



On the notion of development

Week 1 – Understanding ICT for development I

Development = good change?



Development = progress?



Development = economic growth?



Three views on development

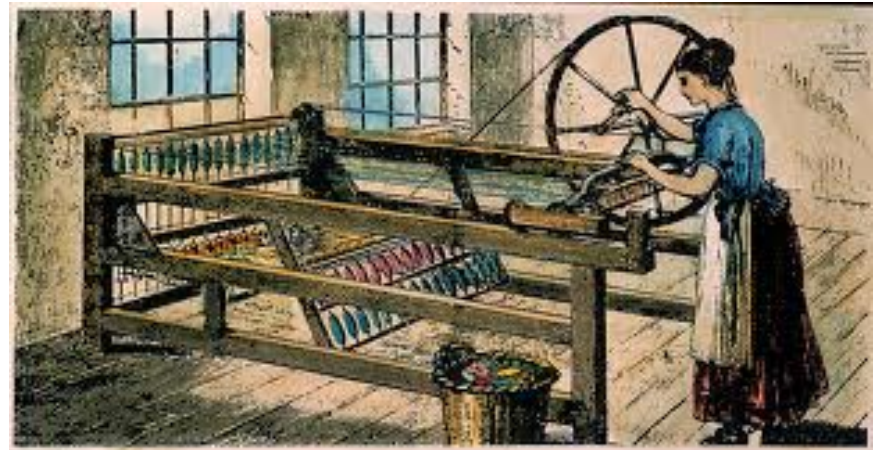
We can look at 'development' from several competing perspectives, with their own visions, versions of history, and ideas on development agencies.

Alan Thomas (2000) suggests that we can distinguish **three main senses** in which the term 'development' is used:

- 1) As a **vision, description or measure** of the state of being of a desirable society
- 2) As a **historical process** of social change in which societies are transformed over long periods
- 3) As **deliberate efforts at improvement** by various agencies (governments, organisations, social movements)

1) As a vision, description or measure of the state of being of a desirable society

- Development is understood as a *vision*
- A) *Growth-centred development*
 - It is closely connected to modernisation
 - Industrial revolution
 - Techno optimism
 - Economic development and growth
 - Capitalism
 - Liberal democracy
- B) *People-centred development*
 - Human needs
 - Empowerment
 - Cultural diversity



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2) As a historical process of social change in which societies are transformed over long periods

- Development – underdevelopment
- Imminent development vs. intentional development
- Historical development of capitalism
 - Two distinct views:
 - Emphasis on internal dynamics of the capitalist economic growth
 - Emphasis on struggle between the two forces
 - Dynamics of capitalist growth tends to create economic winners and economic losers –
 - Free, self-regulating market vs. protectionism

3) As deliberate efforts at improvement by various agencies (governments, organisations, social movements)

- Work by various development agencies
 - To reduce poverty
 - To distribute humanitarian relief
- Issues of trusteeship – state, NGOs, international organisations : World Bank, IMF, UN
 - Legitimacy, Capacity, whose interests?
- How to intervene?
 - Keynesian view, Protectionism, Welfarism, Global environmentalism

Alternative development, people-centred development

A) 'Mainstream' views of development that support interventionism – neoliberalism, structuralism – see industrialisation as a way to meet human needs

With the global economic crisis and the environmental crisis we are forced to look at alternative ways of 'doing development'

B) Alternative development

small is beautiful

people in centre

co-operative enterprises

local context – agency

How do we understand development in relation to ICT?

ICT **for** Development ?

ICT **and** Development ?

ICT **in** Development ?

Develop your definitions and understandings!