

AN ESSAY ON DEVELOPMENT, LIVELIHOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

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ABSTRACT

The development actually is the initiative to change something in favour of human wants. Here the term human wants is directly related with socio-economic position of human beings. In different socio-cultural and economic background human requirements are different. Such different character of human nature gives birth of choice variable. Any development project is the process of formation, implementation and satisfaction of new choice. Depending on variety of human nature, their choice variables are different in character. However, the fulfillment of one's choice may create dissatisfaction of another. Naturally it will be worthy to act for our satisfaction remembering the reaction of nature. My present study tried to indicate an everlasting way of achieving human satisfaction.

Key words: **Civilization, Environment, Livelihood and Sustainability.**

Introduction

A **livelihood** comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base. (Chambers & Conway, 1991)

Therefore a sustainable livelihood requires a wealthy asset base along with healthy environmental setup. Actually it deals with four:

- Creation of assets
- The strategies of development to make living smooth
- Context of development and
- Consequences of development.

Mitigation of the confrontation among all these several human and natural interest however depends upon our outlook about past, present and future demand. The way of this has been discussed in my present essay.

Primary idea about development:

By development we mean the change of mode of production. The mode of production is of two types; i) natural mode and ii) artificial/mechanized mode. In natural mode, production takes place on the basis of raw natural resources by utilizing primary means of production. It can satisfy only minimum needs of civilization. In that sense it may be treated as subsistence development process. It is a resource based strategy. Therefore, natural mode of production goes through the system of;

Resource \longrightarrow Production \longrightarrow Satisfaction

On the other hand artificial/mechanized mode of production is the demand based strategy. In this system, human wants tend to modify natural resources for satisfaction. The strategic movement of this system is;

Wants \longrightarrow Modification of resources \longrightarrow Production \longrightarrow Satisfaction

The basic characteristics of mechanized mode of production are as followings:

1. It is demand based production system
2. It uses Re-organic resources. Here by re-organic resources we mean the resources, of which organic composition has been changed. This alteration of organic composition may be treated as technology.
3. Moto of such production is higher satisfaction, not fulfillment of minimum requirements.
4. Un-Satiety is the driving force of this system.

Therefore, the development in another word is the process to move from natural mode of production to artificial/mechanized mode of production. The urge of such process is something more over its availability. Like all others, such movement of production mode also has some definite impact on civilization.

Characteristics of civilization and their demands:

Our civilization however can be segmented into two sectors which are: 1) Living sector and 2) non-living sector. The living sector consists of; a) Human species and b) non-human species. Thus the development of civilization implies the development of:

- Non-living elements of nature
- Non-human living species and
- Human species.

If we incorporate the interest of all these three units of civilization into our transformation planning then it may be called as inclusive one. Here inclusive means; giving equal priority to each party. From the points of policy making it is seen that each party has different urge for its sustainability. Now we shall highlight the primary urge of action of three units of civilization.

Unit I: Non-living elements of nature; It requires ever existence of its own characters. Any change of it may damage its present structure or re-open future possibilities of forced transformation of natural infrastructure. Both of these change brings an uncertain possibility which may be evil or blessing for our civilization.

Unit II: Non-human living species; It consists of plants and other animals other than human species. These require an everlasting balance between plants and animals. If transformation happened, keeping such balance it is pleasant for civilization but disproportionate change may create a threat to it. Actually non-human living species need to adjust themselves with nature for sake of their existence, not to fight against it.

Unit III: Human species; It is the most active part of civilization. In above two cases we see that, the basic requirements were related to keep their position as they are. But in case of human being the requirements are quite different. On one hand they need unlimited availability of limited

resources and on another hand they also require to fulfill their variety of demand which is brain-child of them. As the contrary of other living species they try to control the nature in favour of their wants. This is the main difference between human and non-human species. And this creates the room for discussion about the initiative for change of characteristics of civilization.

Consequences of development:

The development actually is the initiative to change something in favour of human wants. Here the term human wants is directly related with socio-economic position of human beings. In different socio-cultural and economic background human requirements are different. Such different character of human nature gives birth of choice variable. Any development project is the process of formation, implementation and satisfaction of new choice. Depending on variety of human nature, their choice variables are different in character. Obviously, fulfillment of one's choice may create dissatisfaction of another. In another words, introduction of new one (through development project) creates eviction of another. Such consequence of development project may be classified in two ways:

1. External Conflict between nature and civilization and
2. Internal conflict within human part of civilization

The first case generates certain environmental displacement which affects our eco-system and creates real crisis of livelihood of living elements including non-human species. The second one also generates certain types of internal socio-economic eviction like;

- a. Eviction from shelter
- b. Eviction from job/livelihood and
- c. Eviction from culture

All these three have dual effects on human society. In first case eviction from shelter may create a forced migration from rural to urban. Such migration makes some people upgraded in their life style who actually benefited from the project. On the contrary, this migration makes some people shelter less and vagabond in nature. This is the negative side of development project. The second case we may treat as the upward transformation of the nature of job. The technological

improvement (as resultant effect of development project) creates better job opportunity and obsolesces the significance of previous job. On the other hand a lot of people fail to adjust with new technology and they cannot receive newly created job opportunity. For that, certain people lose their livelihood. At the same time mechanization of civilization creates livelihood crisis of non-human living species also. In case three, we mean, development / transformation process evict people from their traditional culture to so-called modern one. This however changes their emotional, moral and ethical motives. We know that the 'time' is most efficient artist of human character. In the process of newer development we continuously lose this valuable time from our life.

