

## Underdevelopment

• Definition: In economics, underdevelopment is when resources are not used to their full socio-economic potential, with the result that local regional development is slower in most cases than it should be. Furthermore, it results more from the complex interplay of internal and external factors that allow that less developed countries only a lopsided development progression.

Underdeveloped nations are characterized by a wide disparity between their rich and poor populations, and an unhealthy balance of trade. Symptoms of underdevelopment include lack of access to job opportunities, health care, drinkable water, food, education and housing.

According to Prof. Ragnar Nurkse,

'underdeveloped' countries are those which, compared with the advanced countries, are under-equipped with capital in relation to their population and natural resources.

But this too is not a wholly satisfactory definition. AS NURKSE himself points out, 'Economic development has much to do with human endowments, social attitudes, political condition and historical accidents. Capital is necessary but not a sufficient condition of progress.'

According to United Nations: An underdevelopment country is one which has a real per capita income that is lower in relation to the real per capita income of the USA, Canada, Australia and Western Europe. Emphasis here is on the low income level relative to the advanced countries and lack of any perceptible success in the making substantial improvements in quality of life of the masses. In simple words, underdeveloped country is just another name by which a poor backward country is known.

\* Top 10 underdeveloped countries in