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Development Studies (University of South Africa)



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DEVEOPMENT STUDIES

QUESTION 3 a) Explain the classification of countries as 'developed' and 'developing'.
(25 marks) b) Discuss the Human Development Index (HDI) and under-five mortality rate (U5MR), and then, explain how these indicators are used to classify countries as 'developed' and 'developing'.

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The United Nations Development Program

(Ndlovu, Makhubedu, Sentime, Maphosa, Mazibuko, duPlessis, Zulustudyguide2018:2)

defines development as a mission we take on as a country or community to achieve better in life. It is seen as rather the best way of enhancing opportunities and improving the standard of life. It's also about giving people the liberty to be whatever, do whatever and become better in the economic system.

Until the 16th century, trade was mainly in countries like the Mediterranean, China and India. As technology started evolving The Europeans were able to now reach America. Big countries like England, France, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands started becoming wealthier because of the trade that was being done. The types of goods that were traded was sugar, tobacco, tea and opium. Unfortunately all the Americans had to offer were resources that didn't come from their land but Africa. Americans offered gold, silver, ivory and slaves. (Ndlovu et al studyguide2018:4)

The European countries performed something called imperialism. This is to take full control of trade route areas. (duPlessis2018:4). The centuries of the 16, 17 and 18 this informal political group got worse than ever and became so active that it got military forces involved to supervise these trading areas. The European countries claimed complete control of these areas. They formed legal, social, and economical structures marking full ownership. This is what you would call colonization.

One of the first countries to be colonized was Latin America and Asia. The whole aim of colonizing countries was to enable better trade. This would up their currency and make them of value.

Once these former colonizers were able to develop the way they wanted this caused great division to the entire world. This became the start of capitalism and socialism. The first group was the former colonizers which they were known as the First World and the second one which was led by the Soviet Union and its allies like Romania, Poland and Hungary.

These groups were on standby during the cold war which lasted till 1989. The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) BECAME THE MAIN INDICATOR for developing countries. (gbadamosi2021studyguide:21). This organization was formed in 1961 with the core purpose of enhancing world trade and improving the position in which the economic growth was. In this organization most European countries, USA, Canada and Turkey (WorldAtlas2021studyguide21). This organization was famously referred to as the RICH COUNTRIES CLUB because of the high statue the members carried and also having an average of \$40115 per person per year. It was divided as the developing and the developed (developingeconomic2020:12)

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) used Human Development Index (HDI) to determine whether the counties were developing pr developed. This was done by classifying weights to certain humans and the economic development in a country. Countries that were at the top quartile if HDI were seen as the developed countries whereas the ones that are at the bottom were seen as the developing countries (Gbadamosi2021:13).

The international Monetary Fund uses economic indicators to distinguish between the developing and developed countries more so the indicators such as per capita, income level, export diversification and the global financial system (World Population Review2021:14). There were other ways of comparing the level of development and one being the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This was seen as easier to measure (Todaro1994:680). GDP was calculated by the total income of the country divided by the number of populations (world Bank2009:17).

Following was the Human Deveopment Index (HDI). The HDI was developed by Amartya Sen and Muhmad ul Had in 1990. They felt as though there are three sectors in the HDI which all contribute to the development. The first was a long and healthy life. This measured life expectancy. Life expectancy is defined as the number of years a newborn is predicted to live (Word Bank2009)

The second sector being Knowledge. This was separated into two; the mean years of schooling (MYS) and the expected years of schooling (EYS). MYS guarded the adult literacy rate. MYS indicates the average number of schooling in a country's population, not including the repeated grades. The EYS took over the gross enrollment ratios in primary, secondary and tertiary education. The EYS is defined as the measure of the number of schooling years of a child at the start of their education. (UNESCO institute for statistics2013:13). Rigotti ad Sawyer 2019:1 says that Rigotti and Sawyer (2013:1), citing UNESCO (2009), describe EYS as “a measure of the number of years of schooling a child at the start of his or her education is expected to receive, if current rates of enrolment are maintained throughout the child’s life.”

Following of HDI was the decent standard of living. A country's GDP per capita was used to indicate a decent standard of living then replaced with GNI (Gross National Income) per capita (United Nations Development Program 2020:334).

Lastly is the under 5 mortality rate (U5MR). This is the death rate of children under the age of 5 years. It is determined by death and birth rate. U5MR is limited by the lack of reliability and the accuracy of death. This is more common in less developed countries. The U5MR for poor countries is calculated as 99 deaths per 1000 births from 2010 to 2015 as to 7 deaths per 1000 births to more developed countries (United Nations 2013:20).

