

## Third World Women in the Development Process: Feminist Thoughts and Debates

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Received 2 November 2011; accepted 20 November 2011

### Abstract

Today, the worldwide development concern is going through a new awareness of the importance of women issues in development policies and process which become crucial issue, but most of the time women's are not actual beneficiaries of development policies especially in the Third World countries women. Women are the almost fifty percent of total population in the world, so we have to priority them to development. Otherwise in terms of socio, economic development we can not go far. In this context most of the feminist have criticized the development processes and suggests for an alternative model of development, which should be development from women's point of view and human development. So the main objective of this paper is goes to analyze feminist debate and thoughts about third world women and development process. To discuss this issue here I also discuss women and development in the third world and the situation of women in the third world process from South Asian (Bangladesh) and Sub Saharan Africa (Uganda) perspective.

**Key words:** Third World Women; Development of Underdevelopment; Development Process; Feminist Debate

Md. Mynul Islam (2011). Third World Women in the Development Process: Feminist Thoughts and Debates. *Higher Education of Social Science*, 1(2), 25-35. Available from: URL: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/hess/article/view/j.hess.1927024020110102.018>  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/j.hess.1927024020110102.018>

### INTRODUCTION

The development process affects women and men differently. The penetration of capitalism leading to the modernization and restructuring of traditional economies often increases the discrimination and disadvantage suffered by women. Modernization of labour has altered the division of labour between the sexes. Male mobility is higher than female in all the development process. Women in the third world now faces double or triple burden. Women work longer than men. Women constitute almost half of the world's population but they are not the actual beneficiaries of development sector. Within the broad generalizations women's live in different places show great variations. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reaffirmed the belief in the equal rights of men and women but progress towards equality for women in most parts of the world is considerably less than that which was promised. Yet despite the lack of change the United Nations decade for women achieved a new awareness of the need to consider women when planning development.

Before the UN Decade for women it was thought that the development process affected both man and women equally. But the studies revealed that women have been victims of development programs rather than beneficiaries. Research on women in Third World countries challenged the fundamental assumptions of international development, added a greater gender dimension o the study of the development process and demanded a new theoretical approach. In this context a new policy to integrate women in development known as WID approach was introduced. Three fundamental themes have emerged from the literature on women and development. The first is the realization that all societies have division of labour by sex. Secondly to comprehend gender roles in production we need to understand gender roles within household. Third finding is that economic development has differential impact on men and women

and the impact on women has with some few expectations generally been negative.

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## **THIRD WORLD, THIRD WORLD WOMEN AND FEMINIST DEBATE**

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Third World countries are those, such as the above mentioned that are economically underdeveloped. They are considered as an entity with common characteristics, such as poverty, high birthrates, and economic dependence on the advanced countries. The economically underdeveloped countries particularly in the, South Asia and Africa considered as an entity with common characteristics, such as poverty, high birthrates, and economic dependence on the advanced countries. This definition provided a way of broadly categorizing the nations of the Earth into three groups based on social, political, and economic divisions. The feminists are using it to deliberately and preferring it to postcolonial or developing countries. Third world refers to the colonized, neo colonized or decolonized countries (of Asia, Africa and Latin America) whose economic and political structures have been deformed within the colonial process and to black, Asian, Latino, disadvantaged and indigenous peoples in North America, Europe and Australia (Mohanty, 1991). Thus the term does not merely indicate a hierarchical cultural and economic relationship between first and third world countries; it intentionally for grounds a history of colonization and contemporary relationships of structural dominance between first and third world peoples. Third world women refers as equation of struggles and experiences of different groups of women (Mohanty, 1991) and I think all the disadvantaged women who have not right to exercise their rights throughout the world.

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## **WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE THIRD WORLD: AROUND THE WORLD PERSPECTIVE**

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The sex ratio of women and men would be roughly equal everywhere. Between 1965 and 1987 the sex ratio in some countries such as Canada, Kuwait, USA and Sri Lanka became more feminine but the world as a whole it became more masculine. Most of the women in the Third World have to face a lot of health, nutrition and education related problem to survive. The greatest difference found in Pakistan in terms of life expectancy (Momsen, 1991). In South Asia masculine sex ratios have become extreme over time. Low status is reflected in poor female nutrition levels which make women more vulnerable to disease. Migration is a phenomenon associated with spatial differences in employment opportunities. Both men and women migrate but the reasons, destination and length of time are often gender specific. Men tend to participate in international migration rather than female but within

states migration to cities predominantly female in Latin America and male in most of Africa. Most of the female in the Third World often faces vulnerable position because of sex specific migration (Momsen, 1991). Female headed households may be the result of breakdown of male headed households and increasingly rapid as a result of sex-specific migration, changing attitudes to marriage and declining support for women from family and community. These households are often poorest, because women earn less than men and they may have to leave school early to seek paid employment. However household headed by women are not undifferentiated.

