

GEOG 370 Sustainable Development in Developing Countries

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Mid-term Q(2)

**Why Optimism faded away by the end of the first Decade (1960s)? Give 4 examples from peer reviewed articles.**

- 1960s was the first development decade, when the United Nations Development Program was formed (UNDP).
- Developing countries were supported by the international community in terms of finance, capital, technology, industrialization, training, scientific knowledge (Top-down) and development experience. They were very optimistic.
- This is known as Development Theory or Modernization Theory.
- Development carried out through **Large-scale agricultural projects and light industry**
- This has resulted in many development and **environmental problems**.
- In agriculture, the main sector of economic development (Top-down) it suffers from poor performance and the lack of investment in small holdings except (the green revolution) in southeast Asia.
- Lack of transportation, over taxation, lack of storage facilities and **monopoly of the international market** that result in low prices of crops.
- Agriculture has resulted in environmental degradation such as **desertification, deforestation, over-cultivation, water pollution**.
- On the other hand, industry suffered from the lack of capital (investment), international competition and contributed to environmental degradation such as air and water pollution and global warming.

**General signs of failure of development or modernization theory by the end of 1960s:**

- 1- Severe inequalities of income and wealth between and within countries of African and Latin American countries.
- 2- A large number of the developing countries were unable to achieve **5% of annual economic growth** as well as slow growth of social development.
- 3- Signs of environmental degradation were observed (water and air pollution, desertification, over-grazing and over-cultivation)
- 4- **Increase of poverty** and the number of poor people
- Therefore, by the end of the 1960s, Optimism faded away.

**References**