

Development as Freedom (Amartya Sen)*

- Development can be seen, it is argued, as a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy
- Development: enhancing the *capability* to lead the kind of lives we have reason to value
- Focusing on human freedoms contrasts with narrower views of development, such as identifying development with the growth of gross national product, or with the rise in personal incomes, or with the industrialization, or with technological advance, or with social modernization
- Development consists of the removal of various types of unfreedoms that leave people with little choice and little opportunity of exercising their reasoned agency
- If freedom is what development advances then there is a major argument for concentrating on that objective rather than on some particular means, or some specially chosen list of instruments.
- Viewing development in term of expanding substantive freedoms directs the attention to the ends that make development important, rather than merely on some of the means

*Oxford University Press, 1999

Some Key “Capabilities”

- Some Important “Beings” and “Doings” in Capability to Function:
 - Being able to live long
 - Being well-nourished
 - Being healthy
 - Being literate
 - Being well-clothed
 - Being mobile
 - Being able to take part in the life of the community
- Being happy – as a state of being- may be valued as a functioning
- Three Core Values of Development
 - Sustenance: The Ability to Meet Basic Needs
 - Self-Esteem: To Be a Person
 - Freedom from Servitude: To Be Able to Choose