Educational levels of men and women affect many life options and reproductive behavior. More men than women are literate in Asia and Africa because women confinement to the domestic sphere. So for women faces a lot of problem to make decision. Women perform the great bulk of domestic task in all societies. Most of the women in the Third World work longer hours and have less leisure than men. But their social reproduction ignored in national accounts but they are essential economic functions which ensure the development and preservation of human capital. In the developing world nature of households is changing very rapidly. Household structure is becoming more complex and number of nuclear household increases with modernization. Housing conditions as well as type of family and work affect the time and energy women need for social reproduction. In the name of modernization of agriculture, women have often been excluded from agrarian reform and training programs in new methods. Even when included in development projects women may be unable to obtain new technological inputs because local political and legislative attitude make women less credit worthy than men. In Arab the system is identified as male. Women in the Third World often have triple burden of work. In Gambia women spend 159 days per year in farm work, where men spend 103 days (Momsen, 1991). Agricultural development is not usually beneficial to women. Women continue to play an important role as rural information sources and providers of food to urban areas. But increased workloads and time pressure for rural women have led to health problems.

Neo classical economic assumptions about male-female differentials in earnings are due to women have lower levels of education. But this approach has been criticized by equality of education is necessary but not a sufficient condition for equality of pay. Theories of labour market segmentation emphasize the structure of the labour market in explaining sex inequalities in employment. However this model ignores the wide range of technologies which exist in modern industry, discriminate in favour of women. Female labour force participation in urban areas affects household composition such as nuclear family and female headed household. The burden of domestic responsibilities falls over more heavily on one particular woman in the family. Sexual

harassment is another greater problem in the Third World such as Bangladesh, India, and Japan etc. Certain aspects of social, economic and cultural norms determine women's ability to participate in urban employment in Third World. Modern industry spatially separated from the home and involves a standard fixed pattern of working hour. Capitalist attitude, burden of domestic work, lack of higher education, lack of childcare facilities, job segmentation, narrow range of jobs are barriers to women's participation in the urban modern sector.

Female economic activity usually higher in urban rather than rural areas in third world. The relationship between development and female employment follows a 'U' shaped curve with economic activity of women. Cultural, political and historical factors are very connected to women's economic activity. In Latin America women are employed mostly in the service sector and in Southeast Asia the growth of world market factories employing mostly young women has led to an increase in female activity. Male control of women's reproductive right thus limits their access to the labour market. Male economic activity rates vary very little from region to region but female rates vary a lot because of gender division of labour. In Third World women have been moving out of agriculture and into industry faster than men (Momsen, 1991). Women workers are concentrated in light industries. Women also work as petty commodity producers in both rural and urban areas because constraints of childcare and patriarchal control of women's freedom. Women in the service sector works in health, education, catering, and tourism sector at the lowest and worst paid levels.

Multinational companies are attracted to Third World countries as sites for export oriented factories by the availability of cheap, docile and less bargaining female labour. Employers prefer young women and often develop a complex relationship based on dependency and exploitation. Female employment in modern sector is very necessary but women have to face a lot of problem about their traditional roles. Such as they face a lot of burden to maintain both workplace and household chores. In some cases when they became pregnant they will lose their job and may turn to prostitution. For poor uneducated women prostitution offers the best-paid employment. So AIDS is a great problem in Africa and Asia. The rate of HIV positive increases day by day. It remains to be seen what long term impact this disease has on this female dominated profession. National propensity is seen to depend on a continuation of female subordination and poverty.

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### **THIRD WORLD WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

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Everywhere in the world women have two jobs in the

home and outside it. But women's work is generally undervalued and the additional burden development imposes is usually unrecognized. Women are central to development but they are not the actual beneficiaries of development and their health, children and works suffers. The contemporary problems of development are environment and economic restructuring. Growth of commodity production will improve the satisfaction of basic needs but production has not been benefits to the poor, especially poor women because of environmental pollution and loss of genetic diversity of plant and animal stocks (Momsen, 1991). Women's plays a very important role to achieve sustainable development with human and natural resources.

