Development: Detailed notes

1. Different lives, different goals

Different starting conditions help explain different goals, without fixing one aspiration for every identity.

LIVES → PRIORITIES

Start with the constraint

Rain-dependent farmer	Unreliable water	may prioritise →	**Dependable irrigation**
Unemployed young person	Uncertain livelihood	may prioritise →	**Secure work**
Girl in a prosperous family	Unequal opportunities	may prioritise →	**Freedom to choose studies**

> Ask people what matters. A life situation helps explain a goal without fixing every aspiration.



Tools, a school satchel and a work apron suggest different life situations. Symbolic objects, not fixed identities or a survey.

Start with a situation, not a stereotype

- **Development:** A process of improving how people can live. Ask what people need, what they value and how change could make life better.
- A landless labourer may seek more workdays, better wages, a good school and freedom from discrimination. A rain-dependent farmer may prioritise dependable water. An unemployed young person may seek a secure job and opportunities to learn.
- A prosperous farmer's income goal can coexist with a wish to educate children. A girl in a rich family may still seek equal freedom and a voice in her own future. Wealth does not remove every barrier.
- Life situation helps explain priorities, but a category does not tell us everything a person wants. Listen to the person's own account; the textbook's partly completed goals table invites discussion rather than one answer for every identity.

Different does not always mean conflicting

Pair of goals	Relationship under the stated conditions
A school library and a reliable village water supply	Different goals that may support each other; a shared budget could still create a trade-off.
A worker seeks higher wages; an employer seeks lower labour costs	Potential conflict over the same payment, even if both value stable production.
A student seeks equal study time; a sibling expects her to do all housework	A conflict about freedom and how work is shared.

A useful question

Ask whose starting conditions, opportunities and constraints explain a goal. Do not assume every difference is a conflict or that every demand benefits everyone. Development is open to reasoned debate.

2. Income, dignity and security

A better life involves income alongside dignity, security, freedom and relationships.

A MIX OF GOALS

Compare the whole job

Job A

Rs 18,000 / month

Short contract
Unpredictable hours

Job B

Rs 16,000 / month

Regular work
Predictable hours

Fictional comparison. For both: investigate safety, travel costs and learning opportunities.

> A defensible preference weighs pay, security and the person's needs. Neither job is automatically best for everyone.



Earnings and a sheltered living space share one floor. Symbolic income and security, without ranking personal preferences.

People usually seek a mix

- **Material goals:** Regular work, wages, crop prices and goods that support living. Income expands what a household can buy and is a useful part of development.
- **Non-material goals:** Equal treatment, dignity, freedom, safety, security, friendship and respect. Difficulty measuring them does not make them unimportant.

- A higher-paid job may involve insecure employment, unsafe conditions or little family time. A lower-paid job may provide dependable work or learning opportunities. Compare the whole situation before judging a choice.
- Paid work can support women's dignity and independence. Respect, shared household work and safe public spaces also affect whether women can take up work or run a business. One change does not automatically remove every constraint.

Explain a preference fairly

There is no automatically correct personal choice between these jobs. A defensible answer states the person's needs, weighs pay against conditions and identifies missing evidence. Income and dignity are connected, rather than two completely separate worlds.

3. Whose development ?

A public judgement must investigate benefits, costs, alternatives and the voices of affected people.

PRIVATE GAIN → PUBLIC JUDGEMENT

One project, different consequences

Possible gains	Possible costs
Electricity for industry	Submerged land
Irrigation for farms	Displaced homes and livelihoods

Ask who receives each gain or bears each cost, then compare feasible alternatives.

> A benefit to one group does not cancel another group's loss. Compare alternatives and safeguards.



A river-valley proposal connects power, farming and nearby homes. Symbolic competing uses, not the Narmada Valley or a factual map.

Who gains, who bears the cost

- A dam may provide electricity for industry and irrigation. It may also submerge land, displace communities and damage livelihoods. People who oppose a proposal may seek a different kind of development, rather than oppose every improvement.
- NCERT's Narmada example contrasts a large dam with smaller check dams or tanks preferred by some affected people. An alternative must still be tested for actual water, energy and livelihood needs.
- **National development:** Judging a path for society: whose needs count, whether benefits reach many people, whether costs are fair and whether there is a better way. It is more than adding one group's profits.
- The chapter's historical Abidjan waste report shows how a disposal transaction can shift serious health costs onto others. Financial savings for a company do not establish improvement for the affected community. Do not treat the report's old casualty figures as current news.

→ Build a fair public comparison

Listen	Compare	Judge
Identify affected groups and their goals. guides →	Investigate benefits, losses and alternatives. supports →	Give reasons, protections and checks.

Consultation informs judgement but does not guarantee agreement. A majority benefit does not make every harm irrelevant.

