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LONG-TERM VISION OF DEVELOPMENT IN POST COVID-19 ERA: A NORMATIVE THEOREM IN WORLD PERSPECTIVE.

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Abstract:

The present study seeks to find a reliant philosophy of development in the post COVID-19 times to come. Since being contiguous, the Novelcoronavirus has switched almost every human activity uncertain all over the world. Rather the health emergency in this pandemic has strangled human existence on this planet which every country and government are fighting against. Like many others, global economy and development are under severe threat that tend us to chalk out a theorem to be mechanized for bringing the global village back into normalcy. The paper delves deeper to establish a connection of development with wellbeing, keeping human resource at the center of significance. It also measures the interrelation of wealth, economy and development with human resource and suggests a balanced prioritization of the same in terms of accelerating Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As the future after COVID 19 will not be the same like before, even after the pandemic being over, the proposed theorem tries to contemplate the global economy with a new outlook of long-term development.

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For centuries left behind, the phenomenon of COVID-19 has undoubtedly become a large-scale human health disaster at the global dimension. As per the latest updates, there are around a half-million cases of infections and nearly more than 300,000 deaths in official records due to the outburst of pandemic (WHO 2020e) worldwide. In addition to this, globally, the rate of fatal-deaths and the number of infected persons having the nature of ever-increasing in the future (WHO 2020a, 2020b, 2020c, 2020d) and this pathogen may sustain until the discovery of antiviral drug(s). Whereas the ground realities of human mortality across various countries might be more than the published statistics (though there are controversies regarding the gaps between official records and realities). However, the outbreak of the contiguous virus rose out from the Wuhan (China) under Western Pacific Region. Now it reaches each every habitable nook and corners of the earth. It is also subject to critical study that the contiguity of this pandemic (COVID-19) is the product of globalization and recurrent cosmopolitanism. In the meantime, this pandemic has affected everything, including international relations, global economy, nation-based wealth status, geopolitics, human society itself (in a broader sense), the idea of

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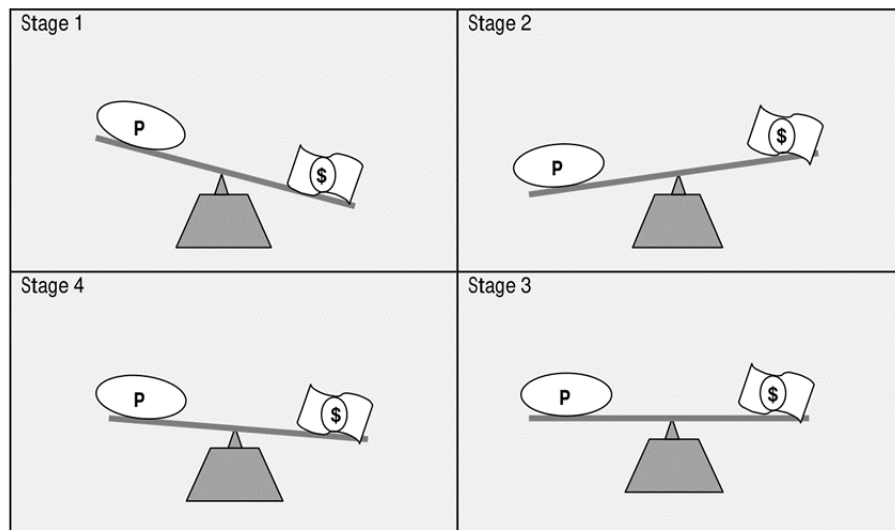
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'development' among many others. Thus the crux of this paper is 'What should be the philosophy of "development" in post-COVID-19 period?' and the 'way of the long-term intervention of overall development strategy in global panorama'. The paper sincerely attempts to build a generic notion based on the established theories and postulations, while the available relevant evidence and metadata have been incorporated, after judiciary consultation, for the proper justification of the theorem to be proposed.



Where, 'P' stands for human capital/resource, and '\$' stands for wealth+economy+development

Fig. 1. Visionary outley of long-term 'development' (Source: Developed by authors)

Before going at depth, it is necessary to clarify the concept of 'development' since the term is concerned with various theoretical and ideological paradigms. Usually, 'development' signifies an 'event constituting a new stage in a changing situation' (Oxford English Dictionary), that also highlights 'the process of growing or changing and becoming more advanced' (Cambridge English Dictionary). Sometimes the word is used to convey the sense of a country's economic, social and socio-political conditions. While the World Bank (1990, 2004, 2005) has defined the term in global parlance which throws light on the need and the way by which the provision of better lives for peoples are possible; and it should include not only economic growth (though it is crucial) but also human development (mainly in the context of good health, nutrition, education, and environment). However, this term is itself ornamented with other terminologies, like economic development, human development, sustainable development, and territorial development, and all these have mutually helped make a complete understanding (Bellù 2011). According to Pearson (1992, p.383), development engrosses 'an improvement qualitative, quantitative or both in use of available resources,' he also adds that it is not always exclusively referred to particular (singular) perspective on social, political and economic betterment rather as a hybrid term for numerous strategies adopted for socioeconomic and environmental transformation. On the other side, for defining the concept of development Sen (1988, 2000) has chosen a different angle of discussing the agenda of development, and unlike the conventional and narrower way like 'growth' or other kinds of any symbolic 'engineering' he rather preferred to include social point of view or say radical approach. Still, the

term 'development' has multiple connotations to different disciplines and academicians and it should be regarded as 'a progress towards complex goals such as the elimination of poverty, the provision of employment, the reduction of inequality and the guarantee of human rights' (Abuiyada 2018, p.119). Moreover, the two words 'growth' and 'development' usually have been interchangeably applied, but 'growth' is a subset of the word 'development'...and 'without economic development, economic growth is limited' (Feldman et al. 2016). However, in this set, the concept of development is precisely concerned to a state of change or transformation, always contributing positivity, characterized by structural economic growth (by utilizing natural as well as human resource), socioeconomic, socio-cultural, and political situation that improves the quality of life of all citizens in a fixed geographic entity or nation.

