

## Details of Module and its Structure

Module Detail	
Subject Name	Sociology
Paper Name	Development, Globalisation and Society
Module Name/Title	From progress to Development to Globalisation
Pre-requisites	Basic understanding of the terms change, growth progress and development.
Objectives	To understand the meaning of the terms Progress, Development and Globalisation. To examine the transition from progress to development and globalisation To understand the changing meanings of the concept of development To study the process of globalisation and its implications
Keywords	Social Change, economic growth, capitalism, Development, Globalisation

### Structure of Module / Syllabus of a module (Define Topic / Sub-topic of module)

From Progress to Development to Globalisation	
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**Course: Development, Globalisation and Society**

**Unit: Linking Development and Globalisation**

**Module Title: From Progress to Development to Globalisation**

**Introduction**

The terms progress and development are generally used inter-changeably and denote the different modes of social change. These terms are generally used to indicate the process of advancement of individual(s), groups or actions. In this process of advancement, the world witnessed an increase in exchange in socio-economic and political aspects among various countries. This process of increased interdependence among the countries and the citizens around the globe is referred to as Globalisation.

The scholars and academicians have explained and examined the process of social change since times immemorial. The discipline of Sociology since its inception has closely examined and interpreted the process of social change. In the past the terms social change, social evolution, progress, and development were combined into a single concept. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Auguste Comte in his law of three stages delineates that the society develops through three mentally conceived stages – The theological stage, the Metaphysical stage and the positive stage. Herbert Spencer in his book *Principles of Sociology* talked about the progressive development of societies. He was an exponent of evolution and extended this concept to the realms of sociology. In his theory of social evolution he states that the society develops from simple, undifferentiated and homogeneous entity to a complex, differentiated and heterogeneous entity. Later on Sociologists preferred the use of term development over social evolution while explaining the process of change in society. L. T. Hobhouse believed that the social change is based on cooperation and regarded that the development of human rationality laid the foundation for the human society. In his book *Social Development: Its nature and condition* he proposes that increase in scale, efficiency, mutuality and freedom are the essential criteria for development.

Later the concept of development has often been used in a positive sense to indicate a general process of advancement. At the beginning of the twentieth century it was understood as economic growth and modernisation (i.e. that was no more traditional). The journey of human society has been ceaseless as it has progressed and developed through several stages, from simple to complex, from savagery to capitalistic to postmodern society.

In social science literature, these advancements have been viewed from diverse perspectives or orientations and have been diversely understood in philosophical, political, economic and social terms. This process has acquired greater intensity and has accelerated rapidly over the last few decades. It has led to an unprecedented increase in the inter-connectivity across the continents and led to the compression of the world and the intensification of the consciousness of the world as a whole as expressed by Robert Robertson. Let us try to understand the meaning of the terms Progress, Development and Globalisation.

## **Progress**

The idea of progress in general terms, involves the advances in science, technology and social organisation that results in the improvement of human conditions. Progress, therefore, is the forward march or advancement towards a desirable end. The nature and type of progress depends upon the ends or objectives to be achieved. For instance, progress in the field of academics, in sports, good governance, acquiring health or in our march towards a place, etc.

The pioneers of the discipline such as Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer etc., assert that the evolution of the society should be taken as the progress of the same. According to Comte Sociology is the science of order and progress, and can be further divided into social statics and social dynamics, the former falling in the domain of order and the latter into the domain of progress or change. He was in fact inferring that progress was possible through order. Spencer regards social evolution to be synonymous with progress. He believed in progress and asserted that evolution is an irreversible historical development. Spencer in his theory of social evolution and progress argued that the ever increasing population pressure is one of the key factors in progress. He offered an analogy between society and organism and between social and economic growth and contended that as the increase in the size results in the increase in the structural complexity. Emile Durkheim talked about social solidarity and stated that society progressed from mechanical solidarity (Pre-industrial society) to organic solidarity (Industrial society).

Morris Ginsberg describes progress as a development in a specified direction that satisfies rational criteria of value in his work *Evolution and Progress*. According to P. Gisbert the notion of progress involves two factors, firstly the nature of the end and secondly, the

distance to be travelled to reach that end. The end here implies that the institutions that are engaged in the attainment of common good that individual can pursue and enjoy with judgement and freedom along with the moral and spiritual element without which sustained happiness is not possible.

The modern thinkers disagree with their predecessors as Hobhouse observes that social evolution does not necessarily mean that the society is changing into a better form, hence it cannot be concluded that the process of social evolution necessarily implies that society is progressing. Others feel that no scientific observation and conclusion should be based on ethical values. MacIver states that evolution is a scientific concept whereas progress is an ethical one (*Society: an Introductory Analysis*). The human moral values and the standard of judgments are as diverse as human societies. All these diversities do affect the process of attainment of different indicators of progress.

