



DVA Assignment 4 - development studies

Development Studies (University of South Africa)



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MODULE CODE: DVA1501

ASSIGNMENT 04

DEFINITION OF BASIC NEEDS AND ITS LINK TO DEVELOPMENT

One of the major methods for calculating absolute poverty in developing nations is to define fundamental necessities. It makes an effort to determine the bare minimum resources required for long-term physical well-being, typically in terms of product consumption. The amount of income necessary to meet those needs is therefore referred to as the poverty line.

The conventional list of necessities is composed of food (including water), clothing, and shelter. Many contemporary lists underline that sanitation, education, and healthcare are also included in the minimum level of basic requirements consumption.

Any material judged essential for people or families to achieve and sustain physical well-being is included in the category of basic requirements (Collin & Campbell, 2008). The minimum requirements for commodities like food, water, and shelter for private consumption make up traditional lists of basic needs. Recent lists, however, have grown to include crucial services offered to the community as a whole (for example, healthcare, education, transportation and sanitation). These longer, more detailed lists were created to provide a more complete picture of what is necessary to progress from merely existing to flourishing. These lists include: essential furnishings, food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, personal care products, laundry services, education, sanitation, insurance, and transportation. (Sarlo 2006)

Development is linked to the need to meet fundamental physical requirements that improve quality of life (Knowles, 1993). Improvements in basic needs satisfaction increase people's strength, agility, and stamina, which can boost productivity. As a result, welfare and productivity are associated (Grossman, 1972; Leibenstein, 1957) and higher output levels usually lead to a larger pool of resources from which investments in meeting fundamental requirements can be sourced. The tendency for the relationship between health and economic progress to be simultaneous is one of the main reasons why the health and welfare of a population improve as a nation grows.

We are also left with a depressing picture for poor countries' prospects of convergence with the developed world in income per capita; we cannot expect the operation of the market alone to enable developing countries to grow their way out of poverty; their poor levels of health and education, and the debt burdens with which they are saddled will continue to hold them back compared to the already-developed nations.

HOW FAILURE TO SATISFY BASIC NEEDS AFFECTS DEVELOPMENT

Basic needs are goods and services, such as education, health and nutrition, which enhance wellbeing and are essential regardless of their effects on productivity.

- Education /literacy

It has long been known that better educated people are more flexible to technological innovations and more likely to invent;¹ typically they are more productive, earn higher wages (Strauss and Thomas, 1998), are more geographically mobile² and seem to cluster in high growth industries.³ Despite asymmetries in the relative and absolute amounts spent on education across countries, the variations in the rates of returns to education across countries may well be due to three contributory factors: quality, externalities and inequalities. It is evident that richer countries spend more and achieve higher quality inputs into the educational process (textbooks, computers, teacher quality, etc.) which may result in asymmetries on efficiencies across countries when educating students. Meanwhile the effect of educational externalities also may be substantial across countries. For instance, Weir and Knight (2000) found that more than half of the benefit of an individual's going to school for another year in Ethiopia actually accrues to people other than the person attending the school. Such externalities increase the importance of education, especially in less developed countries and particularly so if education leads to economic growth. Inequalities of educational opportunities exist within and across countries. Inequalities within developing countries create asymmetries in the ability to pay to attend fee-paying schools; but even where schooling is free in the poorest countries, child labour is often pervasive and can be a necessity for many families, constraining children's educational attainments (Amin et al., 2006). For all these reasons, a lack of availability of tertiary (which Knowles, 1997, identifies as having the greatest economic impact on output), often secondary and sometimes primary education may be the reason why economic growth is stunted in some less developed countries.

Income inequality has been linked to poverty.

- Include the possibility that wealthy persons who are members of elite groups may be able to influence political opinions in their favor. This implies that while making such decisions, low-income households are ignored.
- As a result of growing inflation and limited credit availability, early income earners may also find themselves unable to buy property, further entrenching them in a lifestyle with very low Wealth levels. Wealth inevitably increases as one's level rises. Wealthier individuals are able to make riskier investments with higher rates of return, which raises interest and income rates.
- socioeconomic position. This explains why wealth and income are allocated differently in different nations. Comparatively speaking, developing nations may be marginalized by wealthy nations who support international commerce and agreements that advance their economic progress.
- In South Africa, however, despite the introduction of social handouts that today reach 16 million impoverished South Africans, economic disparity has not changed. The fact that the number of jobs produced over the past 20 years hardly kept up with the rise in the labor force is one reason why inequality is still high. As a result, depending on whether one counts discouraged people who have given up seeking for work as unemployed, unemployment rates continue to range between 25 percent and 35 percent. Only the elderly, the disabled, and children from low-income homes are supported by our transfer system. There is no provision for the unemployed. Because of

the significant wage disparities in the workplace and the wide difference between those who are wealthy and those who are not, inequality in South Africa is extremely high.

