

## Approaches Used By the Social Workers towards Some of the Developmental Problems in Egypt According to Recent Changes (Case Study)

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**Abstract:** This research deals with the fact that human enrichment is the cornerstone in enriching life and building up of civilization and this enrichment depends greatly upon social workers. The role of social workers is mainly searching, evaluating and trying to find solutions of the different problems that impact the society. So, studying the approaches used by them towards some problems of development will make the social researchers understand their way of thinking and will help them increasing their capability of solving society problems. In this study the approaches used by social workers towards the social, strategic and economic dimensions of development have been evaluated which was necessary to overcome many of the problems that hinder the process of development.

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**Key words:** social worker role, social dimensions of development, economical dimensions of development, strategic dimensions of development, direction.

### 1.Introduction:

**There** is no doubt that the human enrichment is more complicated than the building up of the materialistic part of civilization, as man is responsible for building civilization, its development, he also fights for it and tries to purify it from the obstacles that may interfere with its progress. **Therefore**, the social worker is entrusted with the responsibility of human enrichment, this reflects that the social worker is the fundamental aspect of this process. **By looking** at the concepts of socialism and the role of the social workers through a depth insight the social worker must have complete overall understanding of the social frame work and its different forms whether social or non social related, this insight is not only concerned with the role of the social worker in practical applications of social problems but also it deals with an important fact which implies that the social worker is also a researcher that must be provided with sufficient means that are required to perform the relevant research into the different problems that impact the society as a whole to be able to find adequate solution for these problems.<sup>(1)</sup> **Therefore**, the researchers especially the social researchers are concerned with the shaping of the social worker, his approaches, his values and his speculations, so many researches and studies have been made to recognise the social workers problems.<sup>(2)</sup> **This diversity** may reflect the importance of the role of the social workers, on the other hand, it reflects how dangerous their role in societies in general. **Therefore**, this study is a trial to reveal the approaches used by the social workers

towards some of the problems of development in Egypt.

### The research value:

**This** research deals with the fact that the human enrichment is the corner stone in enriching life with its different civilized forms and this enrichment depends greatly upon the social worker, therefore, this study gets its value through the following:

- (I) **Identifying** the approaches of social workers towards some problems of development in Egypt, these problems that also occupy the developmental thinking. The social worker has a great role in developing the upcoming generations that are capable of solving society problems.
- (II) **Now**, Egypt is suffering from hard economical and social problems that need co-operation of all efforts, moreover, to solve these problems we need union of all cultural media to achieve great development that would cure home forms its different crises. Therefore, social workers are responsible for understanding and perceiving the demands of evolution.

**So**, the value of this study relies upon the conviction that the role of social worker in enriching the developmental thinking leads to solutions of the developmental problems.

### The Research Problem:

**We** can define the research problem by answering the following questions:

- (a) What are the approaches used by the social workers towards some of the developmental problems in Egypt?

- (b) What are the approaches used by the social workers towards the social dimensions of the developmental problems?
- (c) What are the approaches used by the social workers towards the economical dimensions of the developmental problems?
- (d) What are the approaches used by the social workers towards the strategic dimensions of the developmental problems?

**Why** were these previous dimensions elected as directions of the research problem and what were the approaches used by the social workers towards it?

**These** previous dimensions were elected as a frame of the research problem because the developmental thinking has defined the process of development in three elements which are :

- (A) Building up Change
- (B) Strong Push
- (C) Suitable strategy

**These** three elements together are essential and Mandatory for development, so without it, essentials of success would not be fulfilled.<sup>(3)</sup>

**According** to the first element which is changing the approaches, it is defined by **Ginsberg** as it is the change that happened in society building up i.e in its size, formation of its parts and the shape of its social organization.<sup>(4)</sup>

**Abdel-Basset says** that the building up change is the change that correlates with the economical and social development, the economical development includes the process of consumption, investment and income level in relation to price level.<sup>(5)</sup>

**This research** is built upon the last concept of building up change of development; it is believed that it is the suitable definition for this study and its demands.