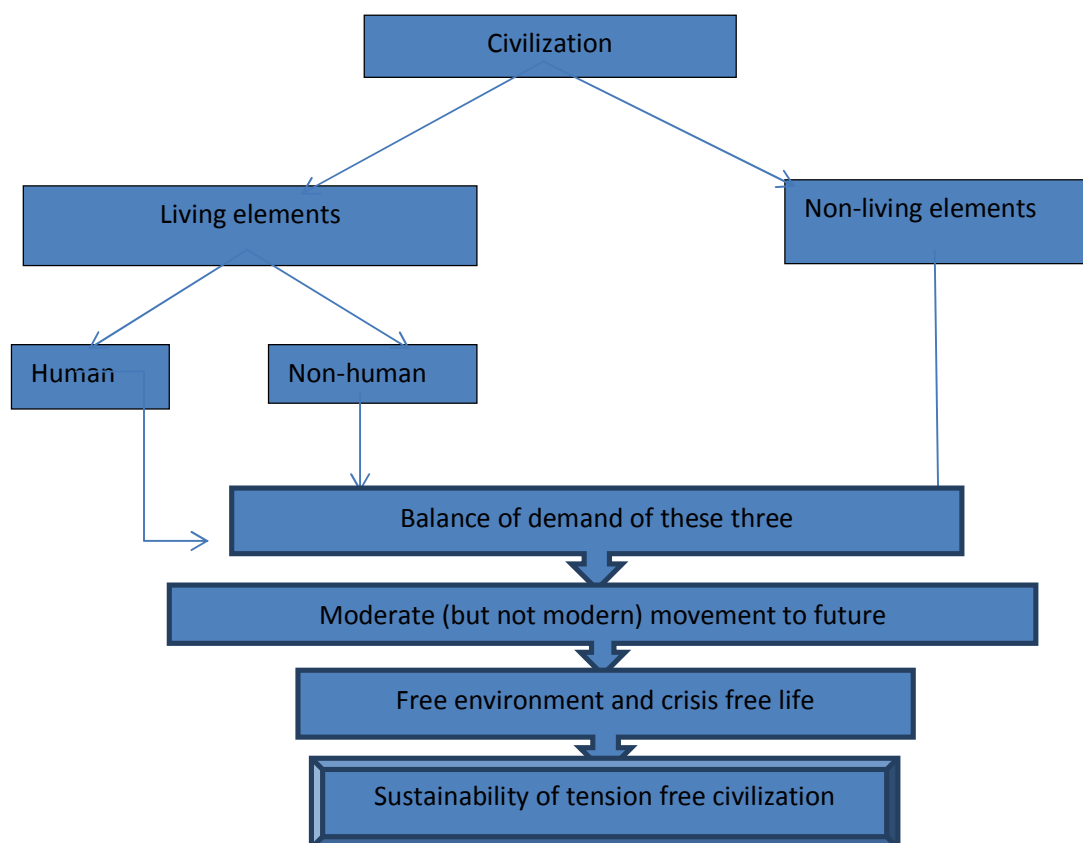
Synthesis

From the strategic point of view, all such eviction/displacements are the result of disproportionate transformation of civilization via development process. Here the term disproportionate transformation we mean unbalanced change of nature and human civilization which creates the crisis of livelihood among living elements and threat to identity of non-living elements. This type of disproportional process of transformation is known as **non-inclusive** process. Here non-inclusive refers to exclusion of some stake-holders in transformation system of civilization.

On the contrary, the proportional change of the character of the nature and other living elements leads the **inclusion** of all parties of development. Here inclusion refers to giving equal priority on natural identity and human wants of variety. This is a process of **synthesis** and it is possible only when we can control our un-satiety nature of demand. Our dis-satisfaction creates more urge. Here more urge is not reflecting our real needs rather it reflects our relative wants. We want, more than others and more than present but not more than less. This relative urge of more than others leads civilization to the age of inequality as well as poverty. On the other hand, the relative urge of future which is more than present creates the shortage of livelihood and conflict with environment.

In conclusion, if we satisfy ourselves by meeting our present needs and consider only the minimum requirements of all, then the problems of poverty, livelihood crisis as well as environmental degradation will disappear.

All of the above discussion has been summarized in following branch diagramme.



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