

The background of the image is a dark blue and purple night sky filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes. In the foreground, there is a dark silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees. The overall aesthetic is serene and celestial.

TOPIC OF THE WEEK

MAR'19 (14 to 20 Mar)

Time to re-think about the world- Third World

“Third world” is the term first coined during the time of cold war and categorized countries on the basis of their political and economical scenario. This term was used to describe countries that were not aligned with the Communist Bloc or NATO or that were neutral. Third World countries are typically poor with underdeveloped economies. In these countries, low levels of education, poor infrastructure, improper sanitation, and limited access to health care means living conditions are inferior to those in the world’s more developed nations. Alfred Sauvy, a French demographer, anthropologist, and historian, is credited with coining the term Third World during the Cold War. Sauvy observed a group of countries, many former colonies, that did not share the ideological views of Western capitalism or Soviet socialism. “Three worlds, one planet,” wrote Sauvy in a 1952 article published in *L’Observateur*. Characteristics of a third world country are poverty, agriculture economy, disease, high birth and infant mortality rates, over-population, poor infrastructure, unstable governments, poor health care, environmental problems, non educated people, starvation, and death. Those characteristics are

the first thing that comes to someone's mind about a third world country. Most third world countries are located in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The populations of third world countries are generally very poor but with high birth rates.

The development of a country is measured with statistical indexes such as income per capita (GDP), the rate of illiteracy, and access to water. Developing countries are the countries that have not achieved a significant degree of industrialisation relative to their populations, and which have a low standard of living. There is a strong correlation between low income and high population growth. According to different theories, developing countries require the following sources:-

- (a) Basic attitudes and aptitudes, culture of the people: and behaviour of the leaders;
- (b) Legal structures and institutions, rule of law, low corruption, strong local capital markets, extrinsic factors, geopolitical or commercial interest that it creates compared to other countries, place of the country in a historical and cultural system, inadequate reforms imposed in counterpart with

financing of last resort, by- multilateral organisations to get out of situations of deficit and indebtedness in which the country is placed.

Apart from this Globalization has contributed a lot to develop the health and education systems in the developing countries. We can clearly see that education has increased in recent years, because globalization has a catalyst to the jobs that require higher skills set. This demand allowed people to gain higher education. Health and education are basic objectives to improve any nations, and there are strong relationships between economic growth and health and education systems. Through growth in economic, living standards and life expectancy for the developing nations certainly get better. With more fortunes poor nations are able to supply good health care services and sanitation to their people. In addition, the government of developing countries can provide more money for health and education to the poor, which led to decrease the rates of illiteracy. This is seen in many developing countries whose illiteracy rate fell down recently. It is truth that, living standards and life expectancy of developing

countries increase through economic gains from globalization.

Developing nations are also more vulnerable to terrorism because they are unlikely to have the resources to adequately fight terrorism. This problem is often compounded by corruption, poor governance, and lack of proper judicial systems or rule of law in these nations. Such institutional shortcomings breed discontent in the population, which in turn can spur terrorism. Along with that Greater terrorism in a developing nation raises the risk for foreign investors of not being able to get the returns to their investments in the future. Such investors will look for safer alternate nations to invest in. It raises the costs of doing business across national borders. For example, shipping costs will rise if shippers have to buy insurance to cover possible damages in the ports of terrorism-prone nations. In turn, such costs are passed on to the consumers in the form of higher prices, which will tend to reduce both exports and imports of terror-affected nations.

One of the major problems of Third World Countries is water. The lack of water poses a major threat to several sectors, including food security. Agriculture uses about 70% of the world's accessible freshwater. In many countries, pollution or rising sea levels are contaminating trusted water sources. Water stress and lack of sanitation disproportionately affect women and girls. These factors can alter their health, safety and opportunity to engage in economic activities. Women and girls are often the primary managers of natural resources, particularly for household use and small-scale agriculture. They are key change agents in sustainable water management practices.

The revolution of the peoples of the Third World began in Latin America in the 19th century, and it expanded to include Asia and Africa in the 20th century. In Latin America, anti-colonial revolutions led to the formation of independent republics in South America, Mexico, and Central America (but not the Caribbean) in the period of 1810 to 1824. In Africa and Asia, anti-colonial revolutions began in the early 20th century and ultimately culminated in the establishment of independent nations for most of the colonized peoples of

Africa and Asia (as well as those of the Caribbean) during the period of 1948 to 1963. But this was not a true independence. The politically independent nations found themselves limited by the global economic structures established during the colonial era.

The debate over the effects of communication on the development of the Third World goes back over 30 years. The mass media was supposed to teach the masses basic productive skills, complement formal education, and promote basic adult literacy. The theory was proposed that if you increase urbanization, literacy, and media participation in underdeveloped areas political and economic improvements would follow. In quantitative measures, much progress has been made in urbanization, literacy, and health care. However, the quality of life of the people in underdeveloped countries has not improved greatly. The mass media has often promoted capitalist ideals and values, and raised hopes beyond what the state could supply. Large transnational corporations advertising in these countries have introduced different ethical values and changed customer demand. This is seen as a threat by those countries to their cultural identity.

The dependency theory suggests that multinational corporations and organizations such as the IMF and World Bank have contributed to making third world countries dependent on first world countries for economic survival. The theory states that this dependence is self-maintaining because the economic systems tend to benefit first world countries and corporations. Scholars also question whether the idea of development is biased in favour of Western thought. They debate whether population growth is a main source of problems in the third world or if the problems are more complex and thorny than that. Policy makers disagree on how much involvement first world countries should have in the third world and whether third world debts should be cancelled.

Corruption, poverty, war, hunger, healthcare, education, safety-are the problems faced by people in under developed countries. Many of these problems are caused by exclusion, fear, intimidation, broken infrastructure, and lack of money, resources, access to information, and tools. These are hard problems to solve but, as Theodore Roosevelt said:

"Nothing in this world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty."

It is the perfect time when we have to work together, openly and freely sharing ideas and solutions for the benefit of others.

References:

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Additional Reading:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/11/the-guardian-view-on-the-world-wide-web-we-wove-a-tangle>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/04/the-guardian-view-on-britains-finance-course-we-must-break-it>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/12/opinion/climate-change-children-greta-thunberg.html>
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