During the last decade many Third World countries have found themselves with an increasing debt burden. Often they have forced to ask for assistance from the International Monetary Fund. Structural adjustment shifts the burden of welfare from the state to individual families and especially women. Women have been particularly affected by the industrial restructuring. Increased food prices force poor families to reduce both the quality and quantity of food intake and women usually most affected. The poorest families often headed by women bear a disproportionate share of the burden of adjustment and the economic crisis has tended to exacerbate pre-existing gender inequalities. Awareness of the needs of their communities tends to be greater among women than men. Women's network and groups can play an important role in grassroots projects for community improvement and social change (Momsen, 1991). Women's survival strategies often depend on building up networks of women within the community. Link between the empowerment of women for household welfare and consequent political action has not been analyzed by most development workers. Development projects directed at women are often small. On the other hand general development projects are planned women may find them excluded because of restrictive entry conditions. So women not only rehoused their families but also successfully challenged the patriarchal structure of household, trade unions and political parties.

It is important to discuss about five development policies for women which are welfare emphasize on mother role, equity emphasize on women as active participants, anti poverty emphasize on poverty as main problem, efficiency emphasize on efficient and effective development and empowerment emphasize on women's empowerment through greater self-reliance. And it is necessary to distinguish between practical and strategic gender needs of women. Empowerment approach has very close connection to Gender and Development approach, both approaches tries to ensure women's both practical and strategic needs. I think development planning, process and implementation policies need to consider women's as agent of change and active participants not

only beneficiaries to increase women's opportunity for empowerment through proper development as human development or development from women's point of view.

## **THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE: DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT**

Development is a multifaceted phenomenon and may be understood as political, social, economic, psychological, physical and intellectual in accordance with its use and expanse. Denis Goulet (1983) in a cruel choice mentioned 'development is not a cluster of benefits 'given to the people in need', but rather a process by which a popular acquires mastery over its own destiny'. The underdevelopment of today's Third World resulted from its being brought into the orbit of the capitalist expansion of the west can be traced back to Marx's discussion of foreign trade and the expansion of capitalism. Fundamental to the theory is the conception of a dialectical relationship between the development of First world and Third world. The term 'dialectic' refers to a two-way causal connection. What is implied in it is that the West developed precisely because it was underdeveloping the third world and especially third world women, whilst the third world became underdeveloped aiding the ascendancy of the West. Historically this dialectical relationship has unfolded in three distinct stages: a mercantilist-capitalist stage, a colonial stage and neo-colonial stage. Roughly from about the middle of the sixteenth century to the end of nineteenth century. European traders combed the coasts of Africa, Asia and Latin America in search of slaves, spices and gold etc. Not only had their development discontinued their confrontation with the west actually regressive effect on the level; of social evolution which they had already reached. This regression in social structural complexity was the combined outcome of demographic, economic and political decline and in the period of merchant capitalism prepared the way for this international division of labor. Characteristics of colonialism was that increased territorial responsibility, due to conquests, gradually and the first reluctantly, replaced the comparatively arbitrary exploits of commercial plunderers with a more deliberate administrative system designed to adapt the socio economic organization of the colony to the needs of the mother country. Lastly the third phase can also be seen as a logical outcome of the preceding phase: once the monopolistic control over the production and the marketing of the periphery's export produce had been consolidated. Underdevelopment in the contemporary world is a particular form of capitalist development, namely dependent capitalism such as in Bangladesh and Arab emirates are same symptoms of the same dependency.

What accounts for the huge differences in wealth and

power between the industrialized countries and those of the third world? There are three theoretical approaches have been proposed to try explain the global inequalities have developed over the past several centuries: imperialism, dependency and world system theory. The theory of imperialism was first advanced by J.A. Hobson (1990s). In Hobson's view colonialism derived from the attempt to find new markets for investment. Hobson terms imperialism as the drive to conquer and subjugate other peoples, of which colonialism was one expression (Hobson, 1965). This process both assisted the economic development of the west and impoverished much of the rest of the world, because resources were drained off from the developing like third world countries. Subsequent authors have borrowed from the ideas of Lenin and Hobson to develop theories of neo-imperialism. They more concern with the present day world and they argued still industrialized countries maintain control like old empires. An approach linked to theories of neo-imperialism is dependency theory (Cardoo, 1972; Furtado, 1984). According to dependency theorists the global society has developed in a uneven way. The economist Andre Gunder Frank has coined the phrase 'the development of underdevelopment' to describe the evolution of third world countries. In Frank's world 'development and underdevelopment are two sides of the same coin' (Frank, 1969). World system theory pioneered by Immanuel Wallerstein is the most sophisticated of these attempts to interpret world patterns of inequality. Much of the dependency theorists say the first world countries have established a position in which they are able to exploit the resources of less developed societies for their own needs.

