THERE IS A BETTER WAY!

An Introduction to the Development as Freedom Approach

UNDERSTAND IT! 'DEVELOPMENT' BEGINS IN YOUR MIND, Y'KNOW!

AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENTS, ALL OVER THE WORLD, HAVE ALWAYS SEEN DEVELOPMENT AS A 'TOUGH BUSINESS', WHERE IT IS 'SOFT-HEADED' TO PROVIDE SAFETY-NETS FOR THE POOR...

BUT... THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE OUTLOOK, THAT SEEES THE WHOLE IDEA OF DEVELOPMENT AS A 'FRIENDLY', PRO-PEOPLE PROCESS...

... OR EVEN SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE GENERAL POPULATION, AND WHERE POLITICAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS ARE PART OF THE 'LUXURY OF DEMOCRACY'!

SOUNDS FAMILIAR?

... NATURALLY BENEFICIAL EXCHANGES OCCUR AS... PEOPLE LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES IN WAYS THEY HAVE FREELY CHosen!

THAT IS WHERE FREEDOM IS BEING LOST... THE END AND... MEANS TO THE END? ISN'T IT?
THERE IS A BETTER WAY!

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This documentary comic-book is based entirely on the sequence of ideas and concepts expressed in Amartya Sen’s

**THERE IS A BETTER WAY!**

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INTRODUCTION

This is a book about a book on more humane development...

...which urges people to better their lives within their own cultural identities!

It's not a comic!

All over the world, countries are seen to be in crises! Despite the huge growth in global economic output, during the last fifty years...

...the gap between rich and poor - the 'haves' and the 'have-nots' - continues to separate people...

Trillions of dollars divide us!

...and the damage to the global environment now threatens us all! We can see it!

We have floods and mudslides!

The overarching emphasis on economic development, and the accumulation of wealth and power, has not prevented deprivation, destitution and repression. It denies millions of people the right to live out their lives the way they want and value!

It gets worse!... problems of corruption, environmental degradation, exploitation, and exclusion, in all parts of the world, have so distorted the development process...

...that the presumed doctrine of the 'trickle-down effect' is no longer working! Eh?

So, it is no longer the way to go? In the future?

Our future?

It seems like it... but...

But a better way has been suggested by Amartya Sen, the development economist...
"Development can be seen...as a process of expanding the real freedoms people enjoy. Focusing on human freedoms contrasts with the narrower views of development, such as identifying development with the growth of gross national product, or with the rise in personal incomes, or with industrialization, or with technological advance, or with social modernization.

Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom, 1999, p.3.
“ Freedoms are not only the primary ends of development, they are also among its principal means. In addition to acknowledging, foundationally, the evaluative importance of freedom, we also have to understand the remarkable empirical connection that links freedoms of different kinds with one another. Political freedoms, (in the form of free speech and elections), help promote economic security. Social opportunities (in the form of education and health facilities) facilitate economic participation. Economic facilities (in the form of opportunities for participation in trade and production) can help to generate personal abundance as well as public resources for social facilities. Freedoms of different kinds can strengthen one another.”

FIRST, WE HAVE TO AGREE THAT TRUE DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES THE REMOVAL OF THE MAJOR SOURCES OF UNFREEDOM!

THE MAJOR SOURCES OF UNFREEDOM? WHAT ARE THEY? EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE... JUST ASK... EH?

MY DAD?

GET RID OF POVERTY, FOR ONE... EH?

FAMINE! LACK OF HEALTH CARE!
AND POOR NUTRITION!
LACK OF CLEAN WATER!
POOR BASIC EDUCATION!
SCARCITY OF
URBAN SANITATION!
LACK OF POLITICAL
LIBERTY AND CIVIL RIGHTS!
LACK OF EMPLOYMENT!

YES! MOST OF ALL, INTOLERANT, REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT!

ALL THAT IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE!... ISN'T IT?

OF COURSE IT IS! BUT WE NEED TO MAKE A START... DON'T WE?

WHO?

WHAT PEOPLE CAN POSITIVELY ACHIEVE, SEN SAYS, IS INFLUENCED BY THEIR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, POLITICAL LIBERTIES, SOCIAL POWERS AND THE ENABLING CONDITIONS OF GOOD HEALTH, BASIC EDUCATION, AND THE CULTIVATION OF INITIATIVES. THESE ALL HAVE TO BE PLANNED FOR!

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TO LEAD?

THROUGH THESE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED THE FREEDOM TO THEN TAKE PART IN SOCIAL CHOICES...

...AND SO, ALSO TAKE PART IN POLITICAL DECISIONS THAT WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES...

... THEY NEED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE LIVES THEY CHOOSE AND WANT!
I GET IT NOW! THE PEOPLE LEAD!
What are the things that really constitute the development process? Well, free political participation, and basic education are not only conducive to development, they are both essential! It can't happen without them, so they are both essential! Right! They are constituent components of it! Wow!

That's the foundation! What else is essential? Markets are important! If they are open, transparent, and efficient, they can contribute to high economic growth and progress!

Exactly! The freedom to exchange words, goods or gifts even, are part of the way human beings in society live and interact with each other...

Putting ideas in the market place! Heh?

It also applies to the freedom of the labour market, and the end of bonded labour - as well as just products and goods! No more slavery!

Yes, such institutions and market organisations, have to play a vital role in development! But, there are many other institutions - key ones - that are needed...

Institutions are essential!

So, somebody has to organise a fair market system? Eh?

Order lives want the such as?

Governments, of course, and local authorities... political parties, and other civic sector institutions, including all the education opportunities for open dialogue and debate...

They are all institutions, and must include the role of the media, and all the other forms of communication!

Yes, this is how society talks to itself...
AND CHANGES IDEAS ABOUT WHAT IT BELIEVES ITS OWN FREEDOMS TO BE! BY COMMUNICATIONS!

YES! THIS IS HOW SOCIAL VALUES COME TO CHANGE, TOO! WHAT ARE SOCIAL VALUES?

THEM ARE IDEAS ABOUT THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN OUR LIVES THAT WE ALL SHARE! INCLUDING NEW IDEAS ABOUT GENDER EQUITY, FOR EXAMPLE!

IDEAS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT, AND HOW WE TREAT IT?

THINGS WE ALL BELIEVE IN, AS 'COMMON SENSE'; AND AS A CONCERN FOR THE QUALITY OF LIFE!

THESE ARE THE SOCIAL VALUES THAT CAN DEVELOP OUT OF FREE SOCIAL INTERACTION AND FREE PUBLIC DISCUSSION. THEY ARE ALL INFLUENCED SIMPLY BY OUR FREEDOM TO TAKE PART!

?!

AS SIMPLE AS THAT?

IN FACT, SEN SAYS THAT THERE ARE FIVE DISTINCT TYPES OF FREEDOM THAT ARE ESSENTIAL...

... POLITICAL FREEDOMS, ECONOMIC FACILITIES, SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES, TRANSPARENCY GUARANTEES, AND PROTECTIVE SECURITY.

I HOPE THEY EXPLAIN...

... THAT AS SEN ARGUES, EACH OF THESE FIVE DISTINCT FREEDOMS... EACH NECESSARY FOR ITS OWN PARTICULAR SAKE...

... ARE NOT ONLY THE PRIMARY ENDS OF ALL DEVELOPMENT, THEY ARE ALSO AMONG...

THE PRINCIPAL MEANS OF ACHIEVING EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES! THERE!

A BETTER WAY!

WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT IN THE FIRST PLACE!