

Paradigm Shift of International Development and New Trends

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Abstract:

The intention of the paper is to evaluate the evolution of the international development in the last six decades. This paper also attempts to illustrate the ‘paradigm shift in international development’. In the past, most of development initiatives in some extent they have achieved a few of their targets. Last three decades, world wealth increased more than three times but at the same period of time world population is increased only twice. Unfortunately, even the tremendous economic growth of past decades didn’t play an important role for the poor people. Despite the dynamic economic development in the past decades, still two-third of the world population couldn’t able to meet their Basic Human Needs. To overcome the past development problems, the United Nations and all member countries have taken comprehensive and collective initiative as a new trends through incorporated ‘paradigm shift in international development to improving the quality of life globally embedded in eight thrust areas was translated into the Millennium Development Goals and mandated by the United Nations in September 2000. After adaptation of MDGs, some countries in Asia and Africa have seen startling economic growth and reduced their poverty rate half between 1990 and 2010. However, many countries and regions lagged behind. Therefore, all member states of the UN formally to address the over-whelming empirical and scientific evidence that the world needs a radically more sustainable approach ‘Sustainable Development Goals’ in 2015, and SDGs for the period of 2016–30. There is an increasing understanding that sustainable development needs a paradigm shift in understanding of the interaction between the real economy and quality of life.

〈Keywords〉

International development, Paradigm Shift, Development Policy and Evaluation

1. Definition of International Development

International development may be defined in many ways as it has different dimensions due to the region, country and geographical conditions. International development may be perceived as fundamental human right. In this paper, the term ‘International Development’ will be used to describe a process how to empowering poor people in developing countries. Development should be looked at and handled as a human rights issue, not simply as question of economic growth (Yunus: 1996). ‘Development is a key dimension of personal life, social relations, politics,

economics and culture in the country and regions that provide the subject matter.¹ The intention of the ‘development’ is to improve the poor people through stimulus and brainstorming of vulnerable people’s latent potential and make them ready to actively participate in development as a stakeholder for a ‘good change’ of their socio-economic condition. As Todaro states, ‘development must be conceived of as a multidimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes, and national institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality, and the eradication of absolute poverty’² So, there are many different ways to describe international development, but most definitions include the concepts of global poverty and inequality. International development is not only about understanding why issues of poverty and inequality exist throughout the world, but also it is necessary to taking into account how to face the development challenges and go about solving these complex issues.

2. Concept of International Development

The United Nations Development Report usually categorizes its member states such as high income, middle income and low income based on individual country’s Gross National Products (GNP)/Gross National Income (GNI), average life expectancy, literacy and infant mortality rate. Recent days, there is an argument, some countries have a very high rate of GNP/GNI that is the sign of excellent economic growth. If the country’s tremendous economic achievement is not properly works as a ‘trickle down’ to the people then an amazing economic growth is unable to play a focal role to social development, such as education, health and gender empowerment. Of course, economic growth is an instrumental factor for the individual country but the equal distribution rather important for its people well-being. So when a country’s economy is moving forward, and taking into account an equal distribution management approach, and it certainly brings a trickle-down effect to the disadvantaged people. Eventually, we need to redefine the *concept* of ‘development’. Therefore, development should mean bring a ‘good change’ in socio-economic condition of the poorest of the poor at the grassroots level.

‘In the past decades, development historians have expanded their field with works that are “longer” in time, “deeper” actor wise, and thematically “wider” than earlier analyses, which defined development rather a historically as a hegemonic “intellectual and ideological project” producing and dominating the postcolonial Third World.’³ International development or global development is a broad *concept* denoting the idea that societies and countries have differing levels of ‘development’ on an international scale. It is the basis for international classifications such as developed country, developing country and least developed country, and for a field of practice and research that in various ways engages with international development processes. ‘International development’ is different from the simple concept of ‘development’. Whereas the latter, at its most basic, denotes

¹ Jeffrey Haynes, ‘Development Studies’ polity, 2008, p.1

² Michael P. Todaro, ‘Economic Development in the Third World’ Longman, New York, 1989, p.620

