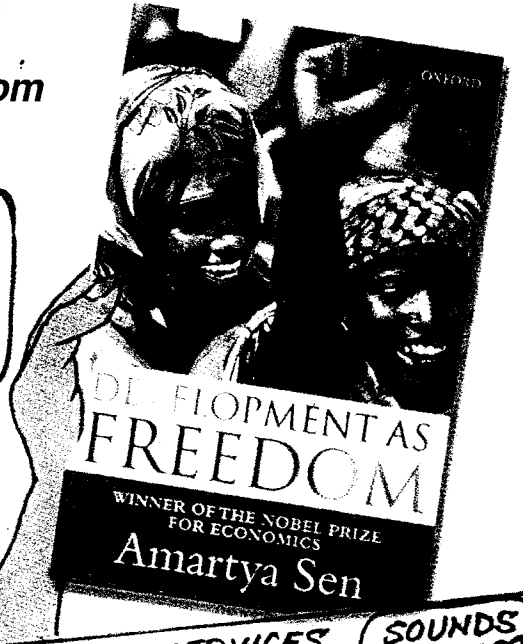


THERE IS A BETTER WAY!

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 ...



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



SOUNDS
FAMILIAR?

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



DEVELOPMENT
AS FREEDOM!

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

THAT IS WHERE
FREEDOM IS BE
THE END AND T
MEANS TO THE
END? ISN'T I



THERE IS A BETTER WAY!

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Approach



International Institute for Sustainable Development
Mazingira Institute

Nairobi 2003

**This documentary comic-book is based entirely on the sequence
of ideas and concepts expressed in Amartya Sen's
Development as Freedom, Oxford University Press, 1999.**

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...

...AND THE DAMAGE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT NOW THREATENS US ALL! WE CAN SEE IT!

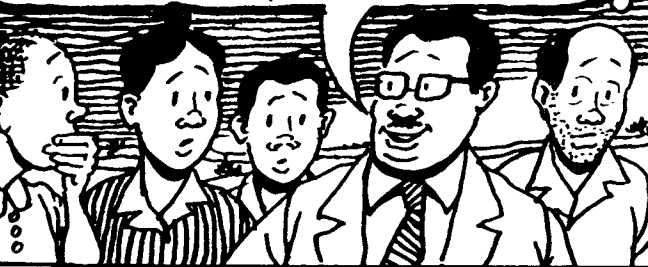


TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS DIVIDE US!

WE HAVE... FLOODS AND MUDSLIDES!

THE OVERARCHING EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THE 'ACCUMULATION OF RESOURCES' 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?

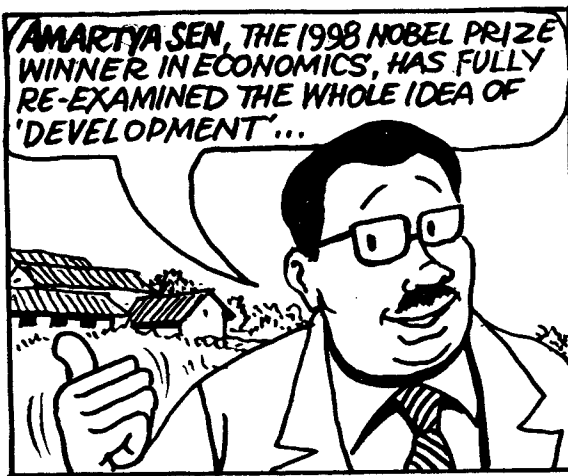
SO, IT IS NO LONGER THE WAY TO GO? IN THE FUTURE?

IT SEEMS LIKE IT... BUT, A BETTER WAY HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY AMARTYA SEN, THE DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIST...



RIGHT!

OUR FUTURE!



AMARTYA SEN, THE 1998 NOBEL PRIZE WINNER IN ECONOMICS, HAS FULLY RE-EXAMINED THE WHOLE IDEA OF 'DEVELOPMENT'...



...AND MADE SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHY IT HAS COME OUT THIS WAY, ALL OVER THE WORLD, AND WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT!

IN HIS BOOK 'DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM' LISTEN!

“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.



'DEVELOPMENT AS FREEDOM'! THAT'S A POWERFUL IDEA! EH?

ONE THAT IS GROWING!

HUH!

PEOPLE SAY THAT DEVELOPMENT IS A 'BLOOD, SWEAT 'N' TEARS' BUSINESS! YOU CAN'T HAVE REAL FREEDOM, AND THE 'LUXURY' OF DEMOCRACY, UNTIL YOU SOLVE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS!