**Some researchers** believe that in order to achieve the programmes of economical development in developing societies is the policy of decreasing the expansion of public services in order to increase production and being satisfied temporarily by low consumption relatively to help the government directing the greatest part of its savings, natural resources and human resources towards the programmes of economical development which work on increasing the production of the government.<sup>(6)</sup>

**Through** this discussion we can outline the following directions as a frame for some economical problems in the developmental process:

- Decreasing the expansion of public services to increase the production.
- Lowering the consumption is considered to be the best means against the economical crises.
- Not to shop as an attitude to confront the outstanding rises of prices.

- Thinking of investments and its depth according to the recent economical circumstances.
- The possibility of decreasing the consumption according to the recent economical circumstances.
- In spite of distrust of the investors, to how extent they would like to try doing projects.

**As regards** the strong push, it means mostly the social part by which qualitative changes can be achieved in the society to get out of depression state to growth and prosperity.

**The** strong push in the social field can be achieved by making changes in education policy which can be achieved by expanding education which is mandatory and essential for developmental demands, add to the previous changes making education obligatory and free a possible, in the field of education the strong push can be achieved by gathering all the potentials and abilities that are present in the society.<sup>(7)</sup>

**At** a civilized and modern levels, education is considered to be the most important parameter in inducing balance between societies according to modern developmental perspective,<sup>(8)</sup> education represents the cornerstone in the development plan because it supplies the trainee who are trained by suitable means, values and suitable production approaches, therefore, education is considered to be an effective element in the process of the strong push, also elimination of the obstacles that includes: culture, values, believes should be done as it obstructs the perception of professional movements which is needed for supporting the process of development.

**One** of the obstacles of development is that the parents insist that their sons should have the same profession, also this belief that the social value depends upon special professions especially office work, therefore from this perspective the load upon the government in employing the fresh graduates will increase and may lead to accumulation of huge number of graduates in the form of hidden unemployment or partial unemployment, add to that the cultural obstacles that is connected to professional movements which decrease the perception of developmental need at present.

**Through** this discussion we can outline the following dimensions as frame for some of the social dimensions of the developmental problems:

- To how extent education is considered to be necessary for development in spite of the low income of the graduates?
- The importance of educating children as human investment.
- The importance of being free to choose the professional career after graduation.
- The importance of being independent and not waiting for employment by the government.

- What is the value of making siblings have the same professions like parents?
- To how extent social positioning is related to particular professions?

**As regards** the element of suitable strategy, it means the general frame or the broad outline which is shaped by the developmental policy to change from the depression state to self growth, strategy differs from tactics which means the correct use of the suitable means to fulfill the goal,<sup>(9)</sup> the element of suitable strategy depends upon two concepts :

**(A)The democratic concept:**

It is built upon the fact that the social life with its rights, duties, responsibilities and achievements demand the participation of all the citizens who belong to this great social frame and its boundaries,<sup>(10)</sup> therefore, new generations must be raised with the positive spirit in choosing their representatives in social life, also emphasizing the importance of participation of all individuals in the community, moreover enforcing the moral principles in political participation, therefore, these are the fundamentals of democratic concept of development.

**(B)The Second Concept:**

It depends upon planning which is governed by public benefit, it seeks the fulfillment of general targets which can be divided into partial ones and gather the efforts to achieve them.<sup>(11)</sup>

**Planning** puts the society benefit in advance to individual considerations and benefits in order to achieve the target of the plan, which is achievement of developmental rate needed by using the available resources by best means.

**Reaching** the needed developmental rate requires the union of efforts of all institutions in the society in

order to achieve successful plan, it also requires being satisfied with ambitions that can be achieved by the plan, it also includes some of important principles which are not to make promises by the planners that cannot be achieved or fulfilled, moreover, there is necessity of stabilization of the planning policy to achieve the targets wanted.

**According** to this discussion, the frame for some strategic dimensions of the developmental problems is the following:

- (1) The necessity of creation of positive attitude so as to feel the importance of contribution in general problems.
- (2) The importance of creating positive attitudes in choosing the representatives of public benefit.
- (3) Emphasizing the role of the individual as an effective element contributing in social life.
- (4) The importance of participation of all institutions of the society to make a successful planning policy for development.
- (5) The value of being satisfied with the ambitions that can be achieved and putting it into consideration while planning the policies of development.
- (6) The importance of stability of general policy of development.

**The Research Sample:**

30 social workers were chosen from different fields of social work as youth care, medical care, educational field, elderly care, add to the previous their scientific specialization in social work.