³ Joseph Hodge, ‘Writing the History of Development (Part I: The First Wave)’ Humanity 6, University Press, 2015, p.438

simply the idea of change through time, international development has come to refer to a distinct field of practice. It remains closely related to the set of institutions - especially the Bretton Woods Institutions - that arose after the Second World War with a focus on economic growth, alleviating poverty, and improving living conditions in previously colonized countries.⁴ Common understanding among the mass people on and about 'international development' are international aid, overseas aid, foreign aid, economic aid or foreign assistance from the perspective of governments transfer of resources from north to southern countries. Beside the industrialized development countries, United Nations (UN) systems, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Islamic Development Bank (IDA), European and African Development have been playing a focal role based on their own *concept* and perspective to join in bi-lateral and multi-lateral multifaceted development activities. There are many NGOs also involved to on poverty, education, health, gender and with the environmental issues around the world.

3. Evolution of International Development

In the 18th Century, most people knew their neighbors; they all belonged to the same church; the wealthy considered it a moral duty to take care of the poor, and both the wealthy and all the church members knew where to find the poor. The churches had enough money to help when needed. Adam Smith's theories assumed that most of the wealth created in a community would stay within that community. That was true then. It is no longer true. We can't expect the wealthy and/or the churches to act as the only safety net we have in today's world.

The terminology 'International development', the World Bank (WB) had been started to using after the Second World War in its project documents. In the past, 'reconstruction' or 'rehabilitation' are widely used instead of today's 'international development' and in many reconstruction projects social anthropologists played an important role, later economists are involved and recent days a large percentage of development experts and workers are assigning to work in international development arena. History of development in the developing world began soon after the Second World War. The United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War, committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. The main priorities of the UN was to 'achieve international cooperation' in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural, the environmental issues and/or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and dignity for fundamental freedoms for all.

The Marshall Plan is established in 1947, to foster economic recovery in certain European countries. Later, in 1950s the Colombo Plan is established for the aim of economic development plans and facilitating technical and financial assistance for development projects in Asian countries. The World Bank established with an intention to

⁴ Wiley-Blackwell, D. Gregory, 'The Dictionary of Human Geography' 2009, pp. 155-56

enhance the international development programs in developing countries through their soft loan, grant and technical assistance as well. The World Bank is established in 1944 to offers developmental assistance to middle and low-income countries. Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established in 1966 to facilitate economic development of countries in Asia. Apart from the above mentioned international developmental organizations, many developed countries have their own international development cooperation agencies. Some of their name are given here; JICA (Japan), KOIKA (South Korea), DFID (United Kingdom), USAID (United States of America), CIDA (Canada), SIDA (Sweden), DCED (Netherlands), NORAD (Norway), DANIDA (Denmark), IFAC (Finland), GIZ (Germany) and so on. These countries carry out their international development cooperation activities along with other international development agencies (multi-lateral) and also through their own (bi-lateral) project/programs in different multifaceted area of international development. Despite their regular international development program they also take part in humanitarian and emergency relief activities for natural disaster.

4. Development Initiatives by the UN in the Last Six Decades

In the last six decades, international development organizations and United Nation's members' countries altogether have taken some collective initiative on international milestones on Trickle-down, Agricultural productivity, Poverty reduction, Educational development, Health and Nutrition, Gender Equality and rising awareness of the Environmental preservation. In the international development context, in 1970s the first generation of development economists focus on capital accumulation and growth, development strategy involving government planning and major investment. Limited attention to poverty and income-distribution to the poor were expected to benefit through 'trickle down'. In 1980s the Second generation of development economists 'neoclassical resurgence' favored reduced government involvement in economic development activities. More emphasis has given on market oriented open trade policies. The perception was that government intervention as causing distortions in prices and exchange rate, and government failures is more serious than market failure in many developing countries.

