

Political Theory

Textbook for Class XI

DEVELOPMENT AND ITS CHALLENGES

This chapter is divided into two parts.

The chapter is based on the new/ latest syllabus.

INTRODUCTION

- Development means progress, achievement and well being for a better society.
- But the question which comes up is development for whom?
- Building dams for generating electricity is development for you and for rich people because they will get continuous supply of electricity by which they can do their household chores , but
- building dams is not development for tribals because their land gets seized and they have to move to other place.
- also building dams causes environmental damage which kill fish and damage soil fertility.
- so the question is what is development? and development is meant for whom?

WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT?

- Development conveys the ideas of improvement, progress, well being and aspiration for a better society.
- development is defined in narrower terms also like increasing growth rate or modernising the society.

- Modernising the society means having dams, opening industries having many brands etc. but development has a broader meaning as well.
- there needs to be improvement in the lives of people.
- Poverty needs to be reduced, health of people needs to be improved and employment opportunities need to be given.

THE CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT

- The concept of development gained importance after the second half of the twentieth century when a large number of countries in Asia and Africa gained political independence.
- In the 1950s and 1960s when most countries of Asia and Africa had achieved independence from colonial rule, the most urgent task in front of them was to solve the pressing problems of poverty, malnourishment, unemployment, illiteracy and the lack of basic amenities that a majority of their populations faced.

- The concept of development has undergone many changes over the years.

In the initial years, the focus was on catching up with the west in terms of economic growth and modernization of societies.

- Developing countries adopted goals like faster economic growth through industrialization, modernization of agriculture and extending and modernizing education.

- New educational institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology were set up and collaboration with advanced countries in order to have access to their knowledge became a top priority.
- In India a series of Five Year Plans for development were made starting from the 1950s, and these included a number of mega projects such as the Bhakra Nangal Dam, setting up steel plants in different parts of the country, mining, fertilizer production and improving agricultural techniques.

CRITICISMS OF DEVELOPMENT MODELS

- Critics of development have pointed out that the kind of development models which have been adopted in many countries has proved very costly for the developing countries

THE SOCIAL COSTS OF DEVELOPMENT

- This model of development has also had high social costs.
- A large number of people have been displaced from their homes and localities due to the construction of big dams, industrial activities and mining activities, or other projects.
- Displacement results in loss of livelihood and increases impoverishment
- Displaced people have also protested against this like ‘Narmada Bachao Andolan’ which has been leading a movement against the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the river Narmada for many years.

- The supporters of this big dam claim that it will generate electricity, help irrigate large areas of land and also provide drinking water to the desert areas of Kutch and Saurashtra.
- The opponents of the dam claim that almost one million people have been displaced. They have lost their lands through submergence, or construction, and consequently lost their livelihood.
- Some even argue that the dam would greatly upset the ecological balance submerging large tracts of forests.

ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS OF DEVELOPMENT

- Development has indeed caused a high degree of environmental degradation in many countries and not just the displaced people but all of the population is beginning to feel the consequences.
- In the long term, the ecological crisis will adversely affect all of us.
- Air pollution is already a problem which does not discriminate between the rich and the poor.

- In the short term, indiscriminate use of resources tends to adversely affect the underprivileged more sharply.

Loss of forests affects the poor who use forest resources for a variety of subsistence needs like firewood, medicinal herbs or food. Drying up of rivers and ponds and falling ground water levels means that women have to walk longer in order to procure water.

- The model of development is heavily dependent on the increasing use of energy. Most of the energy currently generated in the world is from non-renewable sources like coal or petroleum.

KEN SARO WIWA'S STRUGGLE.