The different initiatives and policy approaches under modernization process coned mainly in the 1960s undertaken by the first world and imposed on the third were proved ineffective and thus enhance dependence. The approaches were trickle down and Structural adjustment approach. Trickle down process was developed in a sense that the fruit of development initiatives will be reached out to all people equally. Structural adjustment policy was primarily marched to third world countries by the first world country's main economic power to promote economic growth through loans and different policy approaches like Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.

Women in Development usually mean integration of women in development process and there are five approaches in WID: welfare, equity, anti-poverty, efficiency and empowerment. Women in developed emerged during 1970. It focuses on advocacy strategies for more women in education, employment etc. Empowerment approach have very close connection to Gender and Development approach (started in 1980), both are focuses on gender relation issue.

## THIRD WORLD WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: INEQUALITY

'While women represent 50% of the world's adult population and one third of the official labour force, they perform nearly two thirds of all working hours, receive only one tenth of the world income and own less than 1% of the world's property' (United Nations 1980).

Though women constitute nearly 50% of the total population in the world the situation has traditionally been adverse. In Bangladesh and South Africa like many other parts of the world bear many of the marks of a 'disadvantaged minority' in social, economical and political realms in terms of development (Mahtab, 2007). The traditional society in both countries is permeated with patriarchal values and norms of female subordination, subservience, subjugation and segregation. The reality of those countries most especially rural poor women and urban who living in the slum is that they remain a vulnerable, marginalized group that is yet to enjoy in status, and access to services and resources with male counterparts. Women are found at the 'bottom of poverty, illiteracy, and landlessness' (Mahtab, 2007). Women are mostly affected by negative impacts of biased development process, thus women became victim of health, nutrition, education opportunity and support. It is a long way to go to achieve women's empowerment through this biased development process (Batliwala, 1990). To discuss third world women in development process, here I explain South Asian (Bangladesh) and Sub Saharan Africa (Uganda) perspective.

### Women in Bangladesh

Poverty is the main obstacle of women's development. Inheritance law, social structure, customs and prejudices ensure that land is predominantly in male hands. Poverty is represented by among women particularly in female headed household. Over 95% female headed households in Bangladesh are considered to fall below poverty line (UNDP: 1996). The number of landless household increased from 943,000 in 1992 to 1014,000 in 1996. Women are the poorest of the poor and are the major actors in the fight for survival. Education is the most powerful way to lift people out of poverty. Approximately 100 million children, including 60 million girls, remain without access to primary education (PFA, para, 70). The literacy rate of Bangladesh 55% where male constitutes 60% and female 49.8% (the World Bank indicators-Bangladesh-outcome, 1996). Stipend and scholarship program for girls student up to BA Degree (mostly in Rural area). The primary school dropout rate is 23.65 (USAID, 2007). The main causes of drop out are poverty, son preference, insecurity, violence against women, child labour, and early marriage and now eve-teasing is one most important reason towards drop out.

Women are more disadvantaged than men in terms of

access to health care and quality of nutrition and health care received. The life expectancy of Bangladeshi people is 60.25 years where male is 57.57 and female is 63.03 years (The World Bank). In 2009 maternal mortality rate 3.2 to 4 per 1000 live births (WHO, 2009). The nutritional status of girl children especially of rural girls is worse than boys. In Bangladesh 59% girls are underweight. Bangladesh accounts for 46% of the maternal death. The total infant mortality rate is 59.02 where male is 66.12 and women is 51.64 per 1000 live births. Half of the total populations who are remain unemployed. The proportion of boy and girl child workers, in the age group of 5-17 years, is 73.5 per cent and 26.5 per cent, respectively (ILO 2002-2003). According to the 1995-1996 labor force survey the total activity rate was 56% for women and 89% for men. 2.5 million of the garments workers are female (National Garments Workers Press Conference, 2010). The number of male secretary is 50 whereas female secretary is 2. (Ministry of Establishment, Public Administration Computer centre, 10th June 2010). The total number of men in administration is 3768 and female is 735. (Ministry of Establishment, Public Administration Computer centre, 10th June 2010)

In Bangladesh every year almost 250 women and children are being attacked with acid.

Studies suggest that 10,000-20,000 Bangladeshi women are trafficked each year. Every day over 70 women and children are trafficked out of Bangladesh through the land border areas. (UBINIG, 2003) According to the statement by ALRC, a Human Rights Organization in Bangladesh, 'in 2004, 267 women including one child were victimized due to dowry related matters. Among them 165 were killed, 77 tortured by acid violence and one were divorced and 11 committed suicide due to incessant demands of marriage'.

In last 6 month 21 girls harassed or committed suicide or murdered because of eve teasing. (on the basis of some leading daily news paper).

