



FORMS OF DEVELOPMENT

Form 5 Unit 2 Option

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2. **Forms of development:** economic, social and environmental.

- Definition of development.
- Types of development (economic, social, environmental, and technological).
- Economic development: the difference between standard of living and quality of life; the characteristics of countries with high, medium and low levels of income; the North/South divide; The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the Human Development Index (HDI).
- Social development: children, youth and adult development, community development.
- Environmental development (positive and negative aspects): development of land (rural and urban), ecological development.
- Technological development (advances in ICT and medical technology).

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DEVELOPMENT – A SHORT DEFINITION

Development...

Development is about people

Development is about people making their own choices

Development is about people making their own choices based on values

Development is about people making their own choices based on values about the quality of life.

In 1994 the United Nations in a report about human development came up with a new concept which treated human security and defined this on seven different levels:

Economic security – basic economic income (not necessarily derived from work), governments who look after the country's poor, access to land, fair wages, good working conditions, and sufficient housing.

Food security – food has to be accessible to everyone both economically as well as physically, there has to be progress in the storage and distribution of this food, and programmes focusing on the most vulnerable and those most in danger and suffering.

Health security – enough food, clean water and sanitation, basic health facilities which are accessible to everyone, investment in health with particular attention being paid to the most vulnerable.

Environmental security – laws which protect the natural environment, provision of a clean and secure environment, actions against pollution, and a conscience regarding the consequences we can suffer in the future when certain actions are taken.

Personal security – protection from violence by the state, by other states, on other different people such as ethnic minority groups or other individuals, of men against women etc.

Community security – protection from attacks on ethnic or communal groups, protection for indigenous people and indigenous culture etc.

Political security – protection from political repression, torture, violations of human rights, of the right to vote etc.

“This concept has nothing to do with defence as in military defence but it is a concept about integration. Stressing the idea that certain things should be enjoyed by everyone because they are universal, showing the need for solidarity between the peoples of the world. It cannot be acquired through use of force, by an army against another army. It can only happen if we all agree that everyone should enjoy development and the fruits therein”. UNDP (United Nations Development Plan)

PROGRESS and CHALLENGE : A Global balance

HEALTH

Whilst seeing progress in life expectancy in many countries there are still 10 million older children and 14 million young children dying every year from diseases which can be cured with a bit of money. In Africa 10 million people are now infected with the AIDS virus whilst in countries like Nepal and Bangladesh the average age for women is lower than that of men (whilst normally women live longer than men).

The infant mortality rate has really improved however there are still 34,000 children who die from lack of food and diseases which could easily be treated.

SECURITY

It is true that once the cold war ended and the superpowers in the developed countries were no longer a threat in 1990 only, around 380,000 refugees could return to their homeland. Wars and internal conflicts now are affecting more than 60 countries and 1 out of every 115 people in the world is a refugee or migrant with more than 6 million refugees in Africa alone.

In 1974-93, 130 elections were held in South America and the Caribbean, and from 1980, 18 countries changed their government system from a dictatorial one to a democratic one but still in 1992

‘Amnesty International’ reported disrespect for human rights in 112 countries around the world.

LITERACY and EDUCATION

In the developing countries the literacy rate for adults have increased from 46% to 60% between 1970 and 1985 however there are still above a billion adult who still do not know how to read and write and this reality is affecting many aspects of their everyday life including their health, their financial state and the standard of living of their families.

The number of girls in third world countries who attend secondary school doubled in the last twenty years however there are still two thirds of all women in the third world countries who are illiterate and in some rural communities the number could reach 85%.

As a result of a continuous effort in the 60’s and 70’s the number of children in the developing countries who completed 4 years of schooling at a primary level had reached 50% and more however as a result of the debt crises in the 80’s and the paying back of interest incurred which these countries where being forced to pay back, spending on primary education decreased a lot and these figures are drastically decreasing too.

WOMEN and CHILDREN

In industrialised countries women make up more than 40% of working population and hold 28% of managerial and administrative positions and in Asia 19% of representatives in parliament which is 1.6 times more than that of the industrialised world. However, 66% of illiterate people in the world are women and 70% of the poor of the world are women; In Asia only, there are 374 million poor women living in rural areas and this figure is more than the whole population of Western Europe.

Between 1960 and 1992 infant mortality rate decreased by half in the developing countries however, we still find that children everywhere are the most vulnerable victims of violence – in Brazil, the home to 200,000 street kids, 4 children are killed every day whilst in Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Philippines around 500,000 children work as prostitutes.

WATER and SANITATION

The provision of clean water which is not dangerous to health in the third world countries increased by more than two thirds in the last 20 years and almost two thirds of people have access to a basic health Service however, 1.5 billion other people do not have this access or clean water and in Latin America it is only 56% of people in rural areas as compared to 90% who have access to clean water.

