

Dimensions of Development

Development is always multi dimensional. Four important dimensions of development can be introduced here. They are: economic dimension, human dimension, sustainable dimension and the territorial dimension.

Economic development: Economic development is traditionally seen as the initial form of development. It has been strictly associated with the concept of economic growth determined through an increase in the per capita income. It proposes economic transformations to initiate growth and does not speak much about social transformation. However, soon it was realised that economic development cannot ensure true development as the benefits are cornered by a few.

Human development: Human dimension of development presupposes that development should be measured in terms of the richness of human life. The concept was insisted upon by a Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq and Indian economist Amartya Sen in 1990 and was published by the United Nations Development Programme. To quote Haq income or growth figures cannot be the sole determinant of development. Development needs to ensure greater access to knowledge, better nutrition and health services, more secure livelihoods, security against crime and physical violence, satisfying leisure hours, political and cultural freedoms and sense of participation in community activities to people of a society. The objective of human development lies in creating an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. Today human development approach has profoundly affected an entire generation of policy-makers and development specialists around the world.

Sustainable development: The concept of “sustainable development was first introduced by Brundtland (1987), who defined development as “sustainable” if it “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. *It contains within it two key concepts:*

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The concept of needs in particular, the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and</i>

- *The idea of **limitations** imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.*

Sustainable development implies minimising the use of exhaustible resources to create a constant flow of it across generations, and making an appropriate use of renewable resources. This applies to energy, fish stock, wildlife, forests, water, land and air. The concept of sustainability has also been extended beyond environmental concerns, to include social sustainability, i.e. long term acceptance and ownership of development changes by the citizens, their organisations and associations (civil society), and financial and economic sustainability.

Thus, sustainable development recognizes that growth must be both inclusive and environmentally sound to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity for today’s population and to continue to meet the needs of future generations. It is efficient with resources and carefully planned to deliver both immediate and long-term benefits for people, planet, and prosperity. The three pillars of sustainable development are economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion.

Territorial development: This dimension of development refers to a territorial system. It is intended to establish interrelationships between rural and urban areas connecting them by information systems and transport infrastructures. Territorial development implies focusing on the assets of the territory, its potential and constraints (FAO, 2005). Policies to exploit and enhance this potential play an important role in the development process.