### Women in Sub Saharan Africa (Uganda)

#### Women's Access to Income and Employment

Employment determines the level of an individual's income, savings and investments. Unfortunately, there is strong empirical evidence to show that women, especially in Africa, have limited access to gainful employment (Davison, 1997; Wallman, 1996). This is partly because women have for many years been denied access to formal education, which is essential for participation in wage sector employment. As a result, the biggest percentage of women in the formal sector occupies low wage jobs, which do not enable them to earn an adequate income to sustain their families (United Nations Development Program, 1999; 2000). This has kept the majority of women in a vicious cycle of poverty. In order to break that cycle, we need income generating projects specifically targeted towards women. Indeed, this is a justification for

projects such as Heifer Project.

### **Women's Health and Nutritional Status**

Access to and control over resources in part influences the health status of an individual. Money is one important resource that is essential for providing both basic needs and treatment (Wallman, 1996). Poor women are less likely to be in good health. Poverty affects their children's health as well. For instance, a study on Uganda by the World Bank revealed that 26% of all children under age five show some degree of malnutrition (World Bank, 2000). The cause of malnutrition is mainly poverty. Many families cannot afford to have a balanced diet, often being forced have just one meal a day because they cannot afford the 'luxury' of having more than one meal a day. These phenomena result in poor health and malnutrition.

### **Women's Education and Level of Literacy**

Education to a large extent determines the kind of jobs held, the amount of money earned, and one's life long socio-economic status. Unfortunately, research indicates that in sub-Saharan Africa, poor families are more likely to spend their limited funds on boys' education rather than girls' (Burton & Wamai, 1994; World Bank, 2001). In Uganda, for example, while only 25% of men (age 15 and above) are considered illiterate, 47% of women are illiterate (World Bank, 2000). Similar disparities are seen in other parts of sub-Saharan Africa (United Nations Development Program 2000; 2001; World Bank, 2000).

### **Women's Work Load and Domestic Responsibilities**

The process of development in the third world has by and large marginalized women and deprived them of their control of resources without lightening the heavy burden of their traditional duties (Afshar, 1991). Women have primary responsibility for household management, child rearing, food preparation, care for the sick and elderly, and family health and welfare (World Bank, 1993). With the current HIV/ AIDS pandemic, the responsibilities of most women, especially the elderly, have increased. With AIDS claiming most of its victims among the youth and the middle aged, many elderly women find themselves with the added burden of having to take care of their orphaned grandchildren. Most of these frail grandmothers are unable to provide adequately for the needs of their grandchildren (Wallman, 1996).

### **Women's Access to Physical Assets and Resources**

Existing customs and traditions in most African countries reinforce ownership among men, not women (Ssewamala, 2004). For example, in Uganda, most women neither own nor inherit productive physical assets such as land. The importance of assets to an individual has been well documented (Sherraden, 1991; Shapiro, 2001). Without land, women have difficulties accessing credit for any economic undertaking such as a small business and thus are more vulnerable to poverty than men. Income

### **Women's Community Participation**

Women generally have low rates of membership and

participation in formal groups and social networks (World Bank, 1993). Outdated traditions that regard women as mothers and wives, supposed to stay at home, are still prevalent in many African societies. Many men refuse to let their wives participate in group activities and public gatherings because the men suspect ulterior motives or fear that their wives will become easy prey for other men (UNICEF, 1989). These beliefs deny women a chance to belong to social networks. The value of social networks to an individual's socioeconomic well-being has been well documented (Putnam, 2000), because of their emphasis on group training and social capital building components, income-generating programs.

In many countries like Bangladesh and Sub Saharan Africa (Uganda) around the world women are discriminated against by law and by custom, rendering them among the vulnerable and disadvantaged social group, because of bias development process. Majority of development planners and workers did not fully address women's position in the development process (Boserup, 1970; Rogers, 1980, Mazza, 1987). All the development policy exclusively focuses on economic factors rather than social, political and cultural factors in the development of the world system (Somjee, 1991).

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## **FEMINIST THOUGHT AND DEBATE: THIRD WORLD WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

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Scholars such as Irene Tinker and Michelle Bo Bramsen (1972), Easter Boserup (1970) and Perdita Huston (1979) all written about effect of development policies on third world women. They raise debate around development as synonymous of economic development or economic progress. Women are affected positively or negatively by economic development (Mohanty, Russo and Torres, 1991). Perdita Huston (1979) states the needs and problems expressed by rural and urban women in the third world all center around education, training, work, wages, access to health and other services, political participation and legal rights. Maria Mies work illustrates the strength of western feminist work on women in the third world which does not fall into the traps discussed above. Sexual division of labor is one of most important reason for the universal subjugation of women in the workforce (Mohanty, 1991). Problems of westernization are other major obstacles towards women's development (Chow, 1991). We can use best part of western thought what will help us rather hampered the development process instead of completely rejecting or accepting the whole process.