Keep values visible

Policy choices can involve reasonable competing priorities. State your assumptions and explain how affected people participate, how unavoidable losses are addressed and what evidence could change your recommendation.

4. Income per person

Per capita income compares income per person, using the whole population and a common period.

WORKED FICTIONAL ANNUAL COMPARISON

A bigger total can give a smaller average

Per capita income = Total income ÷ Total population

Country P

Rs 12,00,000 ÷ 100 people

Rs 12,000

per person per year

Country Q

Rs 9,00,000 ÷ 50 people

Rs 18,000

per person per year

> Q has less total income but more income per person. Neither average tells us how that income is shared.



Resource baskets and receiving cups suggest division by population. Symbolic quantities, not a numerical dataset.

Total and average answer different questions

- **Total income:** The combined income of residents over a stated period in the chapter's simplified comparison. A larger population can produce a larger total without a higher income per person.
- **Per capita income:** Total income ÷ total population. Per capita means per person. Include every resident in the denominator, not only workers, taxpayers or families.
- Keep currency, period and price basis comparable. Monthly and annual values cannot be compared directly. A mean is a calculation, not a promise that every resident receives that amount.

Use a classification carefully

- P has the larger total; Q has the larger average. This tells us about income per person, not which country has better health, equal rights or a sustainable resource path.
- The World Bank's income grouping uses GNI per capita with the Atlas conversion method and a specified year. PPP dollars, used in the later human-development table, are a different comparison basis.
- The textbook's 2024 classification paragraph mixes figures that do not match the official Atlas classification method. Learn the criterion and its limitations; do not treat those quoted thresholds as current or directly comparable with PPP income.

An income measure is useful but partial

Income helps explain access to goods. It does not reveal distribution, service quality, discrimination or environmental costs. Add evidence rather than discarding the measure entirely.

Optional denominator extension

Prerequisite: understand percentages and population denominators. Gross enrolment ratio counts everyone enrolled at a level, regardless of age, as a percentage of the official school-age population for that level. It can exceed 100% when older or younger pupils are enrolled. It differs from age-specific attendance and from mean completed schooling.

5. Averages and distribution

An average can help comparison while concealing how resources are distributed.

TEXTBOOK'S FICTIONAL FIVE-CITIZEN COUNTRIES

Equal means, unequal shares

Country A

Rs 50,000 total each month



I	II	III	IV	V
9,500	10,500	9,800	10,000	10,200

Citizen I to V, monthly income in Rs. Bar width shows share of the total.

Country B

Rs 50,000 total each month



I	II	III	IV	V
500	500	500	500	48,000

Citizen I to V, monthly income in Rs. Bar width shows share of the total.

Each mean is Rs 10,000 per person per month. In B, one citizen receives 96% of total income.



Two trays spread resources differently. Symbolic distribution; the exact five-citizen values are selectable text below.

Read the textbook's five-citizen example

- Country A: 9,500 + 10,500 + 9,800 + 10,000 + 10,200 = Rs 50,000 per month. Country B: 500 + 500 + 500 + 500 + 48,000 = Rs 50,000 per month.
- For each, Rs 50,000 ÷ 5 citizens = Rs 10,000 per person per month. The equal means conceal a much more concentrated distribution in B.
- In B, four of five citizens receive Rs 500 each. The fifth receives Rs 48,000, or 96% of total income. In A, all five lie close to the mean. These are fictional countries used by the textbook, not national statistics.

Monthly incomes in rupees, textbook Table 1.2

Citizen	Country A	Country B
I	9,500	500
II	10,500	500
III	9,800	500
IV	10,000	500
V	10,200	48,000
Mean	10,000	10,000

Why a rising average is not enough

One income rises

Others may remain unchanged.

raises →

The total rises

Population can stay fixed.

raises →

The mean rises

Some residents need not gain.

A fictional change from [100, 100, 100, 100] to [100, 100, 100, 500] doubles the mean from 100 to 200 while three incomes do not change.

The conclusion the evidence supports

A is more equal in this example. Equal means do not establish equal living conditions. These income lists alone do not establish health, freedom or environmental sustainability, and cannot prove why an unequal distribution arose.

6. Public facilities and outcomes

Usable public facilities connect resources with health, education and opportunities.

HISTORICAL STATE EVIDENCE

Income and health can tell different stories

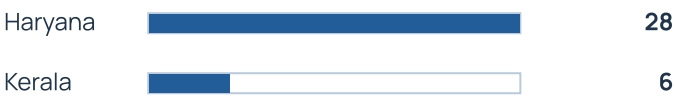
Annual income per person

Rs, 2023-24; higher means more income



Infant mortality

Deaths before age 1 per 1,000 live births, 2020; lower is better



> Kerala's lower listed income coexists with lower infant mortality. Different years and other influences prevent a causal verdict.