In the past decades, the UN and its members' countries have taken some dynamic initiatives, examples, trickle-down approach, green revolution, health for all, poverty reduction, basic human needs, education for all, gender equality and sustainable social development to improve the poor people well-being particularly for the developing countries. Some of the initiatives have had achieved their targets but their development strategies followed a 'top-down' administrative style and bypassed the beneficiaries active participation in the development process. As a result, most of the poor people were not able to improve their well-being not tasted the fruits of international development. But the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), followed 'bottom-up' approach in their development strategies. It has been widely recognized that the strengthening of the power of the poor through their direct participation and putting people first in multifaceted development activities and the best guarantee for an equitable development pattern at the grassroots level. In this approach, the beneficiaries' are able to participate in every stage of their development process such as decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Some major initiatives of the United Nations are given below;

4.1 Evolution of Education Since 1948

The United Nations has declared in 1948, Education is a basic right of all people. Since then the UN sponsored many conference along with its member states on education around the world. In 1990s conference the World Conference on “Education for All” in Thailand is presented a global consensus on an expanded vision of basic education. In other word, this conference’s usually call “Education for All by the year 2000. As of March 2021, 82 million children out of school, of whom 41 million are girls. Still 773 million illiterate adults. Despite the steady rise in literacy rates over the past decades, here are still 773 million illiterate adults around the world, most of whom are women. Many of them even do not know how to write their own name and very simple calculation in their daily life.

4.2 1950s Trickle-down

After a decade of UN established its members’ countries decided to work for ‘Trickle-down’ approach. Its intention was to increase country’s GNP at least up to 5 percent, once it achieved then economic benefit goes down to the poor people at the grassroots level. Many of the UN member states was successful to increase their GNP 5% and of them even more. Unfortunately, this achievement never ‘trickle down’ to the disadvantaged people at the bottom. There was an excellent economic achievement but equitable distribution not taken place. So the rich and poor gap has been more widen.

4.3 1960s Green Revolution

The term Green Revolution refers to the renovation of agricultural practices beginning in Mexico in the 1940s. In the 1950s and 1960s, significantly increasing the amount of calories produced per acre of agriculture. In the late 1960s, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) worked hard on Green Revolution and that increased agricultural production worldwide, particularly in agricultural-based economy the developing world, beginning most markedly in the late 1960s the Green Revolution saved over a billion people from starvation, involved the development of high-yielding varieties of cereal grains, expansion of irrigation infrastructure, modernization of management techniques, distribution of hybridized seeds, synthetic fertilizers, and pesticides to farmers. Small and landless farmers didn’t tested the results of this fruits. Because, most of them couldn’t pay for irrigation, seeds fertilizer and pesticides as well. Therefore, a dynamic growth of cereal grains couldn’t help poor people from starvation.

4.4 1970s Basic Human Needs

The Basic Human Needs (BHN) approach is one of the major approaches to the measurement of absolute poverty in developing countries. It attempts to define the absolute minimum resources necessary for long-term physical

well-being, usually in terms of consumption goods. The poverty line is then defined as the amount of income required to satisfy those needs. The 'basic needs' approach was introduced by the International Labor Organization's World Employment Conference in 1976. A traditional list of immediate "basic needs" is food (including water), shelter and clothing. Many modern lists emphasize the minimum level of consumption of 'basic needs' of not just food, water, clothing and shelter, but also sanitation, education, and healthcare. Eventually, human-being living with minimum requirements are shelter, food, clothes, education and access to health services. Unfortunately, two-third of the world population still facing problems in their basic human needs.

4.5 1970s Health for All

The International Conference “Declaration of Alma-Ata in 1978” on Primary Health Care, expressing the need for urgent action by all governments, all health workers, and the world community to protect and promote the health of all the people of the world. The conference strongly reaffirms that health, which is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, is a fundamental human right. This Conference was held in Kazakhstan (former The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). After 43 years of declaration still more than 80 percent of poor people, particularly in developing countries do not have access even to Primary Health Care (PHC) services when really needed in their living.

4.6 Equality of Gender

The first world conference on the status of women was convened in Mexico City to coincide with the 1975 International Women's Year, observed to remind the international community that discrimination against women continued to be a persistent problem in much of the world. The Conference, along with the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) proclaimed by the General Assembly five months later at the urging of the Conference, launched a new era in global efforts to promote the advancement of women by opening a worldwide dialogue on gender equality. Every five years there is a world conference among the United Nations members' states. Since 1975, there is a remarkable change in Gender Development Index (GDI), particularly women's education and their access to the job market. But in case of Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), example, political leader and corporate Chief Executive Officer (CEO) are still far behind compare to their male partners.

