

# Problems of third world countries

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By

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# Introduction

- ✦ It is believed that the term was originally coined in times of the Cold War to distinguish those nations that are neither aligned with the West (NATO) nor with the East, the Communist block.
  - ✦ Today the term refer to the less developed or developing countries. These are the nations that emerged from their colonial periods – at least politically
- So since three ‘worlds’ no longer exist, why do we still use the term?
- ✦ Habit and simplification of the world



✦ Although an incorrect usage, the term Third World is now used to represent the poorest countries in the world

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✦ Scholars today prefer to use the terms: Developing World, Global South, Least/Lesser Developed Countries



So how do we know if a country is developing and what does it mean to be developing?

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- ✦ No clear cut definition or guideline, although all countries have been classified
- ✦ A lack of material wealth does not necessarily mean that one is deprived
- ✦ A strong economy in a developed nation doesn't mean much when a significant percentage of the population is struggling to survive

Successful development can mean many things



✦ Access to all basic needs such as food, water, shelter, clothing, health and education Stable political, social and economic

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environment

✦ Ability to make free and informed choices

✦ Ability to participate in a democratic environment

✦ To have full potential for what the United Nations calls Human development

# What is Human Development?

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Human development is about much more than the rise or fall of national incomes. It is about creating an environment in which people can develop their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accord with their needs and interests. People are the real wealth of nations. Development is thus about expanding the choices people



have to lead lives that they value. And it is thus about much more than economic growth, which is only a means—if a

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very important one—of enlarging people's choices.

# Problems faced by third world countries

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- ✦ Poor household amenities.
- ✦ Air, water and land pollution.
- ✦ High birth rates
- ✦ Lack of employment



- ✦ High Illiteracy
- ✦ Greater frequency of health problems.
- ✦ Overpopulation

## Poor household amenities.

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- ✦ The lack of basic services like a clean water supply, rubbish collection and sewerage disposal mean that the risks of disease are very high.
- ✦ Poor hospital facilities especially in far-flung places
- ✦ No access to support, information and services.

- ✦ most of these countries have serious problems with Food and Water Security.

# Air, water and land pollution

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- ✦ Pollution of air, land and water is a major problem in most developing world cities.
- ✦ The drive to industrialisation brings with it inevitable problems, especially as legislation to protect the environment is often non-existent or rarely enforced.

- ✦ Furthermore, the hidden economy can add to the levels of pollution as small, unlicensed industries are set up in peoples homes or on rooftops.
- ✦ These industries release their pollutants into the air, land and water.

## High birth rates

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- ✦ Many parents will have a lot of children in the expectation that some will die because of the high infant mortality rate
- ✦ The children will be able to look after their parents if they become old or sick; there may not be a old age pension scheme

- ✦ High birth rates leads to increase in population especially when birth rate is faster than mortality rate.

# Lack of employment

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- ✦ The labor force is extremely underutilized in the less developed countries.
- ✦ Unemployment refers to a situation where people who are willing and able to work cannot find a job

# High Illiteracy

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- ✦ The upper classes may have access to it. But in various third world countries it is hard for the poor and/or women to get an education
- ✦ Third World Countries lag behind since they may either have insufficient funds devoted to literary growth or these funds are wasted wrongfully.
- ✦ A big part of the population is illiterate due to wrong planning.

# Overpopulation

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- ✦ This biggest problem facing all Third World nations is the massive population/population growth-rate.
- ✦ Due to illiteracy, lack of knowledge on family planning/contraceptives, younger age of marriages and the idea of "more hands, more work done" means that these countries have exceedingly high birth rates leading to a massively growing population who the Government struggles to provide for.

# Greater frequency of health problems

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- ★ Many people on the less developed countries are afflicted with poor health.
- ★ Many people in the less developed countries are either malnourished or undernourished. That make them susceptible to diseases.

- ✦ Poverty comes with lack of hygiene and this favours the proliferation of various harmful bacteria which results in the development of diseases such as cholera, malaria, etc.

# Solutions

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- ✦ *Sewage rehabilitation*
- ✦ *Housing developments*
- ✦ *Rehabilitation*
- ✦ *Better healthcare*



★ *Encouraging small and medium enterprises*

# Conclusion

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- ★ These factors that are contributing to the slow growth of the developing nations
- ★ Third world issues that are mentioned here involve billions of people around the globe, which cannot be ignored. It needs attention from all the policy makers and world leaders to address and solve these problems.

Thank you