



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## The Artificiality Of Development: Philosophical And Political Thought

Desh Bhagat University  
University School of Law  
Ms. Mansha  
Ballb (h) 10<sup>th</sup> semester

### Abstract

It is hard to state a certain area of development where human manipulation does not intervene, and if left unchecked, interfere with or even accelerate, reposition or promote the developmental path in accordance with economic, social and technological judgments. The matter has been unfolded for quite some time on the footing as to the place and means of evolution of the artificiality of development and the relationship of this question with philosophical analysis or political discourse. It is a matter of conscious intervention or strategy rigging by use of artificial means that is, using in one way or other, policy know-how, technological centers, and a variety of system apparatuses. The paper, from within the stream of classical and contemporary political thought, takes a look at the role of both state and non-state agencies working within/for development through organization-established policy prescriptions along with economic incentives. An interdisciplinary perspective, Political Theory of the Digital Age offers an evaluation approach through which we can comprehend the influence of AI, averting its disastrous end. Besides, this connection represents various case study and illustrations aims to pattern a rich condensation of the natural growth & intervention contradiction.

## Introduction

The concept of “artificiality of development” is a multidisciplinary effort that integrates innovation and technology within the realm of its natural work growth; nothing should contravene these spheres of the political inherited power established since ancient times. However, political and philosophical ideologies or thoughts work as one side of two coins, as well as being an economic and technological process; development also involves moral and ethical considerations. In today's society, advancements in technology particularly in areas like biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and genetic engineering, ‘illustrate’ how development can be intentionally directed by influential political and corporate entities. Although these innovations are frequently celebrated as indicators of “progress”, the ethical considerations surrounding these technologies are intricate and multifaceted. Roadblocks may consist of regulatory limitations and economic factors in the shift of novel technologies and AI from the research and development laboratory to real life application. Thus, there is a lot of difference between organic development and artificial development, which we will discuss in this paper below. The English philosopher Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) is best known for his political thought, and deservedly so. Hobbes is the founding father of modern political philosophy<sup>1</sup>. Philosophers have been pondering on wealth-creation, on whether it is only the material welfare, not a spiritual one, or Actually it is a fictive picture of prosperity that veils the existential anxiety. If the path of progress is contrived, then *how can it be said that humanity attains freedom?*

---

<sup>1</sup> Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy. (n.d.), *Moral philosophy*. “The University of Tennessee at Martin”. (Last visited) on January 28, 2025, from <https://iep.utm.edu/hobmoral/>

A world where “development” is always being controlled to benefit the chosen few, often causing degradation of the natural world and harm to people is hard to recognize what information is reliable, and we are flooded with false news about wars and human distress everywhere. What are the actual benefits? Economic voting has occurred in India’s past; for example, in the 1991 elections, which took place amid a currency crisis. But in this election, the BJP and Congress adopted the rhetoric of conventional center-right and center-left parties, respectively.<sup>2</sup> Countrywide, total women electors as per the freshly updated electoral roll are still 2.33 crore less than the male electorate. Of the over 99 crore strong Indian electorate, nearly 50.7 crore are men and 48.3 crore (48.8%), women. Third gender elections total 48,870 with states like Tamil Nadu, accounting for their highest numbers(9161), followed by Maharashtra (6145), UP (6089) and Karnataka (5095).<sup>3</sup> The idea of artificial development presents intricate ethical, political, and philosophical dilemmas regarding advancement and liberty in a world where technology, authority are predominantly wielded by a small group. To fully grasp the genuine advantages of development, it is essential to thoroughly analyze its wider effects on both society and the environment.

## Meaning

### Organic Development vs. Artificial Development

Organic development refers to the natural growth and progression of human societies and ecosystems. It arises from the needs and aspirations of individuals, shaped by local conditions and supported by principles

<sup>2</sup> Chandra, K. (25, January 2025). ‘India’s political development at the crossroads,’ Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/indias-political-development-at-the-crossroads/>

<sup>3</sup> Times of India, (29 January 2025). ‘Now, women voters outnumber male counterparts in 13 states, one UT.’ <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/now-women-votersoutnumber-male-counterparts-in-13-states-one-ut/articleshow/117065928.cms>

of fairness, sustainability, and inclusiveness. This type of development is driven from the ground up, with communities deciding their own developmental paths based on unique cultures, traditions, and environments. The aim is to achieve long-term well-being, environmental care, and progress centered on people. Organic evolution promotes solutions that are varied, decentralized, and sustainable. While artificial development or technological progress refers to growth that is led primarily by outside factors-, such as

- big business strategies,
- government regulations,
- or global economic policies

It favors - efficiency, profit, and regulation, leaving, at times, aside the broader- Social, Environmental, or cultural effects. This type of development is mainly from the top-down, i.e., the decisions are made by those in power and the solutions are implemented without having a complete grasp or attentiveness to the specific needs and aspirations of local communities. Consequently, artificial development might result in income disparities, waste of natural resources, and the creation of a gap between the people it targets (and) the ones it was supposed to benefit.

