

## **Module: Different Concepts of Development: Sustainable Development, Participatory Development, Inclusive Development and Human Development**

### **1. Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It is an attempt to clarify the balance between economic growth in one hand and conservation and protection of environment on the other hand. Sustainable development' refers to the holistic approach and temporal processes that lead us to the end point of sustainability. It aims to reconcile the two conflicting objectives of ambitious economic development and obligations of preserving natural resources and ecosystems. Sustainable development is a commitment to social progress, environmental balance and economic growth.

Many of the challenges facing humankind, such as climate change, water scarcity, inequality and hunger, can only be resolved at a global level through the promotion of sustainable development. As a part of this objective the United Nations approved the 2030 Agenda, which contains the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These 17 SDGs are summarized as follows:

- Eradicate poverty and hunger, guaranteeing a healthy life

- Universalize access to basic services such as water, sanitation and sustainable energy
- Support the generation of development opportunities through inclusive education and decent work
- Foster innovation and resilient infrastructure, creating communities and cities able to produce and consume sustainably
- Reduce inequality in the world, especially that concerning gender
- Care for the environment combating climate change and protecting the oceans and land ecosystems
- Promote collaboration between different social agents to create an environment of peace and substantial development.

## **2. Participatory Development**

Participatory development (PD) seeks to engage local populations in development projects. It was introduced in 1970 as an important part of the "basic needs approach" to development. Participatory development is a process through which stakeholders can influence and share control over development initiatives, and over the decisions and resources that affect themselves. The Stakeholders are government, civil society, and the private sector at national, intermediate and local levels. The objective of public participation in development seeks to give the poor a part in initiatives designed for their benefit. Thus, the development projects will be more sustainable and successful if local populations are engaged in the development

process. PD has become an increasingly accepted method of development practice and is employed by a variety of organizations. It is often presented as an alternative to mainstream "top-down" development. There is some question about the proper definition of PD as it varies depending on the perspective applied. Two perspectives that can define PD are the "Social Movement Perspective" and the "Institutional Perspective":

### **3. Inclusive Development**

Inclusive development refers not only to the improvement of the distribution of well-being along different dimensions of education, health and standard of living but also to the improvements of average achievements. Inclusive development occurs when average achievements improve and inequalities in these achievements fall. It should be pro poor. Many people are excluded from the development process due to gender, ethnicity, age, disability and poverty. The effect of such exclusion leads to increasing inequality in the world. Inclusive development ensures that all marginalized and excluded groups are stakeholders in development processes. Thus, inclusive development means development for all. Inclusive development considers whether development progress is sufficiently widespread for the majority of a population for their benefit.

Inclusive development – some key indicators

a) Median household incomes rather than mean incomes

- b) Income & consumption inequality (using the Gini coefficient / Palma ratio)
- c) Percentage of the population at risk of extreme poverty
- d) Gender Parity in Labour Force Participation
- e) Productive and secure employment v vulnerable work
- f) Financial exclusion - access to financial services, vulnerability to high interest lending
- g) Access to affordable and reliable electricity
- h) Access to basic and digital infrastructure (addressing the digital divide)
- i) Scale of social protection (broad notion of welfare assistance / safety nets)
- j) Risk of economic exclusion based on gender, race, caste, ethnicity, religion, age, occupational status, location, and disability status
- k) Exposure to and ability to adapt to the effects of climate change

#### **4. Human Development**

Human development is defined as the process of enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being. It is about the real freedom for ordinary to decide who to be, what to do, and how to live. Human development is about much more than economic growth, which is only a means of enlarging people's choices. These choices allow the people to lead a long and healthy life, to be

educated, to enjoy a decent standard of living, as well as political freedom, other guaranteed human rights and various ingredients of self-respect. Fundamental to enlarging these choices is building human capabilities—the range of things that people can do or be in life. The human development concept was developed by economist Mahbub ul Haq. At the World Bank in the 1970s, and later as minister of finance in his own country, Pakistan, Dr. Haq argued that existing measures of human progress failed to account for the true purpose of development—to improve people’s lives. In particular, he believed that the commonly used measure of Gross Domestic Product failed to adequately measure well-being. Working with Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and other gifted economists, in 1990 Dr. Haq published the first Human Development Report, which was commissioned by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Human development – or the human development approach - is about expanding the richness of human life, rather than simply the richness of the economy in which human beings live. It is an approach that is focused on people and their opportunities and choices.