



DVA1501 Exam - Summary

Development Studies (University of South Africa)



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Module code: DVA1501

Module name: Introduction to development studies

Chosen essay question: 3.

Date: 5/17/2023

Section A: Question 3

Introduction

This essay will be attempting to define the concept of “basic needs”. It will also focus on if or how basic needs are linked to development. Examples, analyses and research will be provided with the end game of achieving the above-mentioned statements. This essay will also be discussing, with explanations and statistics how the failure to make these basic needs available to people affects development. The following basic needs are highlighted: food, water, sanitation, literacy, and work and employment.

Definition of basic needs

Basic needs refer to those things that a person cannot live without. Basic needs are anything that is fundamentally connected to an individual’s physical or mental well-being. Watkins A. 2019 *What are people’s basic needs? Six things you cannot live without*. They are the minimum essentials that a person should have in order to survive and to live a satisfactory life. Population Education [Blog entry] available at: population.org. Basic needs include among others, food, water, sanitation, literacy, work, and employment.

The link between basic needs and development

The most important aspect of development is to bring about positive change, that means ensuring that economic, social, political, and cultural conditions are improved and advanced. Development is essentially about being able to provide people’s basic needs, to ensure that people’s livelihoods are made better, and that people live a dignified life. Development is brought about by people’s ability to access the minimum required resources and services that they need to make sure that they are properly nourished, they are safe and secure in their home or place of work, and they have clean and drinkable water. According to the DVA1501 study guide, proponents of the basic needs approach believe that meaningful development and the eradication of widespread poverty can be achieved through the provisions of, and access to basic resources and services.

Food

Food is a basic need that if not met could mean starvation, and malnutrition. Malnutrition then leads to diseases such as anorexia and syndromes such as Kwashiorkor, Marasmus and Anemia. Parasheathospital.com [Accessed 5/17/2023]. Without food, people are deprived of nutrients to ensure a healthy and bearable existence. Without food people will not have the energy to go out and seek employment or participate in any social activities aiding development. Without food entire generations of people can be wiped from the earth. Ndlovu S, Ndlovu M, Makhubedu K, Sentime K, Maphosa B, Mazibuko S, Du Plessis G, Zulu N. *Only guide for DVA1501- Introduction to development studies*

Water and sanitation

Water is a basic need as it is essential for several daily activities. Activities such as bathing oneself, cleaning one's house, cooking, and hydration. It is safe to say that having no water strips one of their dignity and fundamental human rights. Failing to provide communities with clean and accessible water leads to risks of outbreaks of water borne diseases and infections. Ndlovu S, Ndlovu M, Makhubedu K, Sentime K, Maphosa B, Mazibuko S, Du Plessis G, Zulu N. *Only guide for DVA1501- Introduction to development studies*

Work and employment

Work, in addition to providing a person with a sense of pride and self-satisfaction, aids in ensuring that a person's basic needs are met. This is because if an individual has work, they are able to purchase food, pay water bills and so forth. Work and employment ensures that a person feels safe and secure in their home. An employed individual is also an asset to their community. I.e., Patrice Motsepe holds yearly functions whereby people can come together as a community and celebrate. This is because Mr. Motsepe is employed and has a passion for outreach.

Literacy

A literate individual refers to a person who can read and write for meaning and understanding. Literacy is important for development as it decreases the chances of miscommunications between two people. It increases the chances of a person getting employed. It helps to be able to understand who might be interviewing you as a prospective employee. Literate people can engage in activities that lead to development more easily than those who might be illiterate as they can seize opportunities a little more swiftly.

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How the failure to satisfy the basic needs affects development

Failure to satisfy basic needs is detrimental not only to a country's development but to that of individuals. For example, without food and water, people will starve and become dehydrated. That will lead to illnesses, infections and ultimately, death. Without literacy people will be unable to communicate their needs. That will inevitably lead to disastrous consequences as they will be left without shelter, clothing and will most likely be unemployed and if they find employment, they will be exploited and will be paid less. The number of unemployed people will increase substantially and that will place a burden on the economy. As it stands according to Time-Related Underemployment in SA labour market, the unemployment rate was recorded at 32.9%. This is an increase of 0,2 of a percentage point compared to the fourth quarter of last year, 2022. According to Kingdom and Knight (2004) the impact of high levels of unemployment is devastating, resulting in poverty, social exclusion, inequality, crime, and social instability.

Conclusion

In summary, it can be said that basic needs were defined and adequately explained. The link between development and basic needs was established and substantiated. Several basic needs were named and discussed. Statistics about unemployment were shared and analyzed. So, it can be concluded that the link between basic needs and development are linked because development cannot be achieved if people have no access to everyday necessities.

Section B

- 1) According to Human rights careers, deforestation harms biomass and worsens climate change. A recent study in Nature communications used climate change models and satellite data to measure the climate impact of tropical deforestation on forests left behind. They found that after deforestation in one patch of the Amazon, the resulting climate changes led to another 5.1% loss of total biomass. Deforestation led to greater soil erosion. Soil erosion has devastating effects on the environment, including the loss of fertile land and crops. Deforestation throws off the water cycle.

Deforestation harms forest watersheds. When forests are healthy, they filter water, regulate rainfall, manage groundwater tables, and protect communities from droughts and floods. E.g., the watersheds in Sumatra, Indonesia, lost more than 22% of its forest cover from logging, agricultural expansion, and infrastructure. This led to more water pollution, landslides, fires, and floods.

- 2) Gross domestic product, according to Investopedia is the total monetary value or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific amount of time.

GDP limitations: (According to khanacademy.com) The exclusion of non-market transactions. The failure to account or represent the degree of income inequality in society. The failure to indicate whether the nation's rate of growth is sustainable or not.

Gross national product is the value of goods and services provided by a country for one year, equal to the GDP plus the net income from foreign investments (According to Oxford dictionary)

GNP limitations: GNP does not take into consideration the income earned by the foreign nationals in the country or any products produced by a foreign company in the manufacturing units of the country. It does not help in determining whether a country is growing or shrinking. (According to Byju's.com)

- 3) The covid 19 pandemic was hard on everyone. It contributed to inequality and poverty by halting all contact trade. People had to stay home and either work from home or they were unemployed. People who, for instance worked as domestic workers were out of jobs entirely as everyone feared infecting or getting infected. Some people didn't have homes to go to and shelters were either at capacity or shut down because of health violations. Countless people passed away because they couldn't access the necessary shots or medication to fight the disease. According to borgenproject.org, Covid 19 saw 120 million pushed into extreme while it was estimated that 20-30% of those who lost their jobs in the pandemic lost a major part of their income.

A study by Wits university showed that 10% of the poorest households will likely lose 45% of their income through the shutdown.

- 4) Sustainable development according to the Sustainable Development Commission is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations.

Sustainable development has 3 pillars, namely economic, social and environmental.