The mixing up of the normative and empirical aspects in measuring progress has led to confusion and modern era thinkers started looking for a more neutral and objective term. The terms economic growth, development, modernisation, industrialisation, globalisation etc. were being used by the academicians to highlight the process of social change. Let us now try to understand the term development and its variants.

## **Development**

Development is a multi-dimensional process involving the restructuring of the entire socio-economic system. There is no definite definition of development as it is understood to be an upward directional movement of society from lesser to greater levels of efficiency, productivity, complexity, and accomplishment. It has been at times equated with economic growth, industrialisation, capitalism and individual, regional and national self-reliance.

This process has been taking place in societies since time immemorial, but it has accelerated during the recent past. The term development has a number of connotations such as economic growth, modernisation, sustainable development, ethno-development, social development, human development, development as freedom etc. Let us now understand the changing connotations of development.

## **Economic Growth**

In economic terms, growth refers to an increased capacity of production and consumption of goods. It has been defined as an increase in the output of goods and services that is sustained over a long period of time. The term economic development has been frequently used by the academicians, politicians and planners in the 20th century. It can be described as a process of increased degree of utilisation and improvement in the productivity of the resources that are available which in turn leads to the common welfare of the citizens. Till 1950s economic growth meant that increase in the GDP and the per capita income of the citizens of the country would lead to the upliftment of the standard of living of the people of the country.

This model of growth came under heavy criticism as it led to unemployment and increase in disparity between the rich and poor. The economists then talked about growth with employment opportunities and distributive justice so that the trickle-down effect that would be resulted from economic growth reach the underdeveloped countries. This theory of trickle-down effect collapsed giving rise to the notion of modernisation. The process of modernisation promised a lot to the underdeveloped nations and the great euphoria was built around this process by the west.

## **Modernisation**

In most simple terms it can be described as whatever is no more regarded as traditional falls in the domain of modern. It is a complex process that involves industrialisation and urbanisation; these processes in turn lead to rationalisation of authority and bureaucracy that further results in the growth of science and secularism along with the acceptance of personal achievements over ascriptive ties. It involves a shift from primary to secondary and finally to tertiary occupations, from centralised political authority of the state to a democratic nation and to a relatively efficient and proactive government.

Wilbert Moore says that this process involves a total transformation of traditional society into an advanced, economically prosperous and politically stable society in *Order and Change: Essays in Comparative Sociology* (1968).

Daniel Lerner one of the major exponents of the Modernisation theory in his book *The Passing of traditional Society: Modernising the Middle East*, remarks that, no nation was ordained to be traditional; in order to be modern the citizen's should imitate the actions and

ideas of the people in the western countries that had already moved ahead from the traditional stage into the modern world. He believes that modernisation is a global process and the modern factors of change such as urbanisation, industrialisation, increase in literacy etc., are greatly responsible for the emergence of the new economic order. According to Lerner, the process of modernity is the result of institutional changes in society along with the changes in the personality of people. Modernisation as development is based on the capitalistic mode of production and emphasises on a high degree of specialisation and structural differentiation.

Many thinkers have criticised the modernisation model as it required structural changes that would lead to the destruction of the traditional and indigenous cultures. This process also glorified the west or developed countries and looked down upon the underdeveloped countries. Moreover the development agencies were sensitive to the growing concerns of the environmentalists.

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962), Paul Ehrlich's *The Population Bomb* (1968), and Donella Meadows's *The Limits to Growth* (1972) raised concerns regarding the acceleration of industrial growth and increased dependence of agriculture on chemicals. In 1983 the United Nations under the chairmanship of Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland formed a commission on environment and development. This commission published the report in April 1987 and popularized came up with the term sustainable development to describe a strategy based on careful usage of resources and reduction of toxic emissions. The commission defined it as that "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development opened space for the collaboration of environmentalists and development experts.

