



DVA1501 - Assignment 2024

Development Studies (University of South Africa)



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DVA1501 – SEMESTER 2

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ASSIGNMENT 2 – DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION:

I believe development has a different meaning to each and every individual and not just professionals, the fortunate and less fortunate included, as development that the wealthy could go through is different in ranking to the development the less fortunate go through as we have seen through years of history.

So, in my understanding I would define development as the changes we go through personally or as communities that shape our environment, make our lives easier while most importantly catering to our needs which we could basically refer to as economic growth, as we are all divided in ranking as countries to First world and Third world it's also another reason why our needs would differ as we know that developments started in the First world countries, while Third world countries were being exploited for their goods and minerals through colonization and to add on to that they also took our very own people to be slaves which enabled them to improve and develop their own countries for long periods of time, as the African or less developed countries stayed stagnant and less informed.

The term Development means "the steady growth of something so that it becomes more advanced and stronger" according to the Oxford learner's dictionaries, which is true as that is usually the aim when plans are made and implemented in order to grow a community and improve living conditions but not just basic living conditions, education, working conditions and of course entertainment or healthy related conditions as we have seen them improve over the years, which then correlates with the internationally accepted definition of development supplied by

the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which states “development is a multidimensional undertaking to achieve a higher quality of life for all people”.

We have measures that can be used to measure development of a place and they are classified as follows:

1. Social: which is developing people of a place.
2. Economic: which is the finances and wealth of a place
3. Environmental: relates to the quality of air, water, soil etc.
4. Political: which is the political systems implemented and freedom afforded by the place.

Social development is highly influenced by the population in a community, which is the birth rate, death rate, life expectancy etc. and so out of our world population of 7.9 billion people, 689 million live in extreme poverty and the rate increased as people were affected by Covid 19 pandemic with an additional 150 million people going into extreme poverty in 2021 meaning they are unable to fulfill their basic needs for food, water, shelter and clothing or even proper hospitalization, and so it impedes development in those areas,

Economic development is the monetary value of goods and services offered by a country which could be highly affected if people living in poor conditions don't have a high life expectancy or if their basic needs are not met, but with regards to first world countries if their basic needs are met it makes their countries grow even stronger and wealthier.

And as we refer back to history, this is where colonization played a huge role in leaving third world countries struggling to grow

while first world countries were accumulating crops, minerals, food, precious stones, many other products and slaves from third world countries to grow their economy, Africans were not even allowed to trade amongst themselves at the very least, until the transition of independence took place and Africa and Asia regained their independence and freedom through decolonisation which partly explains the Political part of development.

So environmental development that could've benefitted Asian and African countries during colonization left a huge negative impact such as resource depletion and unfair taxation, lack of industrialisation and breaking up traditional African and Asian society and values.

Although, Colonisation also brought positive impacts like advanced medicine, missionaries introduced literacy and established infrastructure to third world countries.

MODERNISATION THEORY:

Focuses less on foreign influences and casts development as a uniform evolutionary route for all societies to follow through agricultural, urban, modern, rural, traditional societies and modern forms.

DEPENDENCY THEORY

The dependency theory argues that underdevelopment in certain countries is a result of being exploited by First world countries, the wealthy or developed countries, by taking resources from the poor to the rich or already developed countries, therefore causing setbacks to the under developed countries.

DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:

developed and developing countries are terms used to differentiate between rich and poor countries.

Developed countries being first world countries which are industrialised and have matured sophisticated economies with advanced infrastructure, diverse industrial and service sectors, good education systems and good quality healthcare. Which are mostly European countries including USA Turkey and Canada.

- Some international organisations use the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) membership as the main indicator of a countries development status (Gbadamosi 2021).
- While the UNDP uses the Human Development Index as an indicator of whether a country is developed or developing.
- Countries at the top quartile of HDI are rated as developed, the rest labeled developing and the bottom quartile being the least developed countries.
- While a lot of countries are labelled or classified into developed, developing and under developing there are a few countries that still preserved their history and are living in harmony with nature using only what they need from the environment like their ancestors used to live before them, and therefore feel they do not need to embrace modern development as they also don't see themselves as less developed.

NORTH AND SOUTH COUNTRIES:

North and South Countries is another way of referring to First, Second and Third world countries divided into two,

The First World Country and Second World country being grouped as the North as they are in the Northern Hemisphere excluding Australia and New Zealand, while the Third World Countries are grouped as Southern countries as they are in the Southern Hemisphere.

- Both relating to the south and north of the equator.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion I would say life is all about development and our history gives us a story to tell as there is not much we can do about it going forward than to celebrate the changes and growth to come, it may have benefited some more than others but in the end we all reached agreement in one way or another thanks to decolonization and it makes sense for the world to be divided to Northern and Southern which is more respectful to countries that used to be classified as “developing or under developed countries” by colonisers’, as North and South are known map coordinates.

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