FOOD and NUTRITION

Between 1965 and 1990 the number of countries who could reach the necessary level of enough food for their people doubled from 25 to 50 however, there are still between 800 million people who do not eat enough, 500 million are continuously starving and in 1990, more than 100 million died of famine.

POPULATION and the ENVIRONMENT

In every continent around the world including Africa population is decreasing however, population continues to rise by about 240,000 everyday – this is like a new Switzerland every 30 days or a new China every ten years with the highest rate of growth in the countries least able to maintain them.

Damage to the environment from toxic fumes in the developing countries are less than a quarter of those in the developed countries even though their population is 3.5 times greater but 200 million people are suffering from desertification of land in developing countries whilst the people in the developed countries (1/5 of world population) consume 9 times as much more commercial energy than the people in the third world countries.

More than 2.8 billion people, close to half of the world population, live on less than 2 dollars a day. More than 1.2 billion people or 20% of world population lives on less than a dollar a day.

South Asia has the biggest number of poor people (522 million) living on less than a dollar a day. In Africa in the Sub Sahara region, there is the highest proportion of poor people, around 46.3%.

More than a billion are illiterate, more than a billion have no access to clean water, and around 840 million go hungry. One third of children under five years suffer from hunger.

The expense to provide the necessary services and reduce poverty is of around 80 billion dollars, and this is less than 0.5% of global revenue.

The revenue of three of the richest people in the world is more than the total amount of the Gross Domestic Product of 48 of the poorest countries.

For every dollar which the developing countries receive in aid, they are paying back 13 dollars in interest.

Previously being poor meant that you earned very little and that you could not have good food or a house. However, today to be poor means that you do not have the opportunities and the choices which enable you to live a long life, have a decent standard of living, that you are free and that you enjoy self-respect.

No one enjoys living in filth, or in *favelas*, or near rubbish dumps. People live there because they have no choice. Without money,

education, and skills we see that half world population live in poverty and have next to no opportunities to increase their standard of living.

Poverty could be a result of different factors:

- Bad health, illness and disability do not allow a person to work and earn a daily living. Health problems in the family mean that there will be problems with income for the family as well as illness leading to the whole family being ruined and poor.
- Lack of education leads to members of the family earning very little money and finding only work which pays little. Therefore these families will not be able to let their children go to school because of the expenses and because they need as many members of the family working as possible. This repeats itself through the future generations and the fact remains that we are always going to find people with a low level of education or none at all.
- Women with children are considered to be the majority of people who live in poverty. The girls are the first to be stopped from continuing their education to help with housework and childrearing of younger siblings.
- Poverty is also linked to HIV/AIDS. It is calculated that up to 2010 in Africa only there will be 40 million orphans from AIDS.
- In the Millennium Report it was stated that in the poor countries especially in those where there is ethnic and religious inequality, there is going to be trouble. In fact 20 out

of 38 of the poorest countries are in the midst of a war or have just come out of a war.

Poverty exists in many of the industrialised countries and in those still developing. This is a result of economic processes such as:

- Countries are having to pay more to reduce their debt than they spend on health and education. This happened as a result of corrupt and incapable governments so there are African countries which pay 14% of their income from their exportation for debt, Asian countries pay 22% of revenue from exportation for debt and South America pays one third of their income for debt repayments.

In 1999, the **International Monetary Fund** and the **World Bank** adopted an initiative to help the most indebted countries, this is called 'The Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative'. This plan was aimed at helping 41 of the poorest and most indebted countries and it was expected that 71% of total debt would be erased. Only a few countries qualified for this aid.

- Issues related to the market and policies had a negative effect. Many developing countries depend on exportation of unprocessed agricultural products to have Money outside the country, but many of these products lost their value. However the global price for fuel and processed products increased. Developed countries are also putting restrictions on the importation of agricultural products from these developing countries, so they are making it even more difficult for them to sell their products. These developing countries borrowed money to import products and hence the poverty cycle commenced.

Indonesia which once upon a time was self-sufficient where food is concerned, today imports 20 million tonnes of rice every year. The local currency was devalued, the price of rice was high and consequently around 100 million people fell into poverty.

- The poor have no access to agricultural land, and the land they usually live on is normally very poor, and subject to natural disasters such as water, or else there is still a feudal system. Therefore there is need for a change in laws, public investment in agriculture, technological services and price stability to help the poor combat the agricultural troubles they face.
- Lack of work opportunities. The poor leave the rural areas to look for jobs in the cities. However, in many countries we know that there is no work which pays a good wage for one to live decently. Around the world it is estimated that around 3 billion people who are capable to work, around 140 million are without work and around one third work only part-time.
- A lack in good infrastructure and a lack of access to basic services such as health and education. Many live in areas where they have no drainage systems or clean water. These also do not have the necessary information about how to look after their health.
- In every country we find prejudice which emarginates people with different religious beliefs or ethnic minority groups and this leads to exclusion.