**Table (1): Research Sample Quality**

Number	Specialization	Fields
10	Individual service	Medical field, Elderly care
10	Group service	Youth care, educational field
10	Society organization	Family and child field
30	Total	

**Social Work, Social Development, and Community Welfare Centres in International Perspective , Richard ,<sup>(12)</sup>University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, 1997**

Community welfare centres are among the most dynamic social institution worldwide. Their aim is to reduce poverty, promote popular participation, advance fuller justice, provide comprehensive health, education and other human services. Tonybee Hall was the first centre in London in 1884, followed by centres in Europe in 1886, in North America in 1911, in USA the “National Federation of settlements” (NFS) was formed. By the 1950s more than 300

centres had joined the (NFS). In 1979 the Federation recognised itself as “United Neighbourhood Centres of America” (UNCA). The UNCA today work with and on behalf of the poor. Community welfare centres exist nowadays in every country and region of the world. The contribution of the social work profession to the community centres movement has been a long and mutually beneficial one. Indeed, community centres offers a “natural environment” for social work practice, in their every essence they integrate the “social” with the “personal” in social work practice. Community centre work also provides developmental social workers with important links to their

colleagues working in other countries and regions of the world.

**Social Workers and Social entrepreneurs, Can They co-exist?**

**A paper for “Social work in the Market Place” Australian Association of Social Workers (WA) State Conference, 21 August, 2001 Peter Botsman – Whitlam Institute<sup>(13)</sup>**

The social work in the market place is almost natural or at least necessary, Why? When work became primarily industrial work, when villages turned into cities, when the horizon became less dominated by haystacks and more by chimney stacks, social work emerged. Social workers were, as their name suggests, workers for the development of the social. Frances Crawford and Sabina Leitmann describe the inter-relationship of 15 pioneering social workers with the imperatives of reconstruction and nation building after the II World War. The late “invention” of social work as an important profession is synonymous with post war national building and later community development in Western Australia.

The (SEN) the Extraordinary Social Entrepreneurs Network, its idea is to teach you how to set up a community bank, a jobs cooperative, a regional economic recovery based on art or festivals or create a monitoring system that will help you develop your idea. We have to say that the market should do its share of the work, without a strong and growing market economy, our efforts in community development will not succeed. We need a macro-economic strategy that fosters growth and jobs, on the other hand, the social workers will have their share as they invest, research, regulate, employ, advocate, publicise, problem solve, crisis manage, politicize and finance the social space.

**Rodgers**<sup>(14)</sup> study 2005 showed the supporting development in practicing the universal social work in Christian society, the study dealt with examining the increasing role of the governmental and nongovernmental organizations in putting universal social work into action and the role of the social worker as an impressive power in governmental and society organizations, this role was concerned with evaluation of the cultural efficiency in different fields, also expansion of their local and religious cultures and their professional activities. The most important result of this study was avoiding the concentration on the economic development at the expense of social development which is known as separate development.

**Socioeconomic Developmental Social Work**, Jan Marie Fritz Professor of Planning and Health Policy, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, 2009<sup>(15)</sup>

Social work refers to interventions by representatives of many disciplines and backgrounds and this include for instance, social workers, clinical sociologists, practicing economists, community organizers and policy makers, socio-economic developmental social work refers to professional intervention with the intent of improving socio-economic conditions at a number of levels from the individual to global. In this section we are going to review the notes of the history of socio-economic development which is not new according to James Midgley.

Late 1800s: Charity organization Society in England.

Late 1920: British colonial authorities.

In the 1930s: Economic development in West Africa

In the 1930s: United states President Franklin Roosevelt’s massive recovery program (The Newdeal of the 1930s)

In the 1950s: (UN) the United Nations promoted child and family welfare services.

Early 1960s: (UN) used the British label of “social development” for both economic and social growth.

In the 1980s: In USA and some off Western Europe had lost some of the gains made during he previous decades.

In Asia: there was strong belief that the social development would inevitably follow economic development, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) reinforced this belief.

At last, in spite of the strong belief that the social development would inevitably follow economic development, the economic growth sometimes was associated with rising unemployment and poverty for certain sectors of a country and marginalization of local producers. The reported economic growth also usually did not take into account environmental costs and impacts.