In the past, most of these initiatives having a some regional and individual country's difference in some extent they have achieved a few of their target in the last couple of decades, examples; world food production increased more than trice, most of the economic indicator showed an emerging growth in Less Developing Countries (LDC) including their GNP, literacy rate, life expectancy at birth and infant mortality rate. At the same period of time world population is increased only twice. Unfortunately, even the tremendous economic growth of past decades didn't play an important role for the poor people, because the economic or enough food growth was not trickle-down to the disadvantaged people at the grassroots level. Despite these dynamic development, still two-third of the

world population, particularly in the LDC couldn't able to reach their BHN (shelter, food, clothes, accesses to education and health services). One of the reason of development failure is 'it has been seen in many countries that initiative of development achievement does not have any social impact without proper equitable distribution of its economic growth of particular country's disadvantaged people'⁵ Another issue of development failure in approach in the past decades. The UN system and development organizations follow 'top-down' development approach. In a purely, 'top-down' system, higher levels have more power in development planning at national levels have controlled everything, from decision-making to evaluation, regional level are unable to start fulfilling their own roles until they receive direction or guidance from the top. Then, the field level has to wait for its plan of action to come from regional levels. The heartland of development 'grassroots level' just carry on by doing what they are told to do by the top level. Top-down approach bypasses the people who are the real beneficiaries of development, and does not emphasize the importance of listening directly to people's problems at the grassroots level before coming to a decision and implementation as well.

5. The Rich and Poor Gap Widened in the last Three Decades

In the last three decades, due to the leading-edge of information communication technology has been playing an important role in the world's tremendous economic growth, infrastructural enhance and communication area as well. These development achievements are almost three to four times compare to 1990s. At same time world population growth is about two times. 'World's richest 1% get 82% of the wealth, the gap between the super-rich and the rest of the world widened last year as wealth continued to be owned by a small minority. 82% of money generated last year went to the richest 1% of the global population while the poorest half saw no increase at all.'⁶ Again, according to Oxfam, The world's eight richest individuals have as much wealth as the 3.6 billion people who make up the poorest half of the world. Commonly saying, 20 percent of the world population are enjoying 80 percent of the world wealth, and only 20 percent of the world wealth for rest of the 80 percent.

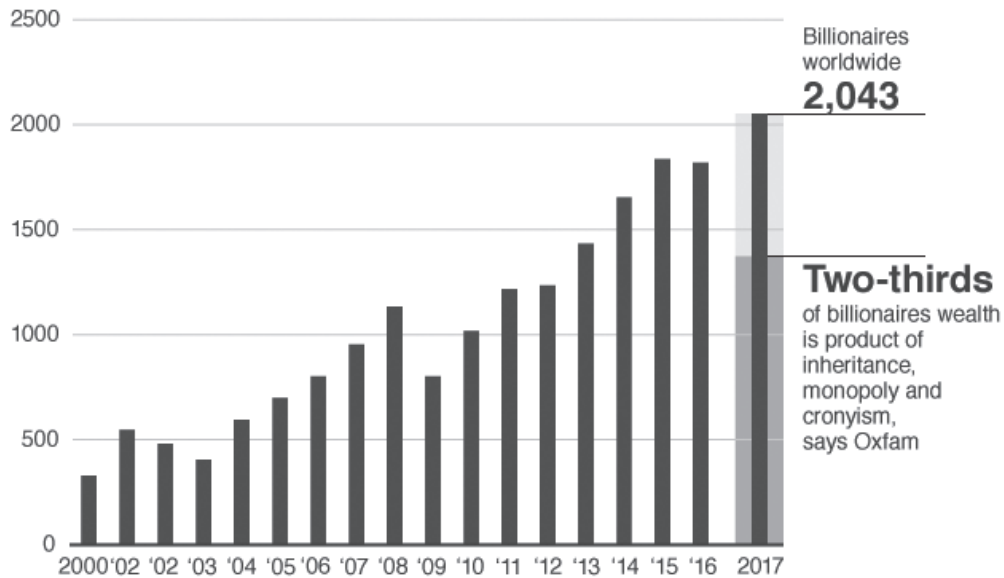
As shown in figure 1, as of March 2021 the world population is 7.9 billion and only 2043 people are billionaires. Oxfam said its figures - which critics have queried - showed a failing system. It blamed tax evasion, firms' influence on policy, erosion of workers' rights, and cost cutting for the widening gap. The world's eight richest billionaires control the same wealth between them as the poorest half of the globe's population, according to a charity warning of an ever-increasing and dangerous concentration of wealth. Gap between rich and poor 'keeps growing'. The gap between the rich and the poor keeps widening, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) says. In its 34 member states, the richest 10% of the population earn 9.6 times the income of the poorest 10%. This income disparity is one of the cause that widening the rich and poor gap day by day.

