DS112 SEMINAR QUESTIONS

MODULE 1: THEORIES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is development theory and why is the grasp of development theories important for managing development.

- Development theory is the negotiation that constitutes improvement and what is appropriate according to class, culture, historical context and relations of power. Each theory has a historical, institutional and structural context to seeking to understand a context-specific problem and how to solve them, some of which include:

- Theories provide concepts and beliefs to understand and interpret the world's division of people according to their class. Enables us to understand class struggles and how to make the transition of a class from the poorer stage to a better one, without exploiting them.
- Realise the importance to increase the wages and salaries of workers, which will in turn positively affect demand in internal markets;

- To allow the entrance of external capital following priorities already established in national plans for development;

- To develop a more effective coverage of social services from the government, especially to impoverished sectors in order to create conditions for those sectors to become more competitive;
- To create a platform of investments, giving a preferential role to national capitals

2. Why do the dependency theories stress the importance of analysing the international political and economic system in order to understand the state of development in the global South?

The school assumes that development in the society can be understood in connection with the world political economic system

The economic and political interests of industrialized countries determine development of the periphery countries. The intervention of European powers in African social, economic and political processes throughout the 19th C created a situation of dependency and led to the impoverishment of African people.

Developed economies have certain characteristics which contrast with underdeveloped ones. The developed countries are all industrialized. That is to say, the greater part of their working population is engaged in industry rather than agriculture, and most of their wealth comes out of mines, factories, etc. They have a high output of labour per man in industry because of their advanced technology and skills. This is well known, but it is also striking that the developed countries have a much more advanced agriculture than the rest of the world. Their agriculture has already become an industry, and the agricultural part of the economy produces more although it is small. The countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America are called agricultural countries because they rely on agriculture and have little or no industry: but their agriculture is unscientific and the yields are far less than those of the developed countries.

3. The Neo-Marxist theories of development and underdevelopment are very strong in diagnosing the relationship between advanced capitalist countries and underdeveloped countries but fall short in their prescription of the way ahead. Discuss.

For economic development it is not enough to produce more goods and services. The country has to produce more of those goods and services which in turn will give rise spontaneously to future growth in the economy. For example, the food-producing sector must be flourishing so that workers would be healthy, and agriculture on the whole must be efficient so that the profits (or savings) from agriculture would stimulate industry. Heavy industry, such as the steel industry and the production of electrical power, must be present so that one is capable of making machinery for other types of industry and for agriculture. Lack of heavy industry, inadequate production of food, unscientific agriculture – those, are all characteristics of the underdeveloped economies.

It is typical of underdeveloped economies that they do not (or are not allowed to concentrate on those sectors of the economy which in turn will generate growth and raise production to a new level altogether, and there are very few ties between one sector and another so that (say) agriculture and industry could react beneficially on each other.

Furthermore, whatever savings are made within the economy are mainly sent abroad or are frittered away in consumption rather than being redirected to productive purposes. Much of the national income which remains within the country goes to pay individuals who are not directly involved in producing wealth but only in rendering auxiliary services-civil servants, merchants, soldiers, entertainers, etc. What aggravates the situation is that more people are employed in those jobs than are really necessary to give efficient service; and to crown it all these people do not reinvest in agriculture or industry.

They squander the wealth created by the peasants and workers by purchasing cars, whisky and perfume.