

## Details of Module and its Structure

Module Detail	
Subject Name	Sociology
Paper Name	Development, Globalisation and Society
Module Name/Title	Linking Development and Globalisation: Introducing Development and Globalisation
Pre-requisites	Development includes economic, social, political and human aspects. The theories of development focus on the factors leading to different levels of development of the various countries of the world. Globalisation impacts the societies in various ways.
Objectives	The module attempts to understand the meaning and concept of development and globalisation. It tries to explain the various aspects of development and the theories of underdevelopment. It attempts to understand the meaning of globalisation. It explains the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation.
Keywords	Development, Underdevelopment Core Periphery, Globalisation

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**Course: Development, Globalisation and Society**

**Unit: Linking Development and Globalisation**

**Module Title: Introducing Development and Globalisation**

The concept of development today has social, cultural, political and economic dimensions intertwined with one another. Its composite and multidimensional nature has made it really difficult for the scholars to formulate one all encompassing definition of development.

**Changing Connotations of Development**

Development means different things to different people. The definitions and indicators of development have therefore varied in different periods of history. For liberalist theorists, development means improving the economic, social and political conditions in a society. The socialist perspective blames the developed countries for the underdevelopment of countries in the third world.

**Development as Economic Growth**

In the middle of twentieth century, development was defined in terms of growth of economy and measured in terms of increase in Gross National Product. This was mainly because the newly liberated nation states in Asia and Africa had to deal with the economic losses caused to them due to exploitation of their resources by the colonial powers. These countries gave priority to economic development. The models available were expansion of markets, finance, trade and focus on increase in Gross National Product.

**Development as Improvement of Human Conditions**

It was soon realised that mere increase in wealth or income of the nation is not sufficient. There should be increase in the quality of life of the people. Mahbub ul Haq defined development in terms of human development implying the improvement in life chances of people. To measure the improvement in life chances of people, he devised the Human Development Index and the Physical Quality of Life Index. This index included four types of indicators: life expectancy, child survival rate, literacy rate and purchasing power of the people.

The basic purpose of development according to Haq is to enlarge people's choices. Human choices are not exhausted by mere economic well being, they extend far beyond that and include knowledge, health, secure livelihoods, security against crime and violence, satisfying leisure hours. And many more important human choices are also included which do not exclusively or even largely depend on income.

### **Development as Human Freedom**

Amartya Sen extends the concept of development further to define it as expansion of human capabilities, opportunities and freedoms. Human capabilities include health and education; opportunities include enabling environment for the people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. The freedoms include civil liberties of various sorts. In fact, Sen attaches so much importance to freedoms that he defines development as freedom. Freedom here refers to two types: freedom *from* and freedom *of*. Development as freedom signifies both kinds of freedom; it represents freedom from hunger, disease and ignorance. It also stands for Freedom of Self realisation, expression and worship etc. While freedom from is concerned with building up human capabilities such as health and education, freedom of is concerned with provision of civil liberties. The thrust of human development conception thus is on the improvement in quality of life.

### **Development as Upgradation of Social Order and Social Harmony**

The quality of life is not exhausted with physical and civil dimensions. There are several other dimensions of quality of life such as psychological, social, moral, cultural etc. To the extent that the prevailing construct of human development is preoccupied mainly with the physical and civil, to the neglect of psychological, social, moral and cultural, it suffers from a constrained vision. Development is defined in terms of primacy of economic, physical and civil quality of life as the so called developed nations are high on these dimensions.

There is, however, another dimension which needs attention, namely social quality of life which is reflected in family harmony and community bonds, psychological quality of life, in terms of level of satisfaction and contentment, mental health, sound sleep and tolerable limits of stress tension. Similarly, moral quality of life may be defined in terms of minimal incidence of crime,

delinquency, violence and unwed motherhood. Additionally, for some thinkers, development should result in protection of cultural and racial diversity. The aim of development should be to generate social harmony, respect cultural diversity and gender equity. This also implies upgradation of social order, particularly integration and normative order.

In a holistic sense, thus, development may be defined as all round improvement in social order including material, affective social and civil. Its parameters may include:

Economic development

Human Development

Civil Development

Social Development

It may be concluded that the frontiers of development have not been static but have been expanding. The various connotation of development should thus be viewed not as alternatives but as complementary.

