

Contrasting Levels of Development

How can we measure how developed a country is?

- Birth rate
- Death rate
- Life expectancy
- Infant mortality
- Literacy rate
- People per doctor
- Energy use
- GNP per capita - the value of all the goods and services produced by a country in a year, divided by its population.

Two countries compared!

You don't need to remember the figures.

	KENYA (LEDC)	JAPAN (MEDC)
Birth rate	38/1000	10/1000
Death rate	12/1000	7/1000
Life expectancy	54 years	80 years
People per doctor	21,970	608
Cars	14/1000	520/1000
Energy use	110kg oil per person	3856 kg oil per person

Why does a development gap exist?

- Level of industrial development - some countries have few industries. They rely on a narrow range.
- Reliance on primary products - minerals, agricultural products, etc.. When the price of these falls there is nothing they can do about it.
- Lack of technology - too much time is spent doing basic tasks.
- The nature of trade - many poorer countries rely on exporting basic goods and have to buy expensive goods from abroad.
- International debts - many countries are in debt and use all their money trying to pay off the debt.
- Political instability.
- Natural disasters.

What is development?

Development refers to the way that a country's economy grows.
LEDC - less economically developed country (poor)
MEDC - more economically developed country (rich)

What is meant by 'quality of life'?

The quality of life is not just about wealth but includes a number of factors, e.g..

- Availability of healthcare and education.
- Quality of housing
- Access to clean water, sanitation and power supply.
- Level of personal security and safety.
- Levels of pollution and general environmental conditions.

An example of a large-scale project

The three gorges dam scheme. China

The Yangtze Valley is home to more than 400 million people and provides China with more than 60% of its rice crop. In 1992 the Chinese government agreed to the building of the Three Gorges Dam - at more than 2km long and 150m high it will be the world's largest dam by the time it is completed in 2009. Estimated cost is between £17 and £21 million.

ADVANTAGES: * supplies more electricity; * encourages economic development,* creates jobs; water for fishing and irrigation; protects people from flooding.

DISADVANTAGES: *floods towns forcing people to move; damages plant and animal life; human and industrial waste will collect in the lake.

Sustainable development

AIMS

- To improve quality of life for people.
- To provide a secure income.
- To conserve the environment.
- To develop technology that is appropriate to the skills, wealth and needs of the local people.

EXAMPLE

The Liana Project in Brazil is run by the Rainforest Action Network. It is a charity set up to support the rights of the inhabitants. Its aims are to set up small rural enterprises that sell liana vines and their products e.g.. basket weaving.

Sustainability (definition): Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of people in the future to meet their own needs

How can the gap be reduced?

INVESTMENT

- LEDCs can borrow money and put in development projects like road building.
- Transnational companies.

GOVERNMENT AID PROJECTS

- Bilateral aid - aid between two countries.
- Multilateral aid - aid given through organisations like the World Bank.

But... often money is wasted on large scale, unsustainable projects; MEDCs have control of the money; can be slow to put into place.

VOLUNTARY AID PROJECTS

Aid given by charities such as Oxfam and Water Aid. Usually in response to disasters or for smaller development projects

CHANGE THE TERMS OF TRADE

BETWEEN COUNTRIES

If LEDCs earn more money from trade they could spend more on social and economic development