- What are the implications of inequality in South Africa?
Poverty, lack of job creation, lack of public service delivery can all be blamed on inequality rather than policy or political failure. If inequality is the cause of all problems, then the solution to all problems must be to take from the rich and give to the poor.

CONCEPTS OF POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

- In general, absolute or extreme poverty and relative poverty are distinguished. The most severe kind of poverty, known as absolute or extreme poverty, is defined by a lack of access to basic essentials like food, shelter, clean water to drink and sanitary conditions, medical treatment, and an education. When a person's income is below a certain percentage of the average national income, they are said to be in relative poverty. The fundamental needs of a human being for survival are largely supplied in relative poverty.
- Since poor health is one of the main causes of poverty and maintaining good health is one of the ways to prevent or end poverty globally, poverty and ill health are strongly related to one another. Malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS, measles, nutritional deficiencies, mental illnesses (such as depression, schizophrenia, and anxiety disorders), and diarrheal diseases are a few of the main diseases that are linked to poverty. The majority of these illnesses are brought on by poverty, while some of them may also be a result of it because of the high costs of treatment. Malnutrition is a medical disease brought on by insufficient intake of vital nutrients needed for the body's regular operation.
- Children's lives are significantly impacted negatively by their socioeconomic position. Children's physical and mental health may suffer due to poverty, and their chance of getting hurt, going to the hospital, and dying may also rise.
- Between 1981 and 2005, the percentage of the world's population living in poverty decreased considerably, from 52% to 26%. In 2005, around 1.4 billion people worldwide lived below the international poverty line of US\$1.25 per day, according to a recent estimate by the World Bank. Asia is the continent with the second-highest level of poverty after Africa.
- One of the major initiatives taken to reduce poverty and its related problems was the signing of the United Nations Millennium Declaration in September 2000, by 189 nations across the world. The declaration includes eight goals, called the millennium development goals (MDGs), which are to be achieved by 2015. The eight goals include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving of universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating infectious diseases (such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis), ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development. The International Day for the eradication of poverty is observed yearly on October 17.
- Illiteracy: Health problems, poverty, and illiteracy have all been linked. Health is significantly impacted by illiteracy, which is one of the main causes of unemployment and poverty. Illiterates are more likely to misunderstand oral or written medical advice and have limited knowledge of their own health and well-being. The level of literacy reflects a nation's development and financial health. In comparison to

industrialized and wealthy nations, literacy rates are typically lower in developing and low-income countries. For instance, in 2007 the literacy rate for those between the ages of 15 and 24 in Sub-Saharan Africa was 72.1% and in Latin America and the Caribbean it was 97%.

- General: The effects of poverty can be felt by people, societies, and nations. Poor health, illiteracy, low productivity and economic growth, and violence are a few of the key effects of poverty. Nutritional deficiencies, infectious and chronic diseases, psychological disorders, and other ailments may be more common in the impoverished population due to inadequate sanitation, hunger, a lack of access to wholesome food and clean water, and a lack of education about hygiene and health issues.
- Nutritional deficiencies :
- General : Malnutrition is a medical condition, wherein the person does not get sufficient nutritional requirements necessary to stay healthy. An extended period of malnutrition may cause nutritional deficiency disorders, impair physical and mental development, weaken infection-fighting ability, and increase the risk of infectious diseases like tuberculosis and malaria.
- Nutritional deficiency is a condition where an individual's intake of nutrients is insufficient for normal functioning of the body. The nutritional requirement of a person varies according to age, gender, body size, physical activity, and to some extent, climate. On an average, a healthy adult requires about 2,100 kilocalories daily to lead a healthy life.

CONCLUSION

The inequality issue in South Africa cannot be solved quickly or simply. Without significant advancements in the human capital of the underprivileged, income disparity will continue to be unacceptable high. The fact that South Africa already devotes a significant portion of its resources to education in comparison to other emerging nations is emphasized frequently. Given the backlogs and stark imbalances left over from apartheid in our society, perhaps even more resources are required. However, even more resources won't be helpful unless they are wisely employed. Only with significantly more political concentration and willpower than is currently evident will this be possible.

CONCLUSION

References

1. London School of Economics and Political Science, Higher inequality in the UK linked to higher poverty, 2017, <https://www.lse.ac.uk/News/Latest-news-from-LSE/2017/11-November-2017/Higher-inequality-in-the-UK-linked-to-higher-poverty>

2. contributors to the Natural Standard Research Collaboration (www.naturalstandard.com).