Nowadays poverty is calculated when we take into consideration whether a person has the choices and opportunities necessary to live a decent life with the dignity due to all human life.

The Millennium Development Goals:

- Till 2015, the population living on less than a dollar a day should be halved.
- Till 2015 the population suffering hunger should be halved.
- Till 2015 the population without good food and clean water has to be halved.
- Till 2015 primary education for both boys and girls equally should be provided.
- Till 2015 the spread of HIV/AIDS and Malaria has to decrease.
- Till 2015 maternal mortality should be reduced by three quarters and infant mortality rate by two thirds.
- Till 2015 life would improve for at least 100 million people who presently live in slums.

How can these goals be met?

- Free access to the market for products from the developing countries.
- Debt cancellation.
- More generous help to countries in need.
- More effective research carried out by pharmaceutical companies to produce a vaccine against HIV.

How can we fight poverty and what can the developed countries do to alleviate this problem?

- **Economic growth:** This growth has to be equal with everyone. After the Earth Summit of 1992, the Philippines was the first country to set up a council for sustainable development in partnership with the government, civil society and private industries. These industries worked to control pollution, recycling is carried out and an agreement is reached with worker's unions.
- **Globalisation and the market:** Due to globalisation the developed countries protect their markets by setting tariffs on the products and setting quotas on the amount they can buy from these countries. These developed countries could help by removing taxes on the products bought from the developing countries, and removing the quota on these products.
- **Basic services for everyone:** Government policies should work to reduce poverty, and to increase the productive capacity of the population.
- **Equality between the sexes:** More women than men suffer from poverty.

International aims

In the world summit which tackled the issue of poverty, everyone agreed that:

- There should be access to basic services
- Productive work
- Sustainable development
- Human security
- Equality
- Discrimination should be stopped
- Participation in community living.

BASIC NEEDS

Life Expectancy

Since the 1950's life expectancy in the developing countries increased by more than 50% - this took less time than we had taken in the developed countries. Life expectancy in all the third world countries increased from 43 years in 1950 to 65 in 1993. In Malta life expectancy for women is 81 years and for men 78 years, figures which are very similar to those of the rest of the developed countries. The least change took place in Sub Saharan Africa where many still die at the age of 40 years.

Literacy

In the 1950's it was only 33% of the people from the third world countries who could read and write whilst nowadays we find around 66% literate adults. Those who live in the countryside and women are

the most illiterate. In Malta all children are obliged to attend school till sixteen years of age, and the same laws regarding education are found in all the developed countries. Education is fundamental to the development of the country, the more literate the people the more developed the country.

Infant Mortality Rate

This rate is measured on every 1000 live births and is studied by UNICEF. In 1950 the number of deaths was of 295 per 1000, this made great progress so that in 1992 it went down to 100 per 1000. In Malta the figure is that of 10 per 1000, which is very good when compared to the rest of the developed countries. Obviously the rates remain high in countries suffering from wars, lack of water, a lot of disease and poverty.

Food

In many third world countries food production improved so much that it overcame increase in population therefore in many countries the amount of food for everyone increased except in certain countries in Africa. Food by calories daily in 1961 was of 1,957 whilst in 1991 this increased to 2,480. However, we still find that 20% of world population do not eat enough whilst 2 billion people suffer from a deficiency of vitamins and minerals and therefore suffer from many diseases. In 1992 157 million or 3% of population were living in countries affected by famine.

In 1969 33% of population in Africa did not have enough food whilst in 1990 this figure increased to 37%. In other countries we saw a

change, whilst the level of hunger decreased in Asia and Latin America this increased in the United States.

Other basic needs

Other improvements include how many doctors there are per 1000 people. We find that there is a doctor per 7,000 people except in Africa where a doctor has to tend to 35,000 people.

The rate of vaccination, help at childbirth and the mother's death rate during childbirth – obviously even here we find huge differences. Another thing we saw an improvement in is access to clean water and sanitation. Up till 1991 in the developing countries around 80% had access. In rural areas there where improvements however, these areas still suffer from a serious lack of necessities with only around 55% enjoying access to clean water.

WORLD POVERTY – BASIC FACTS

Poverty is measured through income or expenses expected for someone to live at the very lowest level of life. However if we measure how much one spends or the factors previously mentioned we are going to find the same countries falling under the statistics of poverty.