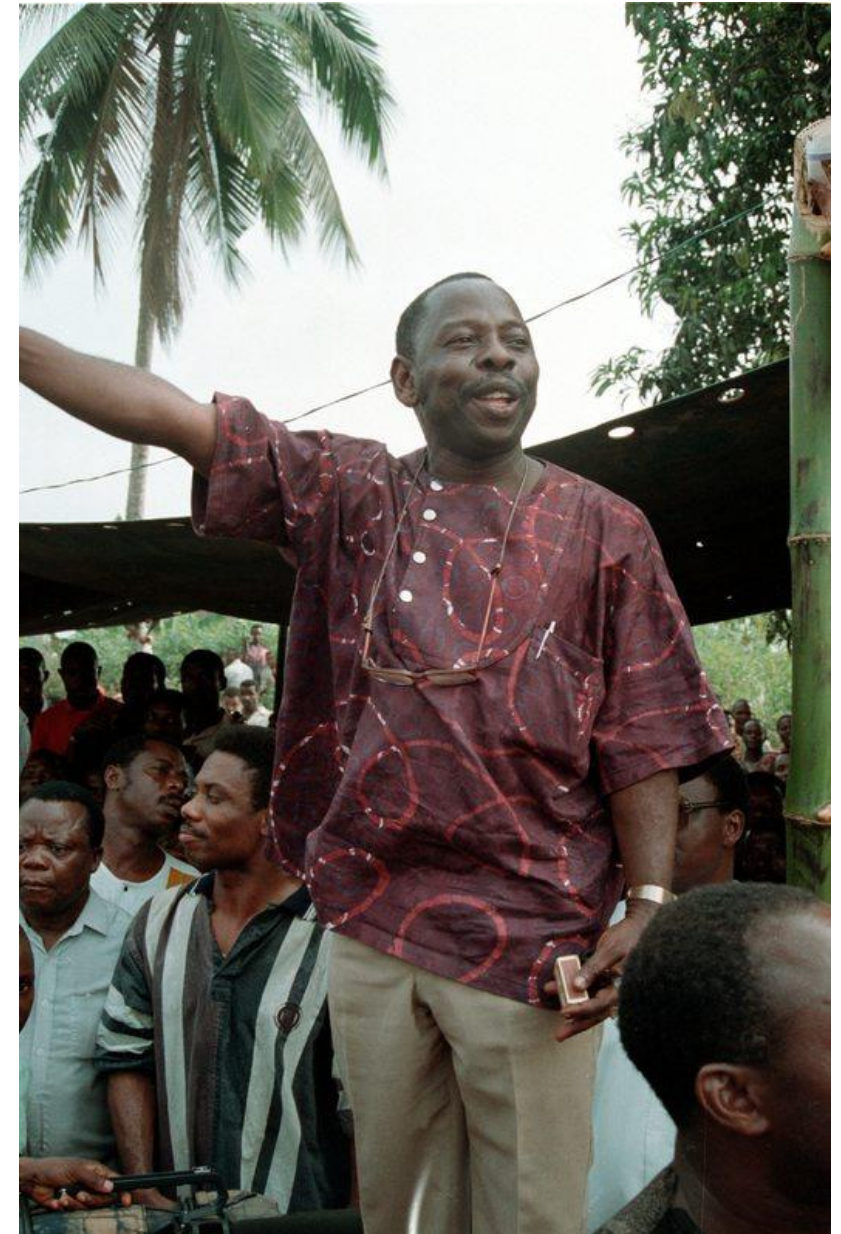
- Ken Saro Wiwa is a Nigerian and belonged to Ogoni caste.
- Nigeria is rich in oil resources.
- Many multi national companies set up their exploration shops there and started exploring oil.
- Exploration of oil polluted water and air. And this caused great disturbance to local people living there.
- People got polluted water to drink and polluted air to breathe.

○So Ken Saro Wiwa led a non violent struggle for its right to clean drinking water and right to breathe unpolluted air.

○The movement was called Movement For The Survival Of Ogoni People (MOSOP).

○The movement was effective to such an extent that all the companies have to pull out.

Military rulers of Nigeria framed him in murder case and sentenced him to death.




ASSESSING DEVELOPMENT

- Development also has positive side. Some countries have had some success in increasing their rate of economic growth and even in reducing poverty.
- But overall, inequalities have not been seriously reduced and poverty continues to be a problem in the developing world.
- When economic growth and redistribution do not go together, the benefits are likely to be cornered by those who are already privileged.

- If development is understood as a process which aims to improve the quality of life of people, it could be argued that measuring the rate of economic growth alone would be an inadequate and at times misleading indicator of development.
- There is now a search for alternative ways of measuring development. One such attempt is the Human Development Report which is annually brought out by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This report ranks countries on the basis of their performance in social indicators like literacy and education levels, life expectancy and maternal mortality rates. This measure is called the Human Development Index.

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