

DEVELOPMENT AS AN ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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ABSTRACT

Development in international relations became popular in the 1950s. The study of development has long remained one of the 'bastions of modernism in the social sciences' and many of the practices of development agencies, the World Bank, and others are still conducted within the theoretical framework set up after the end of the Second World War. Development diplomacy is the highest priority of international relations. This is mostly performed through multilateral activities on a global and regional level. The concept of development in international relations denoted the idea that societies and countries have differing levels of economic or human development. The concept of sustainable development has a great significance in this respect. In the contemporary period, cordial relations and mutual understanding among states have greater significance for the progressive development of each nation. This paper will put light on the evolution of the concept of "Development" as a world affairs incident.

Keywords: modernism, World Bank, Second World War, diplomacy, human development, sustainable development, cordial relations, mutual understanding

Introduction

Development is a dimensional concept. It is regarded as a condition, goal, aspiration as well as process and strategies. Development is a state of affairs which is a self-sustaining process of the state. Development as a much dimensional concept means eradication of poverty, inequality, and promotion of economic, social and political goals. Initially development was perceived from economic perspective. After 1960s, Dierks Seers added importance to the social objective of development like health and education. This is called basic need approach used in Indian perspective. Indira Gandhi introduced several poverty eradication schemes. Another dimension was added to the concept of development which is gender dimension. It is thus very important to analyze that how development has impacted women. Women are being marginalized by the context of development. Development is measured in terms of Human Development Index from 1960. After 1980, a new aspect is taken into consideration i.e. sustainable development. Development should always be environmentally friendly. Industrialization brings degradation of

environment. Therefore, a new definition of sustainable development is offered by Brandt Land Commission which states that sustainable development is such a kind of development that balance the needs of the present and future generations. Therefore, it is very much necessary to put some limits on growth. Development creates enormous pressure on the resources. Development is diversified from economy to social which includes healthcare, gender, education and finally the third level of sustainable development which puts a question that if we go on extracting the resources ultimately it will lead to an extinction of human beings and thus an end to the entire process of growth and development. Thus, distribution is also an important factor. Equity of growth became relevant after 1980. Development as an international became very much relevant. During the Cold War, the world was mainly divided into two camps, United Soviet and Soviet Union. These were the developed countries. At that time, Asia, Africa, Latin America. were all colonies. Europe and US remain outside the pail of these colonized countries. These countries were called backward countries during 1940s. From 1960 s, the process of decolonization took place which gave birth to independent nation state which is also termed least developed countries. After 1970s, LDCs countries were termed as development countries based on their growth in per capita income. It is when the North- South dialogue was finalized. Then in 1990, there were two angles of development i.e. Global South- Third world. This is the degrading connotation of the term development. The term development developed when the process of decolonization started. Developmental state is not a state where democracy is prioritized. But democracy and development coexist. A developmental strategy is an economic conception that defines the priority goals, coherently explains how set of goals can be reached. It is thus a kind of vision with normative goals. There are many strategic developmental recommendations like Washington Consensus which evolved after 1989 meaning liberalization and market fundamentalism followed by necessity of good institutions which denote good governance. The plea for financial globalization added importance to comprehensive liberalization agenda concentrating on free trade, free capital flow, the privatization of state-owned enterprises. Lastly, the Millennium Development Goals were a only compliment to the continuing neo-liberalism.

The process of development is a prolonged process. Development comes through practicing of democracy, universal suffrage. After WWII it is evident that some of the elites of the developed countries are controlled by external powers and domestic authority are powerless. The Bretton Woods Mechanism further pursued developmental activities which include providing loans to developing countries. After the 1971, the concept of third world became very popular. The third world countries had mainly agriculturally based economy. Thus, the developed countries create a trade dilemma which led to the development of New International Economic Order (NIEO) It is a mechanism for raising the voice of the third world interests for greater market access for the manufacture of the third world. They demanded the trade gap to be minimized and also demanded for additional assistance. NIEO also proposed that the existing flaws of international

trading system should be corrected. This led to a phase of phase of new development initiative and rise of OPEC in the 1970s comprising of oil and petroleum producing countries. But the subsequent war led OPEC to raise the price of oil which led to a shock to the process of development of the developing and Third World countries since their banking system were not developed. US was also not interested in economic progress of the developing countries. There created a debt crisis which sank the Third world economies. After the collapse of SU, the process of liberalization started which led to state intervention with certain political objectives. The interests of the Third world countries were marginalized. Public Private Partnership are coming. Major NGOs also started coming to forefront to deal with the debt crisis of the Third world economy. The subsequent Asian economic crisis in 1995 along with creation of ASEAN in 1997 and bigger economic crisis in 2008 paved the path for the development of G-20 which was the voice of the global south. The latter part of the developmental model focused mainly on environmental hazards and both the developed and developing nations are converging on one issue i.e. environment. We cannot stop environmental degradation merely by stopping enormous growth. We have entered into a new era of economic growth. This emphasis is on quality of life rather simple stress on consumption and production. Development is always perceived within capitalist framework. But after 1990s, this capitalist framework, has been rejected to pursue small scale development. In this regard, Gandhi's participatory development became very important. Here Gandhi suggested Gram Swaraj which is a bottom-line approach and a small unit's orientation towards centralization. India's developmental model is an example to the world. India moved from capitalism to liberal framework of economy. Both Gandhi and Vivekananda followed on village-oriented development. According to many scholars, poverty is responsible for environmental degradation. But it is necessary to balance between the needs of the present to the future generations. Survival as well as growth is very much important and it must go collaterally. After the post Cold War period, there had been a noticeable modification in the neo-liberal development paradigm. The Rio- Conference in 1992 established sustainable development as the new approach to the development which regarded development that meets the needs of the present generation without jeopardizing the resources available to the future generations. Thus, new focus was also given to governance issues. Thus, the importance of democracy and democratization have come to occupy center stage. The post cold war period saw the transition from model of economic development to integration of sustainable development.

The era of globalization has also made the task of protecting and preserving environmental issues. Thus, it is very much important to spread consciousness to deal with the environmental issues. It is a process of collective will. Several NGOs has been evolved dealing with the issue of development by arranging awareness programs of issues ranging from human rights, environmental protection rights which make the role of the NGO' legitimate within a particular

territory or abroad. Thus, development as a term both has positive and negative implications. The important is the way you achieve it without affecting other variables.

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