There is a general consensus that human beings play a dual role (a producer and a consumer) in the case of resource and it is the fundamental element of economic activity, whereas human resource (human capital) is as essential for the functioning of all kind of economic activity all over the world. It is the human resource, which not only helps convert the 'neutral staff' into resource but also utilizes the produced resource to satisfy the needs. Then the overall present global scenario is that all dominant economic activities are shutdown due to COVID-19. The key culprit of this pandemic is Novelcoronavirus, a new kind of pathogen, resulting in vulnerable health hazard and fatal-deaths of hundreds of thousands of peoples beyond their class, creed, race, religion, and nation belonging. More surprisingly, neither any kind of medically proven antibody had ever been discovered against it, till date (3 July 2020). Further, according to (general) consensus after the expert physiologists, on a global scale, attempts have been made to combat the several critical health ailments but that without direct solution of destroying the virus or similar strains (activated on different geographical areas as groups or sub-groups). Thus, 'social distancing,' 'quarantine of suspected person(s),' 'mass lockdown' and so forth are suggested to be immediate weapons for combating this lethal pandemic. Subtle with these texts, the straining step of 'lockdown' on mass scale has invaded massive negative impact on the global economy and other allied issues like socioeconomic development, poverty, human development, resource exploitation and utilization, and so many. Although the sole reason behind such purposive initiative is for breaking the 'chain reaction' of COVID-19 through human-to-human contiguity and for social distancing. According to IMF (2020), the inevitable effect of this lockdown shall shrink the GDP at the rate of 3%, at the global scale. Here, the point comes up to ascribe in detail. The basic motto of a nation should be securing the lives of her citizens and thereafter, the rest follows. However after extensive literature review, it can be said that the Novelcoronavirus is still unpredictable, and numerous groups of scientists are trying to understand its mutation nature. Thus it would be wise to adopt 'lockdown' as the earliest measure for combating. A developing country like India has taken the hardest decision of complete countrywide lockdown, previously pioneered by the administration of China (in Wuhan). The major narrative in this regard is that the lockdown in massive parameter may slow down or crash the lift of economic curve and hamper the nation's future. Fundamentally, a question should be arisen 'development for whom?' If there will be massive fatality 'who carry the development?' Though the second one is not desired, but if today a nation may be capable of minimizing the number of the affected person (by COVID-19) and death rates

instead of having a heavy fiscal loss, the nation in the near future may stand up again on its own feet. That is where the necessity of a 'long-term vision of development' lies. To put it simple, if a country could be able to save its valued human resource by adopting social medicine and mechanism, may be, in the short or in long time the sustained human resource will boost up not only the nation's GDP but also the highest goal of 'development' of human civilization. A pictorial presentation throws light on this idea (Figure 1). Stage 1 originally replicates the pre-COVID-19 period, where usually the symbol '\$' (wealth+economy+development) is being imposed more priority than the symbol 'P' (human capital or resource). Though this phenomenon is justified and accepted by everyone, after outbreak of COVID-19 (pandemic) on the global dimension, the pre-accepted 'balance' between 'human resources' and the combination of 'wealth, economy, and development' must seek a change. In stage 2, when the world's most leading nations are under the jaws (attack) of Novelcoronavirus, there is an ardent need to change the gears of the overall strategy of WED (WED=wealth+economy+development). More clearly, in this ongoing pandemic stage, just inverse off from the previous stage (stage 1), more priority should be given to human resources than WED. The focal idea behind this is, all the activities, functions, and struggles are carrying on worldwide 'for whom?' The answer would end on humans. So if there will be no human (would be) surviving after this pandemic, all the efforts shall be meaningless. Thus the emergency has come when all efforts of any nations (developed, underdeveloped, or developing) must focus on caring and saving its citizens' lives by means of various medical infrastructure and well-recognized measures like complete lockdown, social distancing, sanitizations, and others (BBC News 2020; World Economic Forum 2020). The nation will remain alive when its citizens exist, and further all the sustained human resources will ensure, and also regain, WED. Moreover, if in view of profit-oriented thinking or nation's wealth-building initiation, the already adopted guidelines and steps (for saving and caring the peoples' lives) would be loosened, the second wave of pandemic attacks may return quickly that will make the total loss (National Herald, 2020). Whenever the overall effect of the pandemic (COVID-19) will wipe out, stage 3 should be followed up as a further step. In this stage, all the banning and stringent steps should gradually minimize, and a balanced prioritization should be given to both the symbols '\$' and 'P'. This means, on one side, special care (health, educational, vocational, socio-cultural and so on) should be offered to the surviving human capital, and on another side, rational reframing of planning or policy-making and their proper implementation should take place in the post-pandemic period. Simultaneously, if all the prerequisite conditions of a nation is going on according to its desired circumstances, the nation must prepare for big leap and also for regaining its lost glory (i.e. WED=wealth+economy+development). Hopefully, in the long-run, a nation or country-state may resume its journey as like stage 1 (like before pre-COVID-19).

When thinking about the aforesaid proposal, one must recall Griffith Taylor's (1980-1963) thought of 'Stop-and-Go Determinism' or 'Neo-Determinism'. It is not desired for a body as with geographical entity (with its large group of inhabitants) to rush towards and to pursue actions only for gaining WED (wealth+economy+development), but it should give a pause and rethink ['again n again'] what the 'reality' (that nature providing alternatives) is and also look through humanistic and holistic lenses, for future steps.

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