### **Social and Political Aspects of Development**

The ideas of modernity and development overlap many times in Sociology. The view of continuous and increasing interaction between economic and non economic factors in development produced a second step forward, namely, to systematic efforts to conceptualise modernisation as the contemporary mode of social change that is both general in validity and global in scope.

Despite conceptual and terminological differences there has been steady convergence among certain key points in terms of the political and social indicators of development: a degree of self sustaining growth in the economy or at least growth sufficient to increase both production and consumption regularly; a measure of public participation in the polity or participation in defining and choosing policy alternatives; a diffusion of secular/rational norms in the culture understood approximately in Weberian- Parsonian terms; an increment of mobility in the society understood as personal freedom of physical, social and psychic movement; and a corresponding

transformation in the model personality that equips individuals to function effectively in a social order that operates according to the foregoing characteristics.

### **Socialist conception of Development**

The socialist concept came to the fore front in the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the academicians of the world started to compare the Asian and African countries with the European countries and claimed to find out the reasons for lesser development in the former countries. Leaders and scholars in these countries also used the economic indicators of progress in these countries as a measure of development.

### **Development as Liberation from Dependency and Exploitation**

Scholars like Paul Baran, Immanuel Wallerstein, Andre Gunder Frank and Samir Amin have elaborated the thesis that the underdevelopment of the Third World is the result of development of the First World. According to centre periphery thesis, Andre Gunder Frank observes that the centre (colonial power) directly exploited the periphery in colonial times and developed at the expense of the periphery. He pins down unequal exchange as the root cause of underdevelopment in the periphery. In the international context, thus, development implies liberation from dependency on an unequal exchange. This calls for drastic changes in the relationship among nations, particularly between the developed and developing. Hence there is the call for a new International Economic Order.

Extending the centre-periphery thesis to the national context, Frank maintains that the national structures are less unequal. Just as there are more developed and less developed nations in the world, there are dominant and dominated classes within each nation. Development in the national context therefore means liberation of the masses from the dependence on the dominant class. Such liberation implies the restructuring of class and power relations in any individual country.

### **Globalisation**

Globalisation has been defined in terms of opening of markets and societies beyond boundaries of nation states. Although, globalisation is generally understood as global interconnectedness, it

refers to the growing interdependence between the different people, regions and countries of the world as social economic relations come to stretch worldwide. There are different dimensions of globalisation – economic, political and cultural. However, the various dimensions are closely interconnected. Some of the important features of globalisation are discussed below.

## **Economic and Financial Dimensions**

### *Policy of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation*

Globalisation involves opening of markets and extending economic relationships throughout the world. This is done by certain economic policies. The policies include ending the restrictions on the foreign companies entering any country. They are allowed entry and competition with the local companies. The national companies are not given any special protection and the local, as well as, global companies compete with each other.

Further, it involves the liberalisation of the procedures for doing business. The term liberalisation refers to a range of policy decisions that the states take to open up the national economy to the world market. This marks a break with the general policies of the government to have a greater control over the economy. The governments in country like India had put in place a large number of laws that ensured that the local market and local indigenous business is protected from competition of the wider world. The underlying assumption of such a policy was that an erstwhile colonial country would be at a disadvantage in a free market situation.

### *The Multi National and Transnational Corporations*

The increase in number and role of Multi National Companies (MNCs) or Trans National Companies (TNCs) is particularly important in the process of globalisation. TNCs produce goods or market services in more than one country. They are gigantic companies and operate across the globe. Some of the biggest TNCs are companies known all round the world, e.g., Sony, Philips, General Motors etc. They are oriented to global markets and global profits even if they have a clear national base.

### *Use of Information and Communication Technology in Financial Transactions*

The revolution in communication technology has made possible the global circulation of messages in shortest possible time. The electronic economy is another factor that underpins economic globalisation. Banks, fund managers, corporations and individual investors are able to shift funds internationally with the click of a mouse. This is due to the development of the transactions based upon use of Information and Communication Technology.

It should also be noted that for the first time, mainly due to the information technology revolution, there has been a globalisation of finance. Globally integrated financial markets undertake billions of dollars worth transactions within seconds in the electronic circuits. There is a 24-hour trading in capital and security markets. Cities such as New York, Tokyo and London are the key centres for financial trading. Within India, Mumbai is known as the financial capital of the country.