⁵ Naseer Jamadar, 'Conceptual Framework for Analyzing People's Participation in Development' Journal of Kanazawa Seiryō University, Vol. 51, No.2, 2018, p.59

⁶ Katie Hope, British Broadcasting Corporation News, Davos, Published, 22 January, 2018

Figure 1 Number of Billionaires Keeps Growing

Oxfam report shows the richest 1% of the world's population is worth more than the other 99%



Source: Oxfam Report, British Broadcasting Corporation, 2019, p.3

‘The trend wealth ever-increasing wealth concentration is dangerous because it threatens human progress, social cohesion, human rights and democracy’⁷ Poor people are poor and it is not their fault. The poor people have potential and who seek to improve by themselves through their indigenous knowledge. But they remain poor because due to lack of access to credit and more appropriate skill. In the developing countries poor people are working from dawn to dusk to improve their socioeconomic condition. But the present capitalism system, ‘It has produced amazing technological advances and huge accumulations of wealth but at the cost of creating massive inequality and the terrible human problems that inequality fosters.’⁸ Usually, the poor people are suffering when there are some kinds of natural disaster and economic crisis. While the rich continued to enjoy their abundant lifestyle. At the same time, many poor people faced problem to continuing their job and income as well. To overcome these kind of problems, very often international development organizations, governments and financial institutions have had responded with many programs. Unfortunately, they have not enough to focus on beneficiaries’ appropriate needs and long-term vision of the actual problem of poverty at the grassroots level. More or less, there is corruption in every society, in developing countries it is said that “absolute power means absolute corruption” where corruption at the highest levels of government is recognized as a critical obstacle to development. In other word it may say, bureaucratic corruption as with most other social purposive behavior which may be a deviation from an expected norm but is undertaken nevertheless with a view to attain material or other rewards.

⁷ Muhammad Yunus, ‘A World of Three Zeros’ PublicAffairs, 2017, p.5

⁸ Ibid. 2017, p.8

‘In many developing countries, the poor have not been the main beneficiaries of economic growth. However, economics such as those of the South Korean and Taiwan have shown that there is no inherent contradiction between promoting growth and reducing poverty.’⁹ Unfortunately, developing countries are heavily dependent on international agencies and rich countries for their development budget. Such funds are usually granted on condition that the donor’s policies and expertise are also incorporated into the recipient country’s plans or projects. Therefore, they have to follow their funders’ guidance and that is the top-down administrative style. Eventually, the ‘top-down’ development approach failed to achieve its goals over the past development decades. Because, this approach bypasses the beneficiaries’ direct participation in development, upper level does not emphasize the importance of listening directly to people’s problems at the grassroots level before coming to a decision. As a result, the real beneficiaries of the development activities are not invited to participate in planning, decision-making, monitoring, and evaluation of their own development. Consequently, many conflicts and development failures have been arisen in developing countries in the past decades.

‘Development was rarely considered to be a “God-given” condition of socio-economic systems, implying that policy makers at national and international level have always thought that some activities were required to promote positive change.’¹⁰ In the developing countries, another obstacle in development is frequent natural disaster such as drought, flood, water-logging, cyclone and tidal surge, tornado, thunderstorm, river/costal erosion, landslides, salinity intrusion, hailstorm and earthquake and so on. Particularly in agro-based economy in rural areas lost their income due to drought in the winter and river erosion in the rainy season. Sometimes farmers not only lost their property, they also even lost their live. These natural disaster are common occurrences year after another which cause heavily damages in rural people life and to be a hindrance to the region or an individual country’s development. As a result, even a well formulated development program cannot achieve the goal.