Feminists are world wide organizing different conferences to criticize the concept and process of conventional development. The first conference was held in Bangkok in 1979. This was concerned by Asia Pacific Centre for Women and Development. The theme of the

meetings was feminist ideology and structure in the first half of the decade for women. This group asserted 'the oppression of women is rooted in both equities and discrimination based on sex and poverty and injustice of the political and economic system based on the race and class', so they proposed the first global definition with two long term goals are the achievement of women's equality, dignity and freedom of choice through women's power to control and secondly the removal of all forms of discrimination through creation more just social and economic order at nationally and internationally. They suggest to achieve this goal power for women was seen as essential but not the traditional definition of power. It should be as a right to determine demands, choices of life. Another conference held in New York in 1980. This meeting started with the focus on limited definition of development as confined to economic development. So this meeting concluded with a call for empowerment of women. Another international feminist workshop was held in 1982 in Dakar, Senegal. They outlined that the capitalism has increased poverty. All of which are against interest of women. Their vision was structural. The principle of another development should be structural transformation that can challenges the economic, political and cultural forms of domination at international, national and domestic level. At the international level; development should be independent, at the national level development should be self reliance and at the household level development should be reject existing structure that reinforce sexual division of labor. Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era is third world women's group, based on Bangalore, India. According to them the issues of development should be defined from vantage point of women to improve their status and condition and remove inequality in terms of development.

Feminist are identifies a basic weakness of each of these theories (imperialism, dependency and the world system) is that they concentrate almost exclusively on economic factors in the development of the world system. Economic influence are very important, but so are others political considerations, the impact of war, social factors and cultural factors have all had a major impact on the forgoing of increasing global interdependence (Somjee, 1991). Development processes are concerning women and men in a different way. Several researchers have shown that development process would benefited one section of society (men) would trickle down to the other (women) (Boserup, 1970; Rogers, 1980; Mazza, 1987).

Feminists are also raised debate about development approaches. WID was solidly grounded in modernization theory which assumed wrongly that women were not integrated in the process of development. It accepted existing social structures. It did not question about the sources of women's subordination and oppression. It did not question why women had not benefited from development process and strategies. It treated women

as undifferentiated category (adapted by Suneta Dhar and Aanchal Kapur, 1992-1993, from Rathgeber, 1990). Women and Development fails to analyze the relationship between patriarchy, differing modes of production and women's subordination and oppression. WAD does not question about the relations between gender roles. Then finally Gender and Development have emerged with a learned experience from WID and WAD. It exclusively focused on gender relation and women seen as agents of change rather passive recipients (adapted by Suneta Dhar and Aanchal Kapur, 1992-1993, as cited in Rathgeber, 1990).

Structural adjustment is a term used to describe the policy changes implemented by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (the Bretton Woods Institutions) in third world countries (Greenberg, 1997). Structural adjustment policy as an international policy through which women started suffering from public and private sphere. It heightens the risk and vulnerability of women in household where the distribution of consumption and provision of health care and education favor men or income earning male members. Structural adjustment causes women to bear most of the responsibility of coping with increased price and shrinking incomes, since in the most instances they are responsible for household budgeting. As a result, household strategies include increases unpaid and low paid labor of women. Structural adjustment policy and other forms of neo liberalism are one of the major factors behind feminization of poverty. The SAPs are supposed to allow the economies of the developing countries to become more market oriented. This then forces them to concentrate more on trade and production so it can boost their economy (Greenberg, 1997). Structural adjustment has been a controversial topic in the development studies literature because it has worked in some places but mostly not in others. Structural adjustment policy hurt women rather than men because of relations of gender and nature of market reforms. Customary biases and intra household inequalities lead to lower consumption by and fewer for women. It creates capitalist patriarchy, which has only focus to profit and give prior to men rather welfare and women. Capitalist patriarchy intentionally promoted women to stay at home because most societies have created a woman's image and it involves from the male centric thinking.

### **The Failure of Orthodox Development**

Feminists analyzes about development provide analytical, first hand accounts of the failures of orthodox of development theory, approaches and practice more easily over all process. They find out some key points regarding this perspective: the international context as an obstacle to development, particularly the export orientation of Southern economies in an unjust global economic order and international division of labor

which consigns the south to the production of low value raw materials and supplying workers for off-shore assembly plants, the local context particularly the internal mismanagement of southern economies and unjust social structures in which local elites have a major interest in co-operating with international development strategies; oppression and repression and the maintenance of relationships of inequality by the exercise of power; colonialism and neocolonialism; environmental damage and dislocation; the debt crisis and finally unequal impacts that development has had on women and men. Development process failure to recognize and support the work of women in food production to ensure women's development (Frank, 1967).