### *Knowledge Based Economy*

In contrast to the previous era, the global economy is no longer primarily agricultural or industrial in nature. The weightless economy is one in which products have their base in information, as in case of computer software and media internet based services. A knowledge economy is one in which much of the work force is involved not much in the distribution of material goods, but in their design, development, technology, marketing, sale and servicing. We have a host of new occupations that was unheard of a few decades along, for instance event management.

### **Political Meanings of Globalisation**

Political globalisation basically implies an increasing tendency towards multilateralism, towards a transnational state apparatus, and towards the emergence of national and international nongovernmental organisations that function as watchdogs over governments and have increased their activities and influence (Moghadam, 2005). Political globalization occurs when governmental action takes place on a global level, where tasks, such as the welfare of citizens and economic growth, are controlled by an international political body. The trade and exchange of materials and services across the nations was present in ancient civilisations. However, the

globalisation was not hegemonic and was believed to be open for all. Today globalisation generally refers to the dominance and pressure of the developed countries upon the developing countries to open their markets for the benefit of these companies.

### **Globalisation and Culture**

Globalisation leads to very high and intense degree of flow of manpower across countries and cultures creating a clear and culturally sensitive diaspora of migrant population contributing to homogenisation of cultures on one hand, but also to the heightened sense of cultural identity and distinctiveness on the other (Singh, 2000). There are many ways that globalisation affects culture. The last decade has seen major cultural changes leading to fears that our local cultures would be overtaken. The central contention of some countries is that all cultures will become similar and hence homogeneous. This will lead to disappearance of the indigenous cultures and traditions. Others, however, argue that there is an increasing tendency towards glocalisation of culture. Glocalisation refers to the mixing of the global with the local. It is a strategy often adopted by foreign firms while dealing with local traditions in order to enhance their marketability. For instance, in India we find a trend of pop music which is a mix of global with Indian music.

### **Advantages of Globalisation**

Globalisation is a process by which the world is becoming increasingly interconnected and unified because of homogenous and uniform financing, cultural and technological factors. Globalisation seems to have made drastic changes in our socio and cultural environment. It is affecting our intimate and personal lives in many diverse ways. Inevitably our personal lives have been altered as globalising forces enter into our local contexts, our homes and our communities through interpersonal sources such as the media, the internet and the popular culture as well as through personal contact with individuals from other countries and cultures.

Globalisation is fundamentally changing the nature of our everyday experience. As the societies everywhere experience profound makeovers, many of the established institutions which use to sustain them have become out of place. This is forcing a redefinition of intimate and personal

aspects of our lives, such as the family, gender roles, sexuality, personal identity, our interactions with our others and our relationships at work.

Traditionally, factors such as social class, gender, ethnicity, religious affiliation used to close off certain avenues for individuals for individuals, or open up for others. Sons used to follow or continue the professions of their fathers and the women considered home as their natural sphere. Their lives and identity were determined by their fathers or husbands. The community in which one was born provided fixed guidelines of living. But nowadays under conditions of globalisation one has moved towards individualism where each of us has got an opportunity to construct our identities. The social codes which formally guided people's choices and activities have significantly loosened.

### **Disadvantages of Globalisation**

Globalisation is producing risks, challenges, inequalities which cross national borders and elude the reach of existing political structures. It is not restricted to large global systems but its impact is felt in our personal lives, the way we think of ourselves and our connection with others. Globalising forces have entered into our local context and intimate lives through sources like internet and through personal contact with people from other countries and cultures. Globalisation leads to mass production and distribution. This is promoting the culture of consumption leading to the form of ever expanding electronic culture and the ever increasing fast food outlets.

To some extent, people of the world share a global culture. It is contended that globalisation contributes in the homogenisation of cultures. The evidence in this regard suggests that in several cultural fields, a fusion of styles, contents and forms of culture is taking place. This is reflected in increased tendency towards fusion of styles in music, dance and painting. But the ever expanding globalisation leading to homogenisation often results in a clash between new cultural spaces and traditional cultural spaces. The people try to protect their local identities and there is resurgence of fanatic cultural forces trying to protect the cultural identities based upon language, caste, religion etc.