



**O Level Elect Geog**

**Chap 8: Variations in Development in the World**

Introduction

- 1) Development refers to ongoing improvements to people’s quality of life and standard of living. A developed country generally has a higher standard of living, well-developed infrastructure and advanced economy.
- 2) Standard of living refers to the people’s living conditions in a country, which includes access to education, healthcare and basic amenities. In general, DCs tend to have higher standards of living and thus better education, healthcare and amenities like piped water, than LDCs.
- 3) Quality of life refers to the satisfaction level with one’s living conditions and lifestyle, as well as non-material aspects like leisure. The quality of life in places with good infrastructure and social benefits tends to be higher compared to those which lack proper infrastructure and social benefits.

Core-periphery theory

4)

		<b>Core</b>	<b>Periphery</b>
SOL		Higher	Lower
Infrastructure		Advanced	Poorer
Economic well-being	Employment structure	Mainly tertiary and secondary industries. Primary < Secondary < Tertiary	Mainly primary industries. Tertiary < Secondary < Primary
	Wealth and employment opportunities	Higher wealth & better employment opportunities.	Generally lower wealth & poorer employment opportunities.
	Concentration of skilled workers	Higher	Lower

- 5) Core-periphery relationship- Explanation for disparity in national development
  - Core develops at the expense of periphery.  
E.g. The flow of skilled labour from the periphery into the core to seek better employment. This allows core to benefit from the additional talents in their workforce but causes the periphery to be drained of skilled labour.
  - Flow of wealth out of periphery into the core.  
The core is involved in the manufacture of raw materials, which are imported from the periphery, into useful products. They are then sold back to the periphery for a profit.
  - Therefore, the loss of labour and wealth in the periphery results in slow development. While the core continues to develop as profit increases. This results in an ever-increasing disparity in the level of development between them.



HDI

- 6) The HDI takes into consideration the economic well-being as well as the health and education standards of a country.
- 7) Limitations of HDI
  - The HDI does not provide a completely accurate assessment for every country. In places like rural areas where data is unavailable, estimates are used to calculate the income of the people which may affect its reliability.
  - Fails to take into account the measurement of human rights and freedom.
  - There is a time lag of 2 years between the time the data is collected and published. Hence, the latest report will reflect data collected 2 years ago. However, the world is constantly changing and thus the HDI will not be an accurate and reliable assessment of the country's present development status.
  - Therefore, the HDI should only serve as a general guide and not be used to determine conclusively the level of development of a country.



8) Comparison of DCs and LDCs (overall development)

a) Economic well-being:

- A country's economic well-being may be one of the aspects used to determine its development. E.g. If the economy does well, people are likely to earn more to enjoy a higher SOL and better QOL, and vice versa.

Indicator	Link to development	Comparison		
		DCs	LDCs	
Economic well-being	<p><u>GDP per capita</u> Economic wealth of a country, in terms of the value of the goods &amp; services produced by each resident.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Countries with a high HDI rank tend to have high GDP per capita.</li> <li>- May be used with other indicators to assess development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher GDP per capita</li> <li>• Hence greater spending power,</li> <li>• Leading to a higher SOL, better QOL.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower GDP per capita</li> <li>• Hence lower spending power,</li> <li>• Leading to a lower SOL and QOL than DCs.</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Employment structure</u> Shows proportion of workforce in the 3 employment sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primary industries generate low GDP for country compared to secondary &amp; tertiary. E.g. processing raw materials to manufacture products is more profitable than selling unprocessed raw materials.</li> <li>- Countries with largest proportion of workforce in secondary &amp; tertiary industries are wealthier and more developed.</li> </ul>	<p>Majority of workforce in secondary and tertiary industries (e.g. Norway, USA)</p>	<p>Majority of workforce in primary industries (e.g. Bangladesh)</p>
	<p><u>Employment opportunities</u> ✓ Increases with demand for goods and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employment opportunities determines economic development (refer to cycle).</li> <li>- Developed countries generally have better job opportunities and hence lower long-term unemployment rate.</li> <li>- As job opportunities are better in DCs, people from LDCs tend to migrate to DCs to seek better employment [Core-periphery relationship].</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good employment opportunities allow high SOL &amp; QOL, and encourage growth of secondary industries (e.g. higher manufacture of laptops) and the expansion of tertiary industries (e.g. higher demand for leisure &amp; entertainment services).</li> <li>• Thus higher employment opportunities, cycle continues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer employment opportunities, people tend to be poorer. Lower demand for goods &amp; services, little need for expansion of secondary industries.</li> <li>• Thus fewer employment opportunities, cycle continue.</li> <li>• However, more factories are setting up in LDCs: cheaper to run; lower labour cost (e.g. Toyota factory in Thailand). Creates employment.</li> </ul>



**b) Health:**

- People living in developed countries tend to have better health due to their higher SOL. They are able to access and afford healthcare facilities better than people in LDCs.
- Poor health limits economic development by lowering the productivity of the workforce. It affects the country's GDP and in turn deprives itself of a healthcare system.
- A healthy person can contribute more effectively to the country's economy. E.g. for countries which constantly experience pandemics due to the lack of health facilities, the workforce is affected leading to the consequent decline in its economy.

