

Development: Meaning and Concept

Development: Meaning

“In a very general way, we can say Development means the securing of social and economic growth by changing the conditions of under-development through organised and planned efforts aimed at the control of poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, and economic and industrial under-development.”

According to Weidner, “Development is a process directed towards socioeconomic development and nation-building.”

Colin and Grieger write, “Development means change coupled with growth.”

Development: Meaning

- These definitions not universally accepted.
- Several streams of thought i.e. the capitalists, the socialists, the dependency theorists, the neo-socialists, neo-capitalists, the liberalists define development in several different ways.
- In fact, development is a very complex process having several dimensions which are related and interdependent and yet different.
- Because of it, there are different models of development.

Six Models of Development

- We will study six models of Development-
 - (1) Western Liberal Model of Development
 - (2) Welfare Model of Development
 - (3) Socialist/Marxist Model of Development
 - (4) Democratic-Socialist Model of Development
 - (5) Gandhian Model of Development
 - (6) Sustainable Development Model

Western Liberal Model of Development

- According to it, all societies undergo changes from traditional, transitional and modern stages of development
- It regards political development as the condition for economic development.
- It supports the autonomy, rights and self-interest of the individual as the basis of all development

Western Liberal Model of Development

- This model can be described as the market model of development and for it opening up of the economies is must.
- **Critics-** This model does not really suit the developing countries as they feel it as a source of neo-colonial control of the rich and developed countries over the economies and policies of developing third World countries.
- The socialist critics, criticise this model because it leads to economic inequalities and concentration of wealth in the hands of the rich class of capitalists. It gives rise to a monopoly of the rich and an exploitation of the poor.

Welfare Model of Development

- Role of state in the economic sphere for promoting the socio-economic welfare and common interests of the society
- The state acts a welfare state on the basis of planned and organised efforts for rapid industrialization, economic growth and socio-economic development
- Various types of social services like education, health, employment, social security and public distribution system are provided by the State

Welfare Model of Development

- The state takes special steps for protecting the interests of the weaker sections of society.
- Critique:- All developing countries accepted the welfare state model but with some changes of their individual likings and needs. However, the welfare model did not succeed in securing the desired development.
- The machinery of state, particularly the bureaucracy proved to be inefficient and corrupt. Welfare goals were secured partially and that too with undesirable delays. The welfare model also made the people dependent upon the state and they largely failed to develop.

Socialist/Marxist Model of Development

- It is a general model with different views about development goals and means
- Some socialists accept democratic means for securing socialist goals of development others advocate revolutionary means and a centralized system of economic and political development.
- It rejects the capitalist-liberal model of development however in recent years countries have adopted liberal features of market economy

Socialist/Marxist Model of Development

- Emphasis upon the social and economic rights, particularly the right to equality and social justice
- socialization of means of production and distribution for rapid socio-economic development.
- Industrialization pursued by ensuring the protection of the interests of the workers and common people
- Control of the communist state over the process of industrialization

Socialist/Marxist Model of Development

- Critique:-
- Little emphasis was however placed on the civil and political rights of the people
- It was found to be weak and unproductive after 1991 Collapse of Soviet Russia.
- Socialist states decided to liberalization, privatization, democratization and competitiveness as the means for growth, stability and development.

Democratic-Socialist Model of Development

- It advocates development through the securing of socialist goals by using democratic means.
- India and several other Third World countries decided to adopt this model.
- Organised planning and democratic process of politics were adopted by them.
- Critique:- The actual operation of this model of development also proved to be inadequate for securing the goal of rapid socio-economic-political development.

Democratic-Socialist Model of Development

- Bureaucratic inefficiency, corruption, faulty planning priorities and slow growth led to an inadequate success in all areas of development.
- In the last decade of 20th centuries, these states also decided to go in for liberalisation, privatisation, competition, market economy and globalisation.

Gandhian Model of Development

- It is totally different from Western materialistic model of development.
- It gives place of primacy to moral development and ethical view of socio-economic-political development.
- Truth and non-violence are advocated as the basis of all human activities and decisions.
- It stands for complete decentralization of functions and powers with each village acting as a self-regulating and self-sufficient unit of development.
- Development must ensure food, clothing, shelter, education and employment for all.

Gandhian Model of Development

- It has strong reservation about mechanization and industrialisation. Machines deprive human beings of employment and industrialization generates consumerism and profiteering.
- Emphasis upon cottage industries, handicrafts, agriculture and labour.
- All development must ensure environmental health and happiness.
- Critique:- it is an idealist model which cannot be really used. However, the supporters of the presently popular model of sustainable development appreciate the value of Gandhian Model of Development.

Sustainable Development Model

- Sustainable Development is the approach to development which seeks to generate present growth without in any way of disturbing and limiting the quality of life for future generations.
- It to secure social economic and environmental development.
- It includes the concept of sustainable population levels, poverty alleviation, socioeconomic justice, social development, economic development,
- It also means environmental protection, prevention, control and abatement of pollution, securing of balanced ecosystems and biodiversity, conservation and systematic use of natural resources, development and use of eco-friendly technologies.
- All these dimensions of Sustainable Development are emphasized by a large majority of the contemporary supporters of the model.

THANK YOU