

Understanding Development

Chapter 18: Development · Topic 1

Key Concept

Traditional measures of development, like per capita income, focus on average income but don't capture how income is distributed or other quality-of-life factors.

The Human Development Index (HDI), used by the United Nations, considers income, education, and health together, offering a more comprehensive view of development.

Different groups may prioritise different aspects of development - farmers might prioritise fair crop prices, while urban workers might prioritise steady employment and wages.

Sustainable development, which meets present needs without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs, has become an increasingly important development goal.

Quick Revision Notes

- Development includes living standards, income, education and health.
- Different people may define development differently.
- Per capita income is a traditional development measure.
- It doesn't capture income distribution or other factors.
- The Human Development Index (HDI) considers income, education and health.
- HDI offers a more comprehensive view of development.
- Different groups prioritise different aspects of development.
- Sustainable development meets present needs without harming future generations.

Practice Questions

- 1 Discuss what development means to you personally.
- 2 Research India's Human Development Index ranking.
- 3 Explain why per capita income alone isn't enough to measure development.
- 4 Discuss how a farmer and a factory worker might define development differently.
- 5 Research what sustainable development means.
- 6 Debate the best way to measure a country's development.