	Indicator	Link to development	Comparison		
			DCs	LDCs	
Health	<u>Life expectancy</u> The average no. of years a person born in a country is expected to live. ✓ It reflects the general health of its people	- Countries with a higher life expectancy are usually the more developed ones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCs usually have higher SOL and wealth: sufficient food, better hygiene and access to healthcare. This allows people to live longer.</li> <li>• E.g. Japan is a DC with high life expectancy due to its high SOL. It has one of the world's leading medical services and a mandatory health insurance policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E.g. in Ethiopia, people live shorter due to lower SOL and wealth: insufficient food &amp; water, poorer hygiene leading to more diseases and cannot afford/lack of healthcare facilities.</li> </ul>	
	<u>Infant mortality rate</u> No. of deaths of less than 1 year of age, per 1000 live births in a year.	- More developed countries have lower infant mortality rate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low infant mortality.</li> <li>• DCs have proper healthcare amenities: clinics, hospitals and medical research facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High infant mortality.</li> <li>• Lack of proper healthcare amenities: clinics, hospitals and medical research facilities.</li> <li>• Poor hygiene- babies vulnerable to viruses</li> </ul>	
				DCs like Norway and USA have a lower infant mortality rate than LDCs like Cambodia. Reflects higher SOL and better QOL in DCs than in LDCs.	
	<u>Access to water supply</u> Provision of clean & portable water for people in a country.	- Having access to clean water supply is essential for a country's development. - Lack of access reflects poor SOL and QOL.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCs like Norway and Japan have access to clean water supply as part of their well-built infrastructure.</li> <li>• Clean water which has been treated is supplied by pipes to homes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LDCs like Ethiopia lack access (6%). They walk long distances to collect water from a well: cannot afford for water to be piped to homes.</li> <li>• People prone to water-borne diseases like cholera caused by drinking contaminated water.</li> </ul>	
<u>Sanitation</u> Hygienic disposal of human waste.	- DCs have proper sanitation facilities, LDCs may not.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCs have proper sanitation: toilets with flushing; waste disposal systems</li> <li>• Switzerland and Austria have modern sewage systems to dispose waste from homes properly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In LDCs where there is no proper sanitation facilities, waste is not properly disposed.</li> <li>• Leads to environmental and water contamination. Causes widespread diseases like dysentery, poses</li> </ul>		



				health risk.
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**c) Education:**

- The standard of education affects the country's future economic development. It reflects the SOL to some extent.
- Literacy rate is used to assess the level of education in a country.

Indicator	Link to development	Comparison	
		DCs	LDCs
Education <u>Literacy Rate</u> % of adults (≥15 yrs) in a country who can read and write.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The more developed the country is, the higher the literacy rate.</li> <li>- It is important for people to be literate so that they can be efficient in using technology like computers. This ensures that the country can develop to achieve a higher SOL.</li> <li>- Being literate also allows the appreciation of literature and fine arts, which contributes to better QOL.</li> <li>- Linked to economic development, SOL and QOL.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More schools and qualified teachers</li> <li>• Countries with high literacy rate like Italy fosters development.</li> <li>• The educated workforce is equipped with knowledge and skills and is competent to be employed in the tertiary sector.</li> <li>• This generates a higher GDP for the country.</li> <li>• With advanced economy, a higher SOL and QOL can be achieved.</li> <li>• E.g. Compulsory primary education policy in Singapore has contributed to high literacy rate and fast economic development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less schools and qualified teachers</li> <li>• Low literacy rate in LDCs like Sierra Leone hinders development.</li> <li>• The lowly educated workforce is unequipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to contribute significantly to the economy.</li> <li>• Only a small proportion of the workforce will be involved in tertiary sector.</li> <li>• Lower GDP generated for country, hard to achieve higher SOL and QOL.</li> </ul>

9) When assessing the development of a country, a wide range of indicators should be used in combination for a fair and accurate assessment.

Notes: