

## Concept and definition of Development

Development has been defined variously by various scholars. There is no universally accepted definition of development. Initially, economic growth or development was taken to be development by some economists. But, economic development is only one of the dimensions of development. Other dimensions of development include socio-cultural development, human development, environmental development, political development and technological development. The various definitions given by various scholars of development can be described under two broad categories:

- *Traditional perspective*
- *Modern perspective*

### Traditional perspective

Traditionally, development was understood as **an increase in per capita income, national income, economic welfare and positive change in economic structure**. All the definitions based on such criteria as per capita income, national income, economic welfare and economic structure fall under the traditional view of economic development.

Until 1960s, the concept of economic development considering per capita income and national income as parameters of economic development was popular. **But, after 1960s, some economists called into question such a narrow concept of economic development**. They argued that such a concept glosses over (ignores) **distribution of means and resources**. According to them, it is not appropriate to consider an increase in per capita income and national income as economic **development if such social problems as poverty, beggary, inequality and unemployment exist in the country**.

### Modern perspective

According to modern view of development or economic development, development is ***an improvement in quality of life of people***. Todaro defines development as the gamut (set) of changes such as acceleration of economic growth, reduction of inequality, eradication of poverty, etc. that leads ***to the transformation of unsatisfactory condition of life into materially and spiritually better condition of life***.

Anyhow, generally the literal meaning of development is “an increase or improvement from lesser level or position to a higher level or position”.

The term development contains diverse and varied elements. There is no single definition of development. Different definitions of development given by different scientists are:

***According to Amartya Sen ,1995:***

*“Social Development is equality of social opportunities”.*

***Fried mann defines development:***

*“As an innovative process leading to the structural transformation of social system”.*

***According to W.Elkan:***

*“A process which makes people, in general, better off by increasing their command over goods and services and by increasing the choices open to them”.*

***Biddle and Giddle defines:***

*“Development is a socio-economic process by which human beings can become more competent to live with and gain some control over the confronting socio-economic problems and get a way of progress”.*

***David Brokensha & Peter Hodge Defines:***

*“Development is a progressive process of enabling people to learn how to determine, articulate & establish in some scale of priority, their needs to learn the art of working, together to meet these common needs, and to solve problems, to organize the efforts and resources and enhance cooperation to get progress”.*