

GEOG 370 Sustainable Development I Developing Countries

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Mid-term exam. Q4

The 1980s has been known as the “Lost Decade”. Explain and give 4 examples from peer reviewed articles

- The **1980s** were the 3rd UNDP decade.
- Failure of development theory has reached a point that the 1980s has been recognized in the literature as a “**lost decade**”.
- Situation of economic development of the developing countries reached a dead lock (impasse).
- **Why 1980s was a lost decade**
- Failure of development theory (Failure to achieve 5% growth and inequalities between and within countries).
- Oil crisis and lack of foreign aid.
- Debt crisis
- No financial support for development, instead governments are paying back their debt.
- **New thoughts and directions of development**
- New thoughts and directions of development were entertained by academicians, planners, economists and decision-makers.
- First, academicians and development theorists call for new development thinking.
- A writer like Chambers in 1974 and 1983 called for “**Putting the last First**” and “**People First**”.
- This aimed at changing the approach of development from “**Top-down**” to “**Bottom-up**” approach. It is referred to by others as “**Sustainable Development**”.
- However, new approaches and policies of development emerged such sustainable development, structural adjustment, neoliberal and privatization policies and globalization.
- For this reason, the 1980s are considered a transitional period between two different approaches of development.
- Sustainable development aimed at enhancing social development so that it should go hand-in-hand with economic development.
- Sustainable development doctrines that development should start with the people themselves because they acquire a great deal of knowledge about their environment.
- Collective action enhances the self-helped effort, which considered as one of the most important elements of rural and sustainable development.
- They have a science of its own based on a day-to-day practice with the environment and referred to as **indigenous** or **local knowledge**.
- Combination of indigenous knowledge with scientific (western science) will give better results of development.
- Based on this idea, the concept of **participatory approach** has emerged, which has become the most popular and important element of sustainable development.

- **participatory approach** in studies of sustainable development continues to the present.
- The main idea behind the support of bottom-up approach was the mechanism of survival, adaptation, and coping of the poor with the natural disasters.
- From this observation scholars and planners found that cultural norms and traits of the poor cope with adversities of nature and also bare the loss.
- Therefore, people's culture, experience and value system can be utilized in the process of development.

References