#### **The Research Type:**

This research belongs to analytical describing type of studies as it tries to understand the approaches used by the social workers towards some of the developmental problems in Egypt according to recent changes, this type of study is suitable according to the nature of our research which works through outlined research curriculum not just a group of research procedures, therefore it represents a clear, illustrated picture of the study, so we can see the facts.<sup>(16)</sup>

#### **The Research curriculum:**

The recent study has used the case – study style as it is considered to be the best means related to its

subject by collecting scientific data concerned with any unit whether it is individual, institution, social policy, local policy or general society, it is an illustrated expanded study to clarify its different aspects and try to reach general items that can be applied on other similar units.<sup>(17)</sup>

**The Research Terminology:**

- (A) The direction concept.
- (B) The developmental problems.

**(A)The direction concept:** is one of the most concepts that have many definitions in social, psychological and educational studies, many definitions can be applied to it, some define it as a decline, some as an emotional drift, and others define it as an ability, more over, it can be defined as a collection of believes and values, another definition is a hypothetical constitution, some define it as a group of reflections and at last it is defined as an attitude. The last definition may be the most suitable one that correlates with this research, therefore we will define the direction as an attitude. Many definitions of the direction concept as an attitude were applied. Some of these definition are:

- (1) The direction is defined as the materialistic or spiritual motive that the person takes an attitude towards it whether conviction and agreement or absolute denying (rejection) or becomes uncertain about both, and this attitude is a reaction to the motive.<sup>(18)</sup>
- (2) The direction is also defined as an attitude of the person towards the subjects that concern him according to acquired experiences through learning at different life situation of his culture, these attitudes are in the form of agreement or rejection which is represented by verbal or practical behaviour.<sup>(19)</sup>
- (3) The direction is also defined as the psychological attitude towards one of the values and parameters.<sup>(20)</sup> The recent study define the direction as an organised intellectual action that defines the person’s attitude towards some subjects which are represented

to him in order to reveal his responses. The direction pattern can be defined through determination of the reactions, its levels and its different weights.

**(B)The developmental problems:**

The developmental problems mean the subjects or aspects that occupy the developmental thinking in confrontation with the problem of retardation in order to achieve rapid and continuous rates of development and progress in different aspects.

**The Field Study**

**The parameter:**

The parameter was made by the following steps:

- (1) Determination of the dimensions of the parameter through hypothetical cultural heritage of the developmental, social and cultural thinking.
- (2) The phrases were chosen for each dimension through the hypothetical cultural heritage of development, the number of phrases for each dimension was (10), therefore the total number of phases for the whole parameter was (30).
- (3) After determination of the parameter, it was introduced to a group of juries specialized in the fields of development, sociology and social work to make sure that the parameter is suitable for application, also to be sure that the phrases, the questions and the instructions are correct and the parameter was modified according to the opinions of the juries.
- (4) The opinions of the juries were applied, modifications were done and (12) phrases were deleted, so the parameter became composed of (18) phrases.
- (5) To verify the parameter stability, it was reapplied after three weeks upon 20 social workers of the research community, the results verified the honesty and the stability of the parameter as it is illustrated in the following table.

**Table (2):The phrases connection factors with the dimensions related to it**

Dimension Phrase (No.)	Social dimensions						Economical dimensions						Strategic dimensions					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
Connection Factor	**	*	**	**	**	**	**	*	**	**	**	*	*	**	**	*	**	**
	1.00	0.24	0.69	0.74	0.56	0.57	0.49	0.28	0.46	0.68	0.63	0.26	0.31	0.67	0.56	0.31	0.58	0.55

\*\* Functional at level 0.01 \* Functional at level 0.05

The numbers in the previous table showed that all the phrases of the parameter were connected to its dimensions and in all the phrases the connection

factors related to it was significant whether at level of 0.01 or 0.05.

**The parameter stability :**

Cronbach’s – alpha was used in calculating the parameter stability

$$\alpha = \frac{K}{K - 1} \left( 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k \sigma_{y_i}^2}{\sigma_x^2} \right)$$

Where k is the number of components.

$\sigma_x^2$  is the variance of the observed total test scores

$\sigma_{y_i}^2$  is the variance of the component i for the current sample of persons.