These are some statements issued by the World Bank:

- From 5.6 billion living on this planet more than one billion live in a state of **absolute poverty** meaning that they earn 370 dollars a year or less. Here we are talking about one in every 5 people. The U.N. is estimating that if things remain as they are in the year 2000, 200 million people absolutely poor will be added to these figures.
- The biggest number of poor people are to be found in the developing countries however the poor are everywhere. The highest concentration was found in Africa and Asia but in recent years poverty has increase in Africa, Latin America and the industrialised countries whilst it decreased in Asia.
- Women suffer the most as a proportion because we find that 70% of all poor people are women and in the next category we find the elderly. The poorest groups in the third world countries live in homes where there is no men for many reasons for example because the men died during the war.
- In recent years poverty in developed countries increased too for example poverty in the United States affects almost 15% of population.
- Many poor people live in places where land is scarce, agricultural productivity is low and there is a lack of water, storms and floods and the environmental damage these leave are common. According to UNICEF "... poverty has become more concentrated in rural areas and in slums close to the cities, two completely different areas to one another however with

one thing in common, they both suffer from a weak natural environment”.

- The poor generally have large families, a few assets, very often they own no land, have a low level of education and are generally illiterate. Poverty is also very often related to race and cultural ethnicity and the poor very often are divided because of these cultural differences. So they stand a greater chance of being exploited and politically manipulated.

The world meeting for social development, was held in Copenhagen in March 1995. The chairman asked for a specific commitment from each nation towards the elimination of poverty. He wanted to have a specific time where this had to commence so that everyone had a good reason to be proud. However they never reached an agreement about this date which he had asked for but the agreement about the elimination of poverty was ratified.

“Almost one fourth of a million residents of New York – more than 3% of the population of the town and more than 8% of black children in the same town – sometimes lived in shelters in the last five years ... London also has around 400,000 registered homeless people. France has more than 500,000 – almost 10,000 of who live in Paris ... In Calcutta, Dhaka and Mexico City, more than 25% of people are considered as people of no fixed abode (floating population)” UNDP (1994) Human Development Report.

WHO ARE THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND THE WORLD BANK?

The **IMF** and the **World Bank** were set up by the allies after the end of the 2nd world war at Bretton Woods in America. Hence they are sometimes referred to as the institutions of Bretton Woods (BWIs).

The allies had seen the necessity for institutions which could help in the rehabilitation needed after the war, and that would promote world trade which had stopped during the war. Many countries felt that what happened during the 2nd world war had to be stopped from ever happening again. They blamed the ideas of protectionism, of a country undermining another even in trade, to falling prices for necessities, to a bankrupt stock exchange, and to the high unemployment there was, as those factors which led to the rise of fascism.

The role of the IMF was meant to be that of setting up an international financial system which would work efficiently. This was thought of to facilitate international trade. Now the IMF is made up of 179 member countries. Every member state makes an agreement that their currency can be changed into the currency of any other country without interference, that they inform the IMF of their financial laws, and that these laws are in conformity with the needs of the other member countries. Countries which have a problem with their balance of payments can borrow from the fund. In order to do this however they have to implement economic laws according to those set out by the IMF, as long as these are not harmful to the national or international wealth.

The World Bank is the institution affiliated with the IMF. Although it's primary role was to help re-build Europe after the war, its main aim became that of lending sums of money on long term to countries which were developing so they continue with their development. They pay for roads, electricity and water projects etc.

In the last few years the difference between the role of the IMF and that of the World Bank has become negligible. Together they started to loan huge sums of money to countries which were already heavily indebted to help them pay their creditors especially commercial banks. These loans were lent on condition that an implementation of programmes for structural change conforming to their standards were set in place. They forced countries to privatise in order to acquire the necessary funds to pay back the debt.

Contrary to the UN whose fundamental principle is that each country has one vote, the power of the vote in the IMF and the World Bank is according to the amount of money the country invests with them. So these two institutions are dominated by the richest and most powerful countries. The US has the biggest share of political power – the most powerful vote.

THE WORLD DIVIDED

The developing world consists of 75% of all the people in the world but enjoy only.....

- **15%** of energy consumed in the world
- **17%** of the global gross national product
- **30%** of wheat in the world
- **18%** of global economic gain incurred through exportation
- **11%** of global spending on education
- **6%** of global spending on health
- **5%** of global science and technology
- **8%** of global industry

What remains is enjoyed by the 25% of the rest of the world and the discrepancy is obvious.

For the philosopher Denis Goulet there are **3 aims** which should be met in order for development to occur:

- 1. An improvement in the standard of living** (food, health, housing or shelter and protection etc.)
- 2. How one is treated** (the promotion of respect towards everyone)
- 3. Liberty** (not only in politics, but also in social, cultural, economic and spiritual aspects)

So it appears that for Goulet we should also be concerned about **values and ethics** when talking about development.