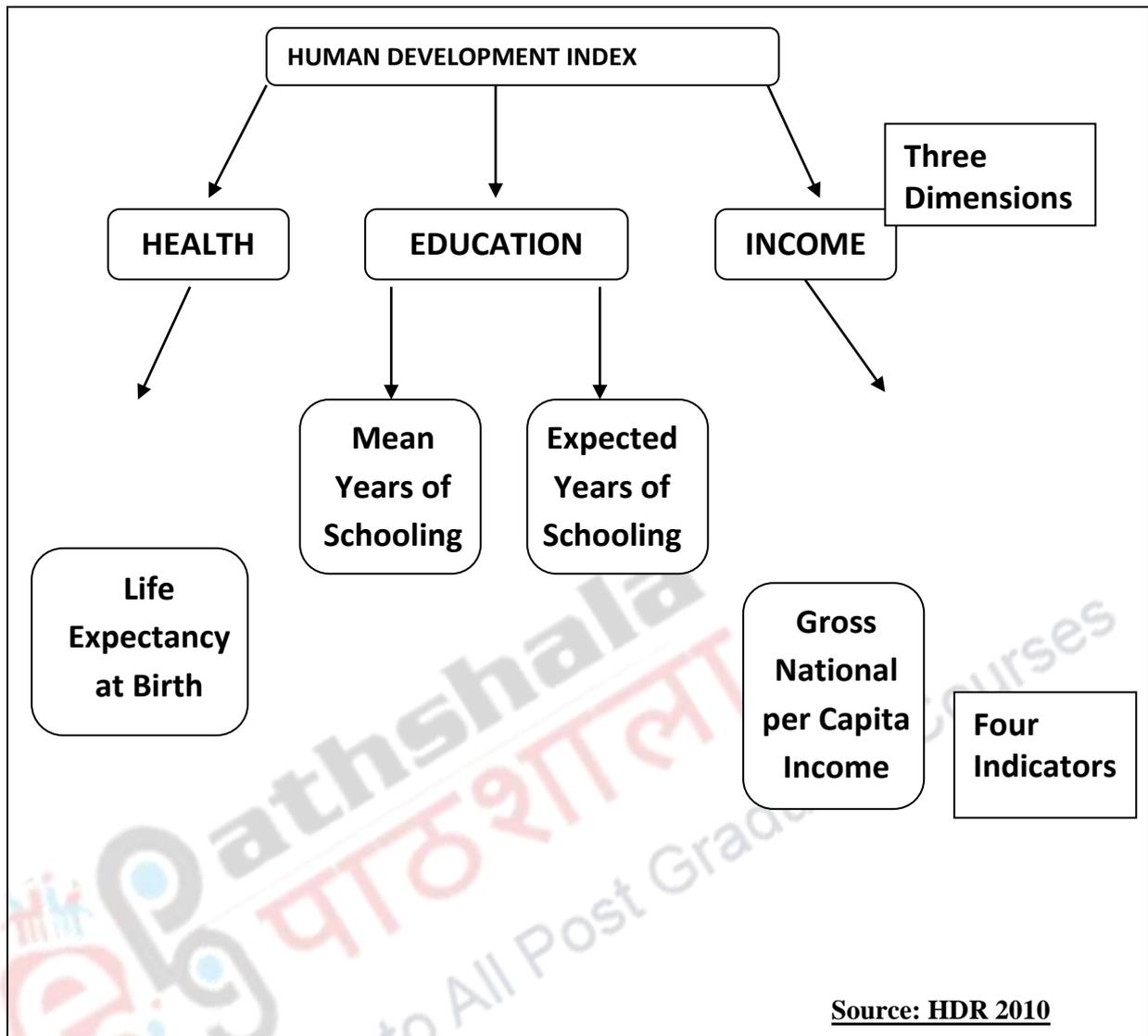
It was felt that the process of development should be people centric since human beings were the means and end of development. In 1990s the United Nations Development Programme that was started in 1965 came up with a report that focussed on the humans in the process of development. It changed the perspective of the planners and policy makers along with the academicians towards the concept of development that became people centric.

## Human Development

The Human Development Approach to development is different from the conventional approaches to development. The earlier approaches concentrated on the formation of capital and considered human being as a means and not an end in the process of development. The earlier approaches view humans as passive recipients and not participants in this process.

This report was first launched in 1990 by the UNDP. Mahbub-ul-Haq a Pakistani economist was the chairman and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen was the member of the committee that prepared the report. The main objective of the report was to place people at the centre of development. The opening sentence of the report was- “People are the real wealth of the nation”. The basic objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. This may appear to be a simple truth. But it is often forgotten in the immediate concern with the accumulation of commodities and financial wealth.”The United Nations General Assembly has formally recognized the Report as “an independent intellectual exercise” and “an important tool for raising awareness about human development around the world.” Now Human Development Report has become an annual feature of the UNDP with different themes and many governments are also publishing the Development reports of their respective countries. The theme of the Human Development Report of 2015 is ‘Rethinking Work for Human Development’. In this report of 2015 India has been placed at 130<sup>th</sup> position among the 188 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI). India’s rank was 135 in the year 2014. The top three nations in the 2015 HDI are Norway, Australia and Switzerland respectively. The HDI is an average measure of basic human development achievements in a country, measured by UNDP. The HDI covers achievements of a country in three basic dimensions - **(i)** Life Expectancy **(ii)** Educational Attainment **(iii)** Income. The HDI uses four indicators to cover these three dimensions, these are –

1. Life Expectancy at birth
2. (a) Adult literacy Rate  
(b) Combined Gross Enrolment for Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Education
3. GDP per capita in US dollars adjusted by Purchasing Power Parity



The HDI is the geometric mean of these three normalized dimensions. The UNDP has never claimed it to be a comprehensive measure of human development but rather a summary alternative to economic measures. Several critiques raised questions relating to the adequacy of the indicators used in the HDI. Others have raised questions related to the measurement errors and methodology used in calculating the points. But it would be pertinent to mention that the UNDP is continuously engaged in the task of refinement of the methodology.