It is known that Cronbach’s – alpha measures the lower limit of stability coefficient<sup>(21)</sup>.

**Table (3):The dimensions stability coefficients and the parameter**

The dimension	Social	Economic	Strategic	The parameter As a whole
Stability	0.48	0.36	0.52	0.48

According to previous table, the stability of all the dimensions and the parameter as a whole have a

statistical significance which indicates the holdness of the parameter.

**Final Results**

**Table (4):The percentages that indicate the weight and the value of each phrase according to the perspective of the research community towards social dimensions.**

Phrase number	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Total	Agreement percentage
1	30	–	–	30	100%
2	26	4	–	30	87%
3	7	4	19	30	23%
4	19	2	9	30	63%
5	26	2	2	30	87%
6	26	3	1	30	87%

**Table (5):The percentages that indicate the weight and the importance of each phrase related to economical dimensions among the research community**

Phrase number	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Total	Agreement percentage
1	21	3	6	30	70%
2	26	3	1	30	87%
3	28	2	–	30	93%
4	14	5	11	30	47%
5	8	7	15	30	27%
6	9	5	16	30	30%

**Table (6):The percentages that indicate the weight and the value of each phrase related to strategic dimensions among the research community**

Phrase number	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Total	Agreement percentage
1	29	1	–	30	97%
2	21	7	2	30	70%
3	27	2	1	30	90%
4	29	1	–	30	97%
5	27	2	1	30	90%
6	26	3	1	30	87%

**Final Results of the Research:**

From tables 3-6, according to approaches used by social workers towards the strategic dimensions, social dimensions and economical dimensions of the

developmental problems, the following results were obtained :

- (1) In the research community, the strategic dimensions of development have occupied the first place.
- (2) It was followed by the social dimensions of development which have occupied the second place.
- (3) Obviously, the economical dimensions of development were the last.
- (4) **As regards the social dimensions of development**, the approaches used by social workers towards education were so positive which was represented by 100% agreement as the research community insisted on educating children inspite of the low income of graduates at present.
- (5) As regards the concept of professional freedom (which means that the siblings should not have same professions as fathers), the approaches used by social workers towards it as social dimension was positive which was represented by 87% agreement.
- (6) In the research community social workers insisted on educating children as a human investment not only that but also emphasized the persistence of the process of education. These approaches used by social workers towards it as a social dimension was positive represented by 77% agreement and it is obvious that the neutral and refusal percentage was 23%.
- (7) As regards the approaches used by the social workers towards the policy of the government of employing the graduates, they refused this concept which is an indicator of correct developmental attitude at recent circumstances as the government is unable to achieve this at present.
- (8) The social rank is not related to special professions, that was the attitude of social workers towards this concept and it was represented by 78% agreement. According to this result we notice that the research community give up the office work which was thought to be related to social rank and this indicates that the social workers can understand well the demands and ways of development.
- (9) It is not necessary for the sons to have the same professions as fathers as one of the social dimensions of development. The approaches used by the social workers towards that were positive which was represented by 87% agreement.

The results (8) and (9) coincides with the result (7). In this aspect, the social workers refused the policy of the government of employing the graduates

which reflects the fact that the social rank does not depend upon particular profession (i.e. office work), it also coincides with the thinking that it is not necessary for the sons to have same professions as fathers.

- (10) **As regards the economical dimensions of the development** the approaches used by the social workers towards limitation of the expansion of public services were positive represented by 70% agreement of the research community, this result indicates a high perception of social workers who can understand the challenges of the economical status at present.
- (11) Social workers had emphasized the importance of not to shop as a refusal to high prices as a part of economical dimensions of the development which was represented by 87% agreement.
- (12) The social workers proved that the limitation of consumption is considered to be the best means in confrontation with the economical crises as a part of economical dimensions of the development and this was indicated by 93% agreement in the research community.
- (13) More than half of the research community whether neutral or disagree have refused the idea of giving up the investments nowadays because of the recent economical circumstances, only 47% of the research community agreed. This result indicates that there is a positive attitude of the social workers towards this part of economical dimensions of the development.
- (14) Most of the social workers of the research community refused the temporary giving up of the consumption which is represented by 73% whether neutral or disagree while 27% of the research community agreed.

