

## 1. What was the conventional thinking of development?

**Conventional thinking of development** was largely centered around **economic growth**, especially **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**. Development was often measured by how much a country produced in goods and services, and how fast its economy grew. This perspective assumed that as long as the economy grew, other aspects of life—such as education, health, and quality of life—would automatically improve.

### Key characteristics of this thinking:

- **GDP as the main indicator:** Countries with high GDP were considered "developed."
- **Industrialization-focused:** Development meant building factories, expanding infrastructure, and increasing exports.
- **Top-down approach:** Governments or international organizations made development plans without much input from local communities.
- **Material well-being over social well-being:** The focus was more on income and employment than on happiness, equality, or justice.

**2. Development should be thought of as involving the improvement of all aspects of the whole society, not just its GDP – Analyze this statement with logical arguments. / Development is a holistic approach – Justify this statement with your interpretation and examples.**

### Logical arguments:

1. **GDP is a narrow measure:**
  - It only reflects the value of goods and services, not how wealth is distributed or who benefits.
  - For example, a country can have a high GDP, but if most of the population lacks access to clean water or education, can it truly be called developed?
2. **Development is multi-dimensional:**
  - It includes **education, health, equality, freedom, security, and environmental protection.**
  - Example: **Bhutan** uses Gross National Happiness (GNH) instead of GDP to measure progress, emphasizing psychological well-being, culture, and environmental conservation.
3. **Sustainable development matters:**
  - Purely economic development can destroy natural resources, harming long-term well-being.
  - For example, a country may grow economically by cutting down forests, but this leads to environmental degradation and health issues.
4. **Social justice and equity:**

- True development ensures **opportunities for all**, including marginalized communities.
- Without gender equality or access to justice, development remains incomplete.

### 05. Holistic nature:

- Development connects economy, society, and environment together.
- Example: Bhutan measures progress with Gross National Happiness (GNH), focusing on well-being and culture, not just income.

### 06. Conclusion:

- Development is not just GDP, it is a **holistic process** that ensures economic growth, social welfare, equity, and environmental balance.

## Development Indicators / Approaches:

Development indicators are **standard units of measurement** that show the level of development in a country or region.

They help compare progress between nations and identify strengths & weaknesses.

### Types of Development Indicators

1. **Economic Indicators**
  - Measure the financial and production aspects of development.
  - Examples: GDP, GNP, Per Capita Income, Employment rate, Poverty rate.
2. **Social Indicators**
  - Reflect people's quality of life and well-being.
  - Examples: Literacy rate, Education level, Health care access, Life expectancy.
3. **Demographic Indicators**
  - Show the population characteristics.
  - Examples: Population growth rate, Birth rate, Death rate, Age distribution, Dependency ratio.
4. **Political Indicators**
  - Reflect political stability and governance quality.
  - Examples: Democracy index, Corruption level, Human rights protection, Rule of law.
5. **Environmental Indicators**
  - Measure how development affects the environment.

- Examples: Pollution levels, Deforestation rate, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, Renewable energy use, Biodiversity index.

**6. Technological Indicators**

- Show the advancement and usage of technology in a region.
- Examples: Internet access, Mobile phone users, R&D spending, Innovation index.

**7. Other Indicators**

- Cultural development, Gender equality, Human Development Index (HDI), Sustainable development index.