6. International Development Problem and Challenges

Last decades, many anthropologist, economist and development professionals have been thinking of up a model of the development. United Nations and the World Bank have been encouraging their member countries to improve their overall socioeconomic conditions. One single top-down development approach is not always enough for a good change for all countries, since each individual country has its own specific socioeconomic, cultural, political and geographical conditions. Again, particularly the less developing countries have economic constraints and lack of technical knowhow to formulate a good master plan and future projection as well. Over the past development decades, developing countries have taken various initiatives for reduction poverty, increase literacy rate and protect the environment. However, despite the allocation of large sum of capital and organizational efforts, but a little seems to have been achieved at the grassroots level. This failure of the development can be attributed to the

⁹ Robert Cassen, ‘Does Aid Work’ Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1994, p.36

¹⁰ Lorenzo G.Bellu, ‘Development and Development Paradigms’ 2011, p.5

following factors: following a development paradigm alien to the region, sectoral imbalances, top-down strategies and inequitable distribution of assets. Land is a major asset and is the source of important economic, political social power of the people. Its distribution pattern is significantly uneven, in favor of large farmers, limiting access of the poorer groups to resources and opportunities. Furthermore, land is not equitably distributed to among the people in rural areas.

In the past decades many bi-lateral and multi-lateral well formulated development initiative have taken by the United Nations, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and industrialized developed countries with other international development organizations. But they could not achieved their targets. Although, most of the development planners emphasize Basic Human Needs (BHN), there are many development approaches that are in accordance with the geographical, cultural and socioeconomic conditions of country or from a region to another. Through many regional evaluation, it is observed that particularly in developing countries many people living below the poverty line. Even today, most of the poor people problems are significantly interrelated with shelter, food, clothes, education, and access to primary health care services.

Lesson from the failure of the past decades' development program/projects. The United Nations and other international development organizations came to an understanding that a holistic approach is necessary to taking into account collectively. Needless to say, without public accountability and the government political strong will it is impossible to implement any development program in the field-level. So the United Nations and other international development organizations and the UN members have been working for a quiet long time to evaluation and find out the factor affecting development in the past decades and also consider the find a comprehensive new pathway *Paradigm Shift of International Development* to meet the development challenges. For the paradigm of shift of development, under the leadership of the UN a comprehensive focused framework adopted with all its member states. The millennium declaration, adopted and agreed by all Governments in 2000.

7. Paradigm Shift of International Development

The term paradigm shift refers to a major change in the concepts and practices of how something works or is accomplished. A paradigm shift can happen within a wide variety of contexts (Will Kenton: 2019). The concept of paradigm shifts was explored by Thomas Kahn Kuhn in his book: "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions: 1962." Kuhn contended that paradigm shifts characterize a revolution to a prevailing scientific framework. They arise when the dominant paradigm, under which normally accepted science operates, is rendered incompatible or insufficient, facilitating the adoption of a revised or completely new theory or paradigm. In late 1980s to early 2000s the policy makers started to think about efforts to integrate broader social and institutional factors into development concept. Institutional capacity building is very much related to carry out the development activities (Paul Collier: 1998). Today, there is a need for system wide strategic planning to integrate the economic, social and environmental

dimensions into policy and actions.

7.1 Why Paradigm Shift is Necessary in International Development

Paradigm Shift: This terminology, today, widely use in international development arena. Over time many new development issues have been arises in developing countries and the dominant development conventional policies and approaches are incompatible to overcome the existing problems in the international development world. Therefore, a fundamental change in the basic concepts and practices of a scientific discipline is necessary in a prevailing of international development framework. 'In the late 20th century, it came to refer primarily to Third World debt. The IMF (International Monetary Fund) and the World Bank have taken an initiative, as a paradigm shift of international development, namely Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) are documents required before a loan proposal by the Heavily Indebted Countries (HIPC). The IMF specifies that the PRSP should be formulated according to five core principles.'¹¹ The PRSP should be country-driven, result-oriented, comprehensive, partnership-oriented, and based on a long-term perspective. There were many challenges to PRSP effectiveness, such as state capacity to carry out the established strategy. Criticism of PRSP include aid conditionality, donor influence, and poor fulfillment of the participatory aspect.