This result indicates that the social workers of the research community do not agree practically on the subject of temporary giving up of consumption as a part of economical dimensions of development while they may agree on this attitude only theoretically which does not come into action as the result (12) shows.

- (15) Most of the social workers of the research community refused giving up the investment projects due to distrust of the investors, the percentage was 70% whether neutral or disagree, only 30% encouraged this attitude.

This result indicates that the social workers insist on making investments in different projects under any circumstances and at all conditions.

- (16) **As regards the strategic dimensions of the development**, it is noticed that the approaches used by the social workers towards it emphasized the attitude of training the upcoming generations in solving general problems which was represented by 97% agreement.

This result may indicate that the attitude of loyalty represents a positive attitude among the social workers which pushes them to strengthen the idea of raising new generations with the concept of being contributors in solving general problems.

- (17) It is crucial to point out that the acceptance percentage dropped significantly as a result of asking the research community to encourage their siblings to participate in the elections. Only 70% of the research community agreed to this possible dimension of the strategic dimensions of the development.

- (18) The social workers in the research community have emphasized the attitude that encourage the individual to participate with the government in order to achieve society benefit as one of the strategic dimensions of the development and this was represented by 90% agreement of the research community.

This result coincides with the result No. (16) which indicates the value of participation in solving public problems. The result no. (18) emphasized the value of individual contributions side by side with the government to solve different problems of the society.

- (19) The attitude of being so ambitious and giving too much promises that cannot be achieved by the planners of development, as a possible dimension of the strategic dimensions of development, was refused by 97% of the social workers in the research community.
- (20) The approaches used by the social workers in the research community towards the value of

gathering all efforts of the institutions of the society to achieve success in development plans, as one of the strategic dimensions of development, was highly positive as 90% of the social workers in the research community agreed to it.

This result indicates that the social workers are totally convinced that all social and non-social institutions must participate and cooperate in order to achieve the targets of development plans. This previous attitude coincides with the concept of developmental thinking in this field and this indicates the positive attitude of the social workers in the research community at this dimension as one of the strategic dimensions of development

- (21) The social workers in the research community emphasized the necessity of stabilization of the general policy of development planning as an important strategic dimension of development, 87% of the social workers in the research community agreed to this. In fact, the stabilization of the general policy of development planning is considered to be an important principle that is included in the strategic dimensions of development, the positive attitude of the social workers towards it reflects their deep understanding of this strategic dimension.

#### **Parameter of approaches used by the social workers towards some of the developmental problems in Egypt**

The following phrases aim at identifying the perspective about some of the dimensions of the developmental problems in Egypt. The phrases were retrieved from the cultural heritage of development please put (√) in front of each phrase according to your choice whether (agree – neutral – disagree).

#### **(A) Social dimensions (related to education and professional movement).**

The phrase		Agree	Neutral	Disagree
(1)	In spite of low income of the graduates I insist on educating my children.			
(2)	Educational curricula should emphasize the concept of being free to choose my career.			
(3)	I think it would be better for my sibling to choose vocational education rather than university education.			
(4)	It is not necessary for the government to be obligated to employ the graduates.			
(5)	I believe that the social rank is not related to a particular profession.			
(6)	It is not necessary for the siblings to have same professions as parents.			

#### **(B) Economical dimensions (related to consumption and investment).**

The phrase		Agree	Neutral	Disagree
(1)	Expansion of social services should be limited at present in order to increase the production.			
(2)	Not to shop when the prices are increased.			
(3)	Lowering of consumption is the best way to confront the economical crises.			
(4)	I don't think of investment because of the recent economical conditions.			
(5)	People can not stop consumption at present.			
(6)	I don't want to make any investment due to distrust of the investors.			

**(C) Strategic dimensions (related to planning and political participation).**

The phrase		Agree	Neutral	Disagree
(1)	It is necessary to rise the upcoming generations on participation in solving public problems.			
(2)	Encouraging the youth to participate in public elections.			
(3)	The individual is capable of participating with the government to achieve the public benefit.			
(4)	Not to give too many promises that cannot be fulfilled by development planners.			
(5)	Development planning cannot succeed without the co-operation of all institutions in the society.			
(6)	Unstabilization of the development policy is not beneficial.			

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