Connected water, learning and basic-care spaces suggest collective provision. Symbolic facilities, not evidence of a particular State's services.

Why private income cannot do everything

- Clean surroundings, safe medicines, disease prevention, accessible schools and basic healthcare depend partly on collective arrangements. Buying one household a service may not protect it from polluted air or a community-wide infection.
- Collective provision can share costs and reach people who cannot afford private alternatives. A school needs teachers, safe access and reliable operation as well as a building. Spending alone does not establish quality or equal access.
- The Public Distribution System can support access to food. The textbook's historical ration-shop-use comparison suggests investigating reach, but use alone does not prove nutrition, quality or a causal effect. Check entitlement, supply, access and other conditions.

Historical State comparison, Tables 1.3 and 1.4

State	Annual income Rs, 2023-24	IMR, 2020	Literacy %, 2017-18	Net attendance %, 2017-18
Haryana	3,25,759	28	82	73
Kerala	2,81,001	6	94	94
Bihar	60,337	27	62	69

Read every indicator with its denominator

- **Income:** Per capita Net State Domestic Product at current prices, used here as the State income comparison. Higher income alone does not establish better outcomes in every field.

- **IMR:** Deaths before the first birthday per 1,000 live births in the stated year. Lower is desirable. Haryana's 28 versus Kerala's 6 is a difference of 22 per 1,000 and about 4.7 times as high.
- **Literacy:** Literate people as a percentage of the population aged 7 and above. Higher is desirable; it is not the same as school attendance.
- **Net attendance:** The table's secondary-stage attendance measure for ages 15 to 17 per 100 people of that age. Higher is desirable. Bihar's 69 means 31 per 100 are outside that measured attendance, not 31% of all residents.
- Kerala has lower income than Haryana in the listed year but lower IMR and higher literacy and attendance in their listed years. This challenges income-only judgement. Different years and unobserved factors prevent a simple causal claim.

Rural Uttar Pradesh, textbook Table 1.5 (year not stated)

Measure	Male %	Female %
Literacy, rural population	76	54
Literacy, rural children aged 10 to 14	90	87
Attendance, rural children aged 10 to 14	85	82

Work out the complements without mixing measures

Not attending: 100 - 85 = 15% of boys and 100 - 82 = 18% of girls aged 10 to 14. Not literate in that age group: 10% of boys and 13% of girls. Attendance and literacy are different: a literate child may be absent from school. The table's broader population literacy rates are not attendance rates.

7. Human development

Human development compares selected outcomes in people's lives, while retaining the limits of each measure.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Three dimensions, a qualified comparison

Health	Education	Income
Life expectancy Average years expected at birth; not a personal guarantee.	**Schooling** Mean completed adult schooling and expected schooling contribute to HDI.	**GNI per person** Purchasing-power comparison; not equal cash paid to everyone.

2023 data, HDR 2025: India life expectancy **72.0 years**; Bangladesh **74.7**; Nepal **70.4**. Compare the values, then qualify the claim.

The index combines selected achievements. A shared rank does not mean identical lives or an equal distribution.



A learning space, care objects and a livelihood basket share a balanced foundation. Symbolic capabilities, not an index calculation.

Broaden the question

- UNDP's Human Development Report brings health and education into comparison alongside income. The purpose is to examine people's lives, rather than assume income captures every outcome.
- **Life expectancy at birth:** The average expected years of life for a newborn under the mortality conditions represented by the measure. It is not an individual's guaranteed lifespan.
- **Mean years of schooling:** Average completed schooling among adults aged 25 and above in this table. It is neither current child attendance nor the percentage of literate adults.
- **PPP income:** GNI per person expressed in 2021 purchasing-power-parity dollars to account for differences in what money buys. It is not a cash payment in US dollars or the Atlas income classification measure.
- **HDI rank:** A relative position among 193 countries in this report. A smaller number is a higher position. HDI's education dimension includes expected years of schooling as well as adult mean schooling; the chapter table does not show every input. The index does not capture all wellbeing or every person's life.

2023 data reported in Human Development Report 2025

Country	GNI/person, 2021 PPP $	Life expectancy, years	Mean schooling, age 25+, years	HDI rank / 193
Sri Lanka	12,616	77.5	10.8	89
India	9,047	72.0	6.9	130
Myanmar	4,919	66.9	6.4	150
Pakistan	5,501	67.6	4.3	168
Nepal	4,726	70.4	4.5	145
Bangladesh	8,498	74.7	6.8	130

Compare within the evidence

- Sri Lanka is ahead of India on these listed indicators. That is a bounded comparison, not proof that every aspect of life is better.
- Bangladesh has lower listed income than India but higher life expectancy, 74.7 versus 72.0 years. Nepal's 70.4 is below India's 72.0. Income and life expectancy need their own comparisons.
- India and Bangladesh share rank 130 in this table despite different listed income, health and schooling values. A shared rank does not mean identical conditions. These are historical report data, not today's rankings.

