economic dimension alone is not sufficient/  
requires institutional and social change

Social practices, beliefs, values and customs are barriers / removal is critical

Backward internal structures cause underdevelopment not external factors

**Neo-Liberal Development Theory-** grew in the 1970s and designed to counteract impact of Keynesianism, Emphasis on supply side factors in development- private initiatives and market led growth  
Move away from demand stimulation (interest rate manipulation), import substitution, state intervention and centralized planning  
Gradual industrialization with ‘trickle down’ of benefits to all social classes

**Popular Development-** Avoids ‘grand theories, Accommodates geographical and historical diversity, Stresses local diversity, human creativity, process of social change through pragmatism, flexibility, context; and comparative advantages of public and private sectors and their complementarity, opportunity costs- environmental damage, Bottom up/participatory approaches, decentralization, Power & Empowerment

# Underdevelopment

Underdevelopment - low per capita incomes, low literacy and educational attainment, lack of basic services- water and power  
Poor physical environments, particular cultural traditions and value systems-environmental and cultural determinism  
Lack of natural resources certainly impediment to development  
Political and Economic Instability

## **Cycle of underdevelopment**

High Birth Rate > Large Families > Low PCI > Poverty > Low Output Per Worker >

Low PCI > Low Productivity > Poor Health > Inadequate Housing  
Remedy > Downward spiral not reversible without massive aid



Natural and Human Systems

External and Internal Conditions

Colonialism

Globalization

Foreign Aid

Governance