### **Rethinking Development**

Feminists have identified a fresh ideas and a view of development which involves of society sharing. This view point of development requires a strong re-alignment of interest and a focus on particularly vulnerable sections of national population essentially the rural and urban poor and among them a specific focus on women. This emergent development 'philosophy' has stressed the 'qualitative and perhaps unmeasurable dimensions of development' values which give a sense of fulfillment. Self reliance's highlighted in the context of a participatory democracy in which the 'consciousness-gap' between the leaders of society and the masses is closed and in which people are seen as the subjects of their own worlds rather than the objects of other people's worlds. They emphasize on the process of empowerment in which people gain strength to support their own growth and development. Finally they argues for need to change the conventional development process and need to rethink in which the stand point goes to the poor people specially poorest of the poor group.

### **Search for New Vision or Development from Women's Point of View**

Feminists are now strongly demands for women's perspective development. Women need to see as active agents of development in each sector and improve women's role as agents and beneficiaries of development at the national, regional and international levels (Pietila & Vickers, 1996). The main shortcoming of all global economic statistics from women's point of view is, without doubt, the invisibility of the unpaid labor in households and the informal and agricultural sectors, a major part of which, in all countries is performed by women. In informal sector should be structurally expanded and improved, because it leads to greater participation of women in industrial activities (Pietila & Vickers, 1996). Women as entrepreneurs and self employed workers should be assisted by training in skills for running small business and access to technical advice and assistance and information on market condition, demand trends. Government should provide various measures, support

and promote small scale production in the informal sector and others (Pietila & Vickers, 1996). Women's performance and involvement as independent farmers or livestock keepers are overlooked but they are largely integrated in rural development process, so we need to recognize the as farmer and ensure their agricultural based technical supports and training. All third world women have not similar problems and needs and also they have different interest and goals, because development process does not treat both urban and rural women and educated and uneducated women in a same way (Mohanty, 1991). Finally to ensure women's development we have to consider their over all issues, where they faces biasness such as access to health, education, information, control over rights, power structure and have to ensure women's sexual rights (Rakotoniera, 2003).

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### **ULTIMATE GOAL: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

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The world distribution of opportunities is extremely unequal. This inequality is a key driver of human movement and thus implies that movement has a huge potential for improving human development. Yet movement is not a pure expression of choice people often move under constraints that can be severe, while the gains they reap from moving are very unequally distributed (Human Development Report, 2009). Our vision of development as promoting people's freedom to lead the lives they choose recognizes mobility as an essential component of that freedom. However, movement involves trade-offs for both movers and stayers, and the understanding and analysis of those trade-offs is key to formulating appropriate policies (Human Development Report, 2009).

In terms of women and development in a gender perspective is the re examination of the myth that trickle down benefits of development equally reach between men and women and the assumption that all household members enjoy the same benefits and the same constraints; the intra household allocation of resources being equal (Haider, 2000). In fact gender bias at the macro level development and micro level household unit is pervasive and manifests itself in the differential allocation of the benefits of cash, food, education, training, credit, land title and health care. Global reality demands an alternative development model to reduce third world women's problems such as human development because it serves for every people. Human development not only emphasize on economic development but also social, political and cultural development. It focuses on human beings problem. It helps to ensure human beings full and equal participation in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels, and take necessary steps to eradicate violence against women. Human development ensures both allocation and distribution of resources for all. So

to ensure women's development in a proper way and to implement the development planning human development is one of better solution and need to take immediate strategies to implement it throughout the world especially in the third world women.