In 1996, OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) adopted New Development Strategy (NDS). Declaring an improved quality of life for all to be the primary goal of development, the NDS set forth a development vision with emphasis on three key underpinnings: social development and environmental improvements, including poverty reduction, gains in social infrastructure, and environmental sustainability and regeneration; economic growth from a medium and long-term perspective, driven by the participation of developing countries in the globalization process. 'The NDS declares that development assistance can do no more than complement the efforts made by citizens, organizations, institutions and government of developing countries, and that ownership by developing countries will accordingly be of the utmost importance to the achievement of Sustainable Development'¹² The NDS assigns sustainable development importance as a means of improving the quality of life for all, and sets forth a vision of development for that purpose. The World Bank and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are actively involved in the NDS initiatives to address the poverty issue in developing countries. The World Bank considers efforts in three areas fundamental to the task of effectively reducing poverty: broad-based economic growth, developing human capital, and the creation of social safety nets for vulnerable groups (World Bank: 1996). Frameworks for steady economic will be essential if the poor are to benefit from the country or regional growth.

¹¹ Gavin Lynch, Naseer Jamadar, 'From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development' Kanazawa Seiryō University Academic Society, Vol. 13, No.1, 2019, p.76

¹² OECD, 'The OECD/DAC's New Development Strategy' 1998, Vol.1, p.79

8. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015

The universal dream of improving the quality of life globally embedded in eight thrust areas was translated into the Millennium Goals and mandated by the United Nations in September 2000. The goals represent a global partnership that emerged from the commitments of and targets by the community of nations. ‘At the beginning of the new millennium, world leaders gathered at the UN to shape a board vision to fight poverty in its various dimensions. That vision, which was translated into eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), remained the overarching development framework for the world for 15 years. On 8 September 2000, the leaders of 189 countries signed the historic millennium declaration at the United Nations Millennium summit, and this was followed by the adaptation of the UN Millennium Declaration by the UN’s member states at that time, and at least 22 international organizations.’¹³ The MDGs also provide a rationale for the United Nations family to work together more coherently and effectively, so as to give countries the support they need to achieve the Goals.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 2000-2015



The MDGs had to reduce extreme poverty and its many manifestations: hunger, disease, gender inequality, lack of education and access to basic infrastructure, and environmental degradation. Millennium Development Goals were as follows; Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, Achieve universal primary education, Promote gender equality and empower women, Reduce child mortality, Improve maternal health, Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, Ensure environmental sustainability and Global partnership for development. ‘The MDG Report 2015 found that the 15-year effort to achieve the eight aspirational goals set out in the Millennium Declaration in 2000 was largely successful across the globe, while acknowledging shortfalls that remain. The data and analysis presented in the report show that with targeted interventions, sound strategies, adequate resources and political

¹³ Gavin Lynch, Naseer Jamadar, ‘From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development’ Kanazawa Seiryō University Academic Society, Vol. 13, No.1, 2019, p.72

will, even the poorest can make progress.¹⁴ The report highlighted that the number of poor people has declined from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015. Out-of-school children of primary school age 57 million in 2015, down from 100 million in 2000. Gender parity in primary school has been achieved in the majority of countries. The mortality rate of children under-five was cut by more than half since 1990 and from 1990, maternal mortality fell by 45 percent worldwide. 147 countries have met the MDG drinking water target, 95 countries have met the MDG sanitation target and 77 countries have met both. Official development assistance from developed countries increased 66 percent in real terms from 2000 and 2014, reaching \$135.2 billion. The final MDG report confirms that goal-setting can lift millions of people out of poverty, empower women and girls, improve health and well-being, and provide vast new opportunities for better lives. In some extent MDGs have achieved a few goals in particular region or countries. Due to the strategic weakness of the MDGs, financial constraint of developing countries, and lack of proper development policies many countries couldn't achieved their target. From the soul-searching of failure of goals, it would be necessary to taking into account through a strong monitoring process.