The Human Development Index compares and rates the countries across the globe on the above mentioned three dimensions. It highlights the impact of the programmes and policies of the government on the citizens. This approach provides a global perspective in the measurement of development and human well-being.

## Globalisation and Development

The term Globalisation gained popularity in 1980s and was used to describe the increased interconnectivity across international borders and continents. It has led to an increased interconnectedness at socio-cultural, economic and political level among the populations living across the globe. (Beyers, 2007)The usage of this term in English though began in 1960s but without any connotations that are being used in recent times. The expressions ‘Global Village used by Marshall McLuhan (1964) indicated the similar meaning that all human beings on earth are living and utilizing a single social space. This term was extensively used by the scholars throughout the world in 1990s. Scholars started to understand the term of spatial distinction between the global and the local, or that between universal and particular (Robertson 1992).

Globalisation is also defined as the compression of world and intensification of the consciousness as whole. (Robertson 1992). Anthony Giddens in the *Consequences of Modernity* defines it as the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa. The main causes of globalisation for him are –

1. The growth in information and communications technology (Communication satellites, Fibre optic cables etc.)
2. The knowledge based, information led global economy dominated by Multi-National corporations
3. The spread of government institutions those are international in nature such as the European Union (EU), United Nations (UN), along with rapid increase in the percentage of Non-Governmental bodies. (Giddens, 1991)

Joseph E. Stiglitz a Nobel Laureate argues that this rapid increase in the interconnectedness is driven by the profit motive that is hidden in the ideology of free market promoted by the capitalists. He further asserts that countries should take into account their respective culture, history and traditions before accepting and joining the process of globalisation. The problem, according to Stiglitz, is that globalisation has not been pushed carefully, or fairly. On the contrary, liberalization policies have been implemented too fast, in the wrong order, and often using inadequate – or plainly wrong – economic analysis. As a consequence, he argues, we

now face terrible results, including increases in destitution and social conflict, and generalized frustration.

Anthony Giddens has very explicitly delineated the three broad positions that exist regarding the significance of the process of Globalisation. These are –

1. Hyperglobalisers (These are in favour of globalisation)
2. Skeptics (These are against globalisation)
3. Transformalists ( These are neutral to globalisation)

The hyperglobalisers view it as a legitimate and inevitable process that will lead to a world order based on the market and international institutions. It presents a new era of development. This process is progressive in nature and is socially desirable. These view globalisation as a kind of final and self-enforcing process of development and the most efficient model of society.

The sceptics say that this process is overrated and an unnecessary hype is created. They argue that the interdependence among countries was present in ancient times. These are of the view that this process is non-sustainable as it raises fundamental opposition within individual cultures that may lead to the conflict among different cultures. (Huntington, 1999). The desired impacts, sustainability, harmonious coexistence and distributive justice in the process of globalisation are hard to achieve.

The Transformalists take a moderate position in terms of the impacts of globalisation. They believe that it is not a linear progression but represents streams of development subject to cycles and associated problems. These do not question the underlying socio-economic influence of globalisation but are uncertain regarding the final outcomes. Giddens argue that the approach of Transformalists is multidimensional taking into account socio-economic, cultural and political dimensions.

Thus, globalisation is a mega trend that impacts the life of every global citizen. It has generated an intensive theoretical debate about its impact on the local cultures and economies. The impacts of economic globalisation are reflected in the integration of world economy, through trade, investment and financial flows. There has been lot of problems in the developing and under-developed countries due this process of globalisation. This process

has become inevitable and one cannot run away from it. The point here is to maximise the advantages and minimise the discontents presented by globalisation.

## **Conclusion**

The terms progress and development are used to indicate the process of advancement in socio-economic and political aspects among various countries. The patterns of these processes are not uniform around the globe. Development is a multi-dimensional process involving changes in the social structure, socio-economic institution along with increase in interdependence among nations.

The meaning of the term development has changed over the period of time. In the 18th century it was equated with social evolution than it was compared with economic growth, modernisation and now in the 1990s it has also been defined in terms of expansion of possibilities or an increase in individual choices, capabilities and functioning. It has also been related to the process of globalisation which today has become a field of intensive and multidisciplinary debate.

