Substantiating 'Development': Toward an Epistemology-Sensitive Development as Freedom?

1 The field of development has been traditionally viewed as a linear process of economic growth and structural change, with the goal of improving living standards and reducing poverty. However, this approach has been criticized for its emphasis on economic growth at the expense of social and environmental considerations. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of understanding development as an ongoing process of emancipation and liberation, rather than as a technical project focused solely on economic growth.

2 The idea of development as freedom, as proposed by Amartya Sen, suggests that development should be defined in terms of the exercise of human freedoms. This approach emphasizes the importance of individual agency and the capacity of people to act on their own behalf. It also recognizes the need to address the structural barriers that prevent people from exercising their freedoms.

3 In the late 20th century, a new wave of development thinking emerged, characterized by a focus on human rights, gender equity, and sustainable development. This approach has been influenced by the idea of development as freedom, and it has sought to address the ways in which development has been used to promote the interests of powerful elites, at the expense of ordinary people.

4 The concept of development as freedom has been criticized for its limitations. For example, it has been argued that this approach fails to adequately address the ways in which development has been used to promote the interests of powerful elites, at the expense of ordinary people. In addition, there are concerns about the potential for this approach to be used to justify the continued exploitation of natural resources and the suppression of dissent.

5 Nevertheless, the idea of development as freedom remains influential, and it continues to be an important contribution to the development literature. It has helped to raise awareness of the ways in which development has been used to promote the interests of powerful elites, and it has been used to justify the continued exploitation of natural resources and the suppression of dissent.

The Missing Epistemological Debate

"Abital the progression and unrelenting questioning the concept of development has been - within a liberal high and hence liberalized to an unprecedentedly liberal and essentially moralized one - a remarkable story of the degree and the intensity of the development as freedom has been absorbed in the epistemological and ethical frameworks of the discipline. The idea of development as freedom, as proposed by Amartya Sen, suggests that development should be defined in terms of the exercise of human freedoms. This approach emphasizes the importance of individual agency and the capacity of people to act on their own behalf. It also recognizes the need to address the structural barriers that prevent people from exercising their freedoms.

Furthermore, in recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of understanding development as an ongoing process of emancipation and liberation, rather than as a technical project focused solely on economic growth.

This approach has been influenced by the idea of development as freedom, and it has sought to address the ways in which development has been used to promote the interests of powerful elites, at the expense of ordinary people.

However, there are still significant challenges to the implementation of this approach. For example, the process of achieving development as freedom is often constrained by political, social, and economic factors, and it requires a commitment to social justice and equality.

Despite these challenges, the concept of development as freedom remains an important contribution to the development literature. It has helped to raise awareness of the ways in which development has been used to promote the interests of powerful elites, and it has been used to justify the continued exploitation of natural resources and the suppression of dissent.

Works Cited


E-WASTE: THE OVERLOOKED SIDE-EFFECT OF TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR GHANA