### **OBSTACLES TO ACHIEVE REQUIRED GOAL**

1. Conventional definition of development instead of human development.
2. Patriarchal notion of development practice and process
3. Traditional development projects failed to reach the poorest of the poor in the third world.
4. The marginal position of women in all level of development.
5. Women's interests are rejected in the interest of male biased societies.
6. Women are discriminated in their various demands.
7. Gender division of labor creates male centered development which excludes women's issues from the development concept.
8. Lack of well organized work in the informal sector and lack of best uses of available resources and to produce goods for which there is a reliable and steady demand.
9. Lack of recognition of women's contribution in agricultural sector.
10. Lack of participation of women in technical and industrial decision making.
11. Research and development in engineering very less responsive to women's needs and visions.
12. Less recognition of women labor force.
13. Biased institutional policy and its practices.
14. Lack of powerful women's organization at the local levels.
15. The world is polarized quickly and women are the worst victim in the built-in patriarchal nature of the unequal relation.
16. Lack of powerful women's organization at rural levels.
17. Capitalism has made women mere a commodity. It is exploiting women by cheap labor and double or triple burden.
18. The northern portion and its allies are imposing 'donor colonization' on the third world by throwing them into a deeper debt trap. Women issues have become their exploiting tools to apply.
19. The relationship has weakened the government and sovereignty of the third world. The third world is constantly dependent on them even in their internal issues. This is self destructive for third world.
20. The modern capitalist economy and technological advancement imported by the weaker south has made

womenfolk less secured in job as the new trends of job are not compatible largely to women. Therefore, women are losing grounds from agricultural and other traditional agro-economies.

21. More and more women are becoming 'development refugees' in terms of migration and trafficking.

### **STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Development planning, process, implementation and monitoring system need to reduce poverty by providing poverty alleviation measures such as basic needs, particularly in health and education to the majority poor population especially for poorest of the poor group. Development thinking today has also recognized that if development has been selective in its bestowing of material benefits to its population, the population which has been most affected and marginalized are women. To ensure women's proper development need to take some urgent strategies to remove obstacles. Those are given below:

1. Need to change the conventional definition of development which only emphasize on economic development.
2. Have to emphasize on women's physical well-being, such as health, nutrition and education; and others to the widening of choice and enhanced empowerment, including participation, political freedoms and cultural aspects.
3. Equal remuneration for equal work, decent working conditions and protection of health and safety
4. Essential to organize and bargain collectively
5. Development should be from women's vantage point of view and emphasize on gender relations.
6. Need to focus on gender relation, gender role and so called power relation.
7. Ensure gender auditing system in every public/private institution.
8. Gender mainstreaming based training program for policy makers at all levels.
9. Women should be organized to demand their needs and human rights.
10. Promote inclusive local governance structures to enable participation and accountability;
11. Avoid institutional practices that contribute to discrimination;;
12. Ensure equitable land use planning, consistent with the needs of the poor for example, options to alleviate tenure insecurity and related constraints.
13. Address local gender based budget issues, including fiscal transfers to finance additional local needs.
14. Public awareness of the significance of a large number of women taking part in the public realms is of

most importance.

15. Building confidence and giving them a forum in which they can learn of participation.

16. Increase the rate of literacy and level of education of women.

17. Establish women as equal partners in development with equal roles in policy and decision making in the family, community and state.

18. Support women to enter formal workforce.

19. Special efforts should be made to promote able women leaders from grassroots levels to higher political offices.

20. Women's wings of political parties should create awareness and support by promoting women's rights and development related activities at local level.

21. The quota system is needed because without a certain number of women representatives it is impossible to make an impact on politics.

22. The manifestoes of the political parties should maintain in certain measures in order to empower women.

23. Remove the economic and political barriers that prevent women from exercising political parties.

24. Strengthening the electoral process by a reform system in the electoral system in order to increase women's participation at the local and national levels.

25. Increasing the reserve seat in Thana Parishad, Zila Parishad and Parliament to make themselves as development policy makers.

26. Strengthening the basis of women's movement for political empowerment of women.

27. Appointing more women in Army, Police and other agencies.

28. Creating favorable environment in political parties for working and development of the women leadership.

29. Setting up powerful women's organizations at the grassroots level.

30. Need to reduce the traditional patriarchal attitude from development practice.

31. Development policies must be address women's both strategic and practical gender needs and must address their condition and status.

32. Development policies should be address women's issue at every level.

33. Substantive training program for staff on women and development issues is urgently needed at levels of government and United Nations staff.

34. An adequate database (sex disaggregated data) should be developed, because without it appropriate planning process is impossible.

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## CONCLUSION

Economic crisis in many Third World countries, enhanced by their peripheral position in the world economy, has led to reductions in spending on health, education and

food subsidies and the impact is heaviest on poor women. Women's increased power and independence may result in the male backlash of violence and the expansion of female headed household. It may also lead to more equality and freedom of choice for both men and women. The conflict between male dominance and economic need is creating societies in a state of flux in many parts of the Third World. Development plans for women, where they exist, tend to assume mistakenly that women have free time to devote to new projects and to ignore the heterogeneity and differentiation of women. Women are agents of change not just victims. The United Nations has realized that role and status of women are central to changes in population and development. The increased opportunities for women to be economically independent are leading to changes in gender relations and power relations.

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