

Social Development : Scope and Concept

Titaya Suvanajata

The article relates the concept of progress with Western concept emerged from the Theory of Evolution. Then, ten different approaches to the development were presented. It is, also, indicate that all approaches were over loading with Western model and values. The "Development" is defined as a process of mobilization of resources in order to achieve a selected goal by which the change or restoration will be a corresponding means with the controlled rate of accomplishment. Subscribed to the concept of interdependence and interpenetration as well as reification process, the article shows the proximity of development issue may produce an entirely different consequences as expected in the development program. The opportunity and the ability to materialize available opportunity are the dependent variables of the social structure and process. Thus, the social structure and process of organizations at various levels should be examined. By doing so, the social development's goal will be emerged,

Development and Choice of Society

Sawaeng Rathanamongkolmas

We have to accept that the development plans of underdeveloped and developing countries are not successful. It is not because of the techniques or the implementation of the plans but because of the approaches of development. The article points out and analyzes the differences between the two important approaches of development: capitalism and socialism. The differences are mentioned in three aspects: underdevelopment situations, development strategies and development means. The article also shows an existing trend in using some concepts of capitalism and socialism together in development plans of many countries.

The Psychological Impact of Development

Suntaree Komin

"Development," now an overused and thus meaningless concept, has been virtually referred to a process in economic development, almost totally irrespective

of the cultural, psychological and political aspects of the society being developed. The concept has later increasingly come to include topics of social concerns, such as population controls, public health, education for the masses, planned urbanization, welfare policies, etc. However, even this expansion is still not satisfactory for development practitioners as well as academicians, among them many social scientists. The reason be that "development" requires a change or adjustment in many' accustomed cultural patterns and the entire structure of the traditionally accepted and internalized values of most individuals in the culture concerned. This has led to some rethinking of the impact of development upon personal satisfaction (happiness) or the psychological well-being of members of the society being developed. Development, disregard of non-economic factors, has proved to be inadequate and unsatisfactory. Moreover, one kind of development effect does not automatically follow another, for instance, higher per capita income, desirable as it may be, does not automatically lead to greater social, political and psychological well-being. Furthermore, many developmental effects (as indicated by industrialized societies) have been at odds with or even detrimental for personal psychological and cultural improvements.

Man, with his accumulated patterns of values and cognitive personality make-up, through socialization over years, functions as "actor of change" which prompts him to reject, accept, modify, or accommodate change at will. On the other hand, man is subject to environmental manoeuvrings. He is thus also "victim of change." The rich nations themselves, successful in chasing a main cause of economic technological development, have been suffering from the unforeseen consequences of development--the whole host of urban problems, mostly social and psychological in nature. Among them are, loss of human identity in the computerized society, loneliness and alienation, violence in slums, drug addictions, vandalism, pollution, mental illness, etc. Despite the painful and costly experiences, they are still envied by imitator societies for their technological and material wealth. The unilateral imposition or imitation of model of another society poses another layer of problems, because Western development model incorporates the existence of Western political, social, and cultural frameworks which are conducive to their economic growth. Imposition of model of different social cultural framework can be more fruitless and even more hazardous. Should development then be viewed as a process of catching up or largely as a qualitatively different process of change in each society concerned? **Some** learning from the Western experiences is certainly possible and necessary, while the knowledge of the social prerequisite of economic growth of the specific society would likely result in different outcome patterns.

Development in the sense of modernization actually represents a broad process of socio-cultural transformation, of which economics offers only one aspect, although certainly an important one. Such processes would invariably show certain elements derived from several socio-economic systems in varying proportions, along with some elements that are characteristic only of the area or culture in question,

totally relevant to the felt needs and aspirations or values of the populace. Thus, each nation modernizes in its own way, although various patterns of transforming the institutions and attitudes from the past will resemble in many cases. Via such rationale, man will then be not just the instrument or resource of developmental purposes, but also the beneficiary and the goal of development.

Demographic Aspect of Societal Development : Theories and Measurement

Peerasit Kamnuansilpa

This article tries to reflect the importance of linking demographic variables to the study of social development. The paper is divided into two parts, the first of which concentrates on the status and development of economic and social development theories while the second presents a model to gauge the extent to which the society has been developed.

With regard to the first part, the theoretical weakness of relating natural increase rate to economic and social development has been discussed and demonstrated by empirical data. The article suggests that birth and death rate be used directly to ascertain the relationship between demographic variables and economic and social development. In addition, it discusses how birth and death rates affect population structure and dependency ratio, both of which ultimately affect the level of societal development.

Based on the human needs approach, the second part of the paper constructs a statistical model for quality of life, an area that has received considerable attention by social scientists during the past decade. The emphasis in this part is on the interrelationships between variables giving rise to the structure of the model. The "quality of life" model developed here is only one of the several possible models. The theoretical merits and application of the model are yet to be tested.

Culture and Social Development

Snit Smuckarn

In general, social development means changes in social relation which have impacts on people in a society. People in a society have the same basic personalities or national characters which are important cultural characteristics. These personalities or characters can be seen from cultural value, religion and belief, and child rearing and training. The objective of the article is to point out that cultural value, religion and belief, and child rearing and training have close relationships with social development. This understanding will help in setting social development

plans. In addition, the article gives some examples to support the facts that culture influences people more than natural environments and that the possibility of cultural change is very important in social development.

Social Policy : A Preliminary Consideration

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The purpose of this article is to bring into light the major components and direction of attention, whereupon the study of social policy in Thailand can be fruitfully followed. The components mentioned are (1) the meaning of social policy, (2) the scope of social policy, (3) the approaches to the study of social policy, (4) factors relating to the formulation and the execution of social policy, (5) the process of formulating social policy, and (6) remarks on some aspects of social policy.

It has not been very clear in the first instance as to the exact meaning of social policy, since it normally relies on each particular country to define it in line with own political philosophy. However, two distinct groups of idea can be identified : one takes the systematic view of how social policy can function to maintain the societal equilibrium, the other looks at it within a framework for action, or what any nation has actually pursued.

In defining the scope of social policy, the article also attempts to clarify the interrelationship among "social policy", "economic policy" and "public policy".

The major approaches of study as classified by Julia R. Parker into the historical and the non-historical are explained. The first takes into consideration the circumstances, interests and values influencing the development of welfare legislation, while the second eschews the historical perspective and concentrates on the objectives, structure, responsibilities and administrative procedures of the various organizations concerned with welfare. Another way of classifying the approaches of study is to put them into four groups : the descriptive, the environmental, the legal and the incrementalism. These approaches are also described in the article.

The major factors relating to the formulation and execution of social policy are (1) the government which puts resources for the well-being of the people, (2) the people who determine needs and receive the social service rendered by the government, (3) the relation between them, and (4) the values which are classified into : value in self and group, value in organization, value in policy statement, and value in ideology.

The discussion of the process of determining social policy consists of the underlying principle and the analytical process.

The article lastly puts up some remarks on two aspects of social policy consideration, i.e. the ideology which influences the policy formation, and the relationship between policy makers and policy analysts; both are deemed as essential elements in making decisions on social policy of any country.