

Valuing Spirituality in Development

Creation of Spiritually Based Indicators for Development

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Overview

- **A Fresh Perspective on Development**
- **The Value and Use of Development Indicators**
- **Introducing Spiritually Based Indicators for Development**
- **Foundational Principles**
- **Priority Policy Areas**
- **Examples**
- **Collaborative Steps Toward the Development of Spiritually Based Indicators**

A New Perspective on Development

- **Civilization as a Spiritual Process**
- **Development as an Organic Process**
- **The Spiritual is Expressed and Carried out in the Material**
- **Balance Individual and Society**
- **Balance Globalization and Decentralization**
- **Balance Universal Standards and Cultural Diversity**

Vision of the Emerging World Community

- **The Fundamental Spiritual Principle: Oneness of Humanity**
- **Restructuring Systems to Apply the Principle:**
 - Legal
 - Political
 - Educational
 - Economic
 - Industrial
 - Social

The Value and Use of Development Indicators

- To measure and monitor
- Absolute values and trends over time
- Statistical, sampling
- Topical / related indicators
- Groups of indicators: an index
- Effect on perception and policy
- Indicators don't just monitor progress, they make it happen

New Trends in Development

- **Human Development Index from UNDP**
- **UN Global Action Plans**
- **Move Away from Top-Down Process**
- **Non-Economic Factors**
- **Non-Technical Issue**
- **Cultural Indicators**
- **Individual / Social Well-Being**
- **Social Capital**
- **People – Centered Development**

Introducing Spiritually Based Indicators for Development

- **Human Nature is Fundamentally Spiritual**
- **Universal Principles**
- **Common Values**
- **Harmony of Science and Religion**
- **Common Core of Religions**
- **The Golden Rule**
- **The Principle of Progressive Revelation**
- **Doctrinal Differences vs. Common Ethics**

Foundational Principles

- 1. Unity in Diversity
- 2. Equity and Justice
- 3. Equality of the Sexes
- 4. Trustworthiness and Moral Leadership
- 5. Independent Investigation of Truth

Unity in Diversity

- Not uniformity
- Beauty in Diversity
- Preservation of cultural, ethnic, language, ... diversity
- Similar to the gene pool
- Unity implies harmony, but not centralization
- Wider loyalty than tribal or national

Equity and Justice

- Fairness
- Not absolute equality
- Everyone has a talent
- Actualization of potentialities depends on volition and effort
- Building trust
- Reward and punishment

Equality of Sexes

- Example of two wings of a bird
- Long un-recognized truth
- Survival requirements of the past
- Created harmful attitudes in men
- The civilizing influence of women
- Stronger sense of intuition
- Promoters of peace

Trustworthiness and Moral Leadership

- Corner stone of ethics
- Stabilizing social influence
- Essential in creating buy-in for development
- Accountable leadership
- Service oriented leadership
- Single standard of conduct
- Commitment to the good of the whole

Independent Investigation of Truth

- Long tradition of imitation from forefathers
- Truth / Reality is one, with multiple facets
- Scientific insight and moral commitment
- True science = true religion
- Collective decision making
- Consultation, not negotiation
- Ego-less knowledge

Priority Policy Areas

- 1. Economic Development
- 2. Education
- 3. Environmental Stewardship
- 4. Meeting Basic Needs in Food, Nutrition, Health and Shelter
- 5. Governance and Participation

Economic Development

- Wealth is praiseworthy, if earned correctly
- Inordinate wealth and abject poverty
- The global view
- Corrosive materialism
- Economy as means for development, not the goal of development
- Role of family and community in social and spiritual well being
- Altruistic and cooperative life

Education

- To eradicate ignorance
- Universal education
- Capacity building
- Lifelong habits
- Values and attitudes + knowledge and skills
- Arts and sciences, not only technology
- Sense of service in profession
- The case of the girl child

Environmental Stewardship

- Man is organic with the world
- Nature as a reflection of the sacred
- Natural order and bio-diversity
- Good planets are hard to find!
- Temper growth with moderation
- Collective global responsibility

Governance and Participation

- Quality of the leader
- Quality of the governed
- Quality of the structures and processes
- Democratic practices
- Management of change
- Increased commitment and sense of worth
- Principles apply to private sector as well
- International participatory systems

Examples

- 1. Application of the Principle of Unity in Diversity to Educational Policy
 - Goal: Foster in Students Global Consciousness
 - Program: Appreciation for the richness and importance of the world's diverse cultural, religious and social systems; nurturing a feeling of belonging to and responsibility toward the world community; study of world heritage sites;
 - Assessment: content analysis; time allocation in curricula; attitude surveys

Examples

- 2. **Application of the Principle of Equity and Justice to Economic Development Policy**
 - **Goal: Reduction of Income Ratio Within and Among Nations**
 - **Program: Moderating Consumption and Accumulation; Equitable Trade; Debt Relief**
 - **Assessment: Income gap measures; Poverty baseline definition; Effects of debt alleviation**

Examples

- 3. **Application of the Principle of Independent Investigation of Truth to Governance and Participation**
 - **Goal: Effective Use of Broad-Based Consultation in Formulation of Development Policy**
 - **Program: Mechanisms for Participation**
 - **Assessment: Participation rates; Surveys for meaningfulness; Effect on minorities**

Recognizing the Need

- **Agenda 21: governments committed to “social, economic and spiritual development”**
- **Habitat Agenda: “built on ethical and spiritual vision”**
- **Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development: governments recognize that individuals should be allowed to develop to their full potential, including healthy physical, mental and spiritual development,”**
- **Beijing World Conference on Women**

Summary

Old Method: Adopt a policy based on interests of the dominant sector; develop measurement indicators

New Method: Start with a vision, identify the principles, adopt a goal, develop policies and programs, create measurement indicators