The cause of such a high mortality rate is linked to the way in which other less developed countries are living and their standard of living. Other countries face poor access to fresh water and sanitation, not being well nourished, lacking education and not having full access to food. The U5MR is a sensitive indicator towards the countries especially when it comes to the healthcare services. It is possible to (break down statistically) the U5MR into different subgroups, for example, gender, race, ethnicity, or region to see which subsections are in the greatest need of assistance to improve the survival potential of children (Ndlovu et al study guide University of South Africa, Muckleneuk, Pretoria DVA1501/1/2018:21)

In conclusion the topic of development does not only affect economic development but is also tied to human development. The indicator we use only shows a small fraction of

how countries are struggling. There needs to be more development in all countries so that the U5MR decreases.

Referencing

United Nations Development Program

Studyguide2018:4

World Atlas2021

World Population Review2021

World Bank 2009

UNESCO institute for statistics2013

UNDP2020:334

Section B

1. What is your understanding of the concept of development? (12.5 marks)

Development means the steady growth of something so that it becomes advanced.

(oxfordlearnersdictionaries) The UNDP (2021b) however also defines it as the different ways in which the government actively tries to achieve improved way of living that will be effective for everyone. Economic development goes hand in hand with human development because it is the only way in which the world is able to advance. (Ndlovu et al University of South Africa Muckleneuk Pretoria DVA15012018:2)

Development focuses on understanding everyone and their way of life from urban and rural. It is having to understand people in rural areas are less developed than urban areas. Development is also about revealing how developing countries improve their standard of living and eliminate poverty in the less developed areas and countries.

Development is the process in which people improve their way of life which could be by looking for employment opportunities or starting up their own businesses (Kingsbury et al 2004:12).

2. Which approach/es to environmentalism and sustainability do you support and why? (12.5 marks)

Eli (2015) problematises the dominant definition of sustainability on the basis that it “emphasizes cross-generational equity, which is important, but poses difficulties, since future generations’ needs are not easy to define or determine”. The following alternative definition of sustainability is proposed: “A dynamic equilibrium in the process of interaction between a population and the carrying capacity of its environment such that

the population develops to express its full potential without producing irreversible, adverse effects on the carrying capacity of the environment upon which it depends” (Eli 2015:3)

With this being said I side with the sustainability approach ecocentric approach to sustainable development is in Favour of preserving the society and the nature relationship. The main aim being the protection of the environment. Without the proper environment we as people are unable to live and have because we will not be able to do something like farming and have cattle. For ecocentrics, the goal is to be in sync with ecosystems and social systems. This approach is contrasted with the technocratic and anthropocentric approaches “in which human ingenuity and the spirit of competition dictate the terms of morality and conduct” (O’Riordan 1989:82).

3. Discuss how the World Trade Organization (WTO) helps trade flow smoothly, freely, and fairly. Then, explain the criticisms levelled at the WTO. (12.5 marks)

One of the aims of the Bretton Woods Conference was to establish an international trade organization to facilitate an effective trading system where the rules can be negotiated for trade to be as fair as possible. The 1986 to 1994 negotiations led to the creation of the World Trade Organization in 1995. The WTO’s main goal was “help trade flow smoothly, freely, fairly and predictably” (World Trade Organization 2021)

This is done by administering trade agreements so it helps everyone, standing in forum for trade negotiations to be done effectively , settling all trade disputes so that there is no issues , having to review the national trade policies so that all is done in fairness , to assist the developing countries in trade policy issues through technical assistance

and have training programs , they would cooperate with other international organizations to have a full effect. The WTO has 160 members and regulates 95% of the world's trade, this just comes to show how it is an organization.

The criticism was Free trade benefits the developed countries more than developing countries. They were not able to diversify the economy and see who needs trading more and give less to the developed and more to the developing as they are a work in progress. It is known as the infant industry argument. Many developed economies used a degree of tariff protection in their development phase.

2. They felt as though there was favoritism. This i came of as discrimination which is in the rules of WTO the countries should trade without discrimination. Local firms were not allowed to favor local contractors because this gives an unfair advantage to multinational companies and can have a negative effect for the local firms and the right of developing economies.

They failed to reduce tariffs on agriculture. Free trade is not equal across different industries. Both the US and EU retain high tariffs on agriculture and in return this hurts farmers in developing economies who face tariff protection.

The issue of diversification. Developing countries who focus on primary products (e.g. agricultural products) need to diversify into other sectors. For this to happen diversify they may need some tariff protection. Many of the existing industrialized nations used tariff protection when they were developing. Therefore, the WTO has been criticized for being unfair and ignoring the needs of developing countries.

4. How is the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine impacting on the availability and access to basic needs of those residing in the affected areas? (12.5 marks)

The people in these counties are suffering in an extreme way because they do not have the basics, which is food, water and sanitation, shelter. The bombing of these countries is also affecting their development, causing them to not survive. This is also affecting the environment because it means they live in unfriendly areas. It opens them up to diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis AIDS and illnesses. This also increases the death rate for adults and kids. This lowers the currency, making it not valuable. The survivors in these countries are struggling with food and water and in return must run to other countries. This has caused illiteracy to children because they are unable to finish the school year.