'Asia and the Pacific has led the world in the drive to achieve the MDGs, with the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 per day projected to fall from 53% in 1990 to 12% by the end of the year.'¹⁵ The final assessment of regional progress towards the MDGs presents an optimistic picture of how far the region has come. Yet, it underlines the crucial need to address ongoing challenges in the post-2015 development agenda. To maintain the momentum for the post-2015 agenda, the ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) report notes, the region will need to address three key areas of implementation: extending the benefits of technology to all, mobilizing the necessary financial resources, and building statistical systems that can monitor the progress of the poorest groups to ensure that no one is left behind.

9. The Sustainable Development Goals

In some extent MDGs have achieved a few goals in particular region or countries. Due to the strategic weakness of the MDGs, financial constraint of developing countries, and lack of proper development policies many countries couldn't achieved their intended targets. From the soul-searching of failure of goals, it would be necessary to taking into account through a strong monitoring process in on going SDGs. In mid-way into the time-frame for the achievement of the Millennium Declaration, due to of increased economic hardship, small and medium scale business closed down, many people loss their job around the world, rising oil prices have presented additional obstacles not only in the low and middle income countries but also for the worldwide. Therefore, all member states of United Nations formally in 2015, for the period 2016–30 to address the over-whelming empirical and scientific evidence that the world needs a radically more sustainable approach 'Sustainable Development Goals'. The difference between the MDGs and the SDGs, MDGs was designed particularly for the development of the

¹⁴ UNDP, 'The Millennium Development Goals Report 2017' p.5

¹⁵ ESCAP (UN), 'Making it Happen: MDG Progress Reports- Asia and the Pacific' 2015

developing countries, mainly for the ‘eight pro-poor objectives.’ But the SDGs is redesigned for the whole world with an aim to ensure that no one is left behind.

Why the SDGs Matter? According to the UN reports; in 2015, more than 700 million people, lived in extreme poverty, struggling to fulfil the most basic human needs. More than 690 million people were undernourished in 2019, mainly in Asia and Africa. If these trends continue, an estimated 840 million people will go hungry by 2030. 19.4 million children did not receive the essential vaccines during the first year of their life. About 258 million children and youth were still out of school in 2018. Women and girls represent half of the world’s population. But, today gender inequality persists everywhere and stagnates social progress. Women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of political leadership. In 2017, an estimated 3 billion people worldwide lacked the ability to drink safe water. Inequalities based on income, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion and opportunity continue to persist across the world. To considering above mentioned crucial issues, all member countries and the UN took an initiative to overcome these problem through a collective approach.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of global goals for fair and sustainable human being living at every level. The aim is to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity, now and in the future. The goals represent a framework that is scientifically robust, and widely intuitive intended to build upon the progress established by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There is a need for system wide strategic planning to integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions into policy and actions. There is an increasing understanding that sustainable development needs a paradigm shift in understanding of the interaction between the real economy and quality of life. Properly execution of the paradigm shift there would be many social, environmental and economic benefits in changing development.

Sustainable Development Goals (MDGs) 2016-2030



10. Concluding Remarks

To achieving the SDGs the United Nations, industrialized developed countries should have a strong political commitment with financial and technical support to be real development partnership to fulfil the target of the Sustainable Development Goals by the year of 2030 within an aim to no one left behind in the world. Again, the partnership of governments, corporates, NGOs and civil society and citizens alike to be needed to make sure we leave a better planet for future generations. Particularly, for the less developing countries are very much eager to get necessary support and cooperation from the United Nations, international development organizations and business community as well. These countries have some limitations such as economic constraints, lack of technical knowhow, and ability to formulate an appropriate 'development project' to overcome their existing problems. The business community (local and multi-national corporations) can play an important role through providing their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. The business community has skills, products development and marketing knowhow, so the corporate can acts as partner with the community people to turn them into barefooted entrepreneurs. Needless to say, many of the well formulated development initiatives have failed when the latter did not take into account either that local people's willingness or the beneficiaries' need. Effective development strategies require a process of planning and implementation which enables community people and officials to equally express their needs and to share in deciding what is to be done. Since there many factors are involve in development, so the most important thing is individual government's strong political will to carry out the development process.

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