HEH! HEH! HEH!

THAT IS JUST NOT TRUE!



WE ALL HAVE TO FIND THE 'WAYS AND MEANS' TO ACHIEVE OUR OWN GOALS, IN OUR OWN LIVES, DON'T WE?



AND, THROUGH DISCUSSION, WE LEARN TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES... SO?



SO, NOW WE MUST FIND OUT WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE IN OUR WIDER COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS GETTING ON WITH OUR OWN LIVES, IN FREEDOM.

BOOK
PMENT
EDOM!
N! HEH!



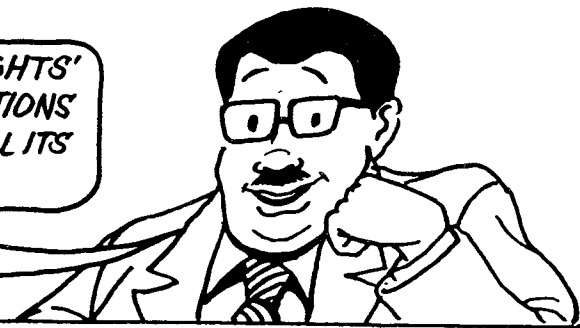
people
of

zation."

"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."

Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, 1999, p.10.

IN FACT, WE ARE ALL ENTITLED TO THESE 'RIGHTS' UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW! THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIFICALLY SUPPORTS 'DEVELOPMENT IN ALL ITS FORMS', FOR EVERYONE IN THE WORLD!



WHAT IS...
ST NOT
QUE!

THE LAWS ARE IN TWO COVENANTS... THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, (1976)...

...AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, (1976). TWO!

TOGETHER, THESE TWO COVENANTS 'PROTECT' ALL THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIAL FREEDOMS WE ARE DISCUSSING!

AT THE U.N. HQ, NEW YORK!



AND OUT
CHIEVE
UNITY,
ON WITH
EDOM!

SO, PROFESSOR SEN'S IDEAS HAVE CHALLENGED ALL THE OLD IDEAS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS!

HE ARGUES THAT IF FREEDOM IS WHAT DEVELOPMENT ADVANCES... WHY DON'T WE CONCENTRATE ON THAT DIRECTLY, RATHER THAN EXCLUSIVELY CONCENTRATING ON SOME PARTICULAR ASPECTS?

IT WOULD FULFILL ALL THE RIGHTS! YES! BUT HOW? !!



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?

MY DAD?

EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT THEY ARE... JUST ASK... EH?

GET RID OF POVERTY, FOR ONE! EH?

FAMINE! AND POOR NUTRITION!

LACK OF HEALTH CARE!

SCARCITY OF CLEAN WATER!

POOR BASIC EDUCATION!

LACK OF POLITICAL LIBERTY AND CIVIL RIGHTS!

POOR URBAN SANITATION!

TYRANNY, OF COURSE!

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!

...ID OF TY, E! EH?

SO, WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT REALLY CONSTITUTE THE... DEVELOPMENT PROCESS?

WELL, FREE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, AND BASIC EDUCATION ARE NOT ONLY CONDUCTIVE TO DEVELOPMENT...

...IT CAN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT THEM, SO THEY ARE BOTH... ESSENTIAL!

RIGHT! THEY ARE CONSTITUENT COMPONENTS OF IT!

WOW!

...TOF ALL, RANT, SIVE NENT!

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?

AYS, TIES, HE ATION, ALL

...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!

SO, SOMEBODY HAS TO ORGANISE A FAIR MARKET SYSTEM? EH?

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!

I 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!

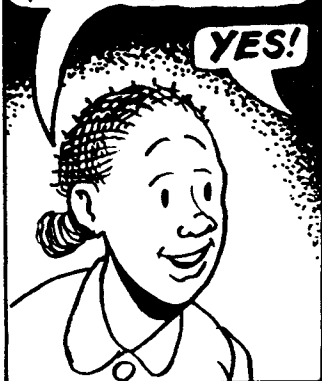


WHAT ARE... SOCIAL VALUES?

THEY 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?



YES!

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!

EACH OF THESE HELP TO ADVANCE WHAT A PERSON CAN BE AND DO -THEIR CAPABILITY- AND ALSO COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER SO WELL...



ENHANCING HUMAN FREEDOM IN GENERAL!

... 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...



A BETTER WAY!

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



WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT IN THE FIRST PLACE!