Optional mathematics: BMI is not a class label

BMI = mass in kilograms ÷ (height in metres)^2. For a fictional adult of 54 kg and 1.50 m: 54 ÷ 2.25 = 24 kg/m^2. This is a calculation only, not a health assessment. The chapter directs students to BMI-for-age references; adult thresholds must not be used to label classmates. Discuss food access and living conditions without body shaming.

8. Can an improvement last ?

Present improvement must be tested against resource renewal, finite stocks and future needs.

FICTIONAL ANNUAL GROUNDWATER BALANCE

Renewal must keep up with use

80 units		110 units		30 units lost
recharge enters storage	−	extraction leaves storage	=	over one year, ignoring other flows

> Renewable does not mean unlimited. Also investigate water quality, access and other flows.



A cutaway water store and a finite mineral seam suggest different resource limits. Symbolic geology, without a factual scale or flow rate.

Stocks, renewal and use

- **Sustainable development:** Improvement that can be maintained for future generations, rather than using up the conditions on which their lives depend.
- **Renewable resource:** Nature can replenish it, but use may exceed renewal. Groundwater can decline when extraction is greater than recharge from rain over time.
- **Non-renewable resource:** A finite resource such as crude oil, not replenished on a human timescale. Discoveries can increase known reserves without making the resource renewable.
- A fictional aquifer gaining 80 units and losing 110 units over a year loses 30 units of stored water. Rainfall alone does not prove safe use. Check actual recharge, extraction, water quality and access.

Historical crude-oil estimate, Table 1.7

Region	Reserves in 2017, thousand million barrels	Years at the assumed extraction rate
Middle East	836	70
United States of America	69	10.5
World	1,732	47

A conditional estimate is not a countdown

- These are the supplied table's historical values, cited to a 2024 statistical review. The years depend on the assumed extraction rate and known reserves. They are not a present forecast or a calendar date when all oil must disappear.
- Oil imports expose India to price rises and supply risks. Reducing avoidable demand and investigating alternatives can reduce dependence, but an alternative also has resource, infrastructure and affordability costs.
- The chapter's groundwater warning names agricultural regions, hard-rock areas, coasts and growing towns. Its undated 'another 25 years' warning cannot be restarted today. The durable idea is the balance between use and replenishment.

Think across people, places and time

Environmental damage can cross State and national boundaries. Judge present livelihoods, unequal access and future resource security together. A project called green still needs evidence about its actual impacts and who bears its costs.

9. Make a reasoned judgement

A defensible judgement connects people's goals, distribution, capabilities, evidence and environmental limits.

A DEFENSIBLE JUDGEMENT

Follow a promise through to people's lives

1

People

Whose goals, gains and losses?

2

Evidence

Which measure, unit and year?

3

Options

Which benefits, costs and limits?

4

Judgement

Which conditions and checks?

> Recommend a path with reasons, a trade-off and checks that could change your conclusion.



A community planning surface connects livelihoods, services and a protected landscape. Symbolic evaluation, not a complete district plan.

Connect five questions

- **Goals:** What do affected people seek, and which goals conflict ? Include dignity and voice alongside earnings.
- **Distribution:** Who gets the jobs, income and services ? A rise in the average may conceal unchanged or worsening lives.
- **Public capability:** Can people actually use good schools, healthcare, safe water and food support ? Spending or construction alone does not prove access.
- **Evidence:** What is the indicator's unit, denominator, age group and year ? Does it support a comparison, a cause or only a possible explanation ?
- **Environmental limits:** Will extraction, pollution and future costs undermine the gain ? Compare feasible alternatives and name a way to monitor results.

Historical low-BMI adult shares, NFHS-5 2019-21

State / group	Male %	Female %
Kerala	8.5	10
Karnataka	17	21
Madhya Pradesh	28	28
All States	20	23

Food availability is not the same as food access

- This table concerns adults aged 15 to 49 with BMI below 18.5 kg/m². It is a historical population comparison, not a method for assessing Class 10 students. A lower share is favourable for this particular measure; it does not prove every aspect of nutrition is good.
- Madhya Pradesh has larger low-BMI shares than Kerala for both listed groups. Enough food in aggregate does not ensure households can afford, obtain or use it. Income, distribution, health and public provision are possible pathways to investigate, not causes proved by this table alone.
- For a fictional factory proposal, compare jobs and wages with access to services, displaced livelihoods, water demand and pollution. Recommend conditions and measurable checks, such as reliable water access for affected households, rather than promise universal benefit.