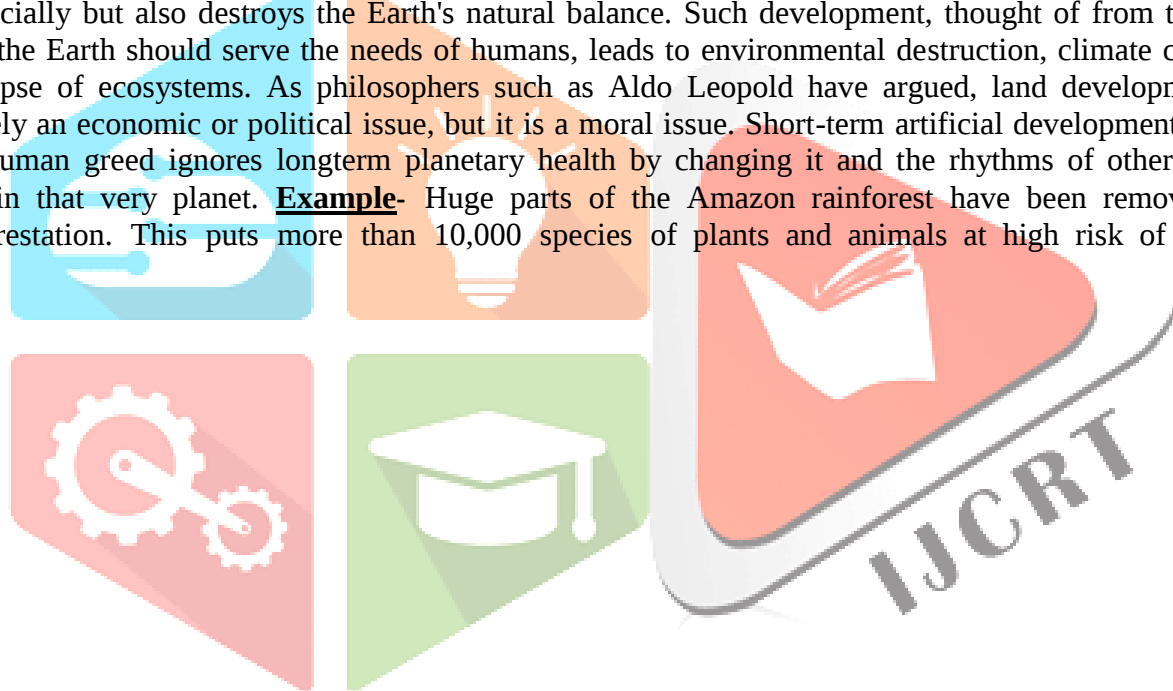
#### **The difference between the two's development**

- i. The methods and processes that are different also they are based on the different ideas and guidelines.
- ii. The main priority for artificial development from the standpoint of the people who are approached as consumers or the most efficient resources to be used by the management iii. Differently, organic development allows people to be independent actors with their role, dignity, and the freedom to influence day-to-day circumstances. Recognizing this resistance is an essential thing for creating an equity and sustainable model that stays recourse with the communities and planet's norms and ideologies.

In other words, Development is a decision, an imposition of values, and a display of power; it is not a single road. By acknowledging its artificiality, we create the opportunity to redefine progress in terms of social justice, ecological balance, cultural diversity, and human flourishing rather than market-driven expansion or technological domination. Instead of being based on the fabricated goals set by the ruling class of the world, the true growth starts from within and is anchored in local context, sustainability, and social well-being. From a philosophical point of view, there is debate on the distinction between authenticity and artificiality in development focuses on what constitutes genuine development. Is true development only relevant to an external or self-generated process? Some, including Jean-Jacques Rousseau, argued that the artificial civilization's structures were corrupting the purity and egalitarianism of humanity. Some philosophers also argue that development in society does not always equal progress. An artificial push for continuous development could lead to the deterioration of society, overexploitation of natural resources, and loss of genuine human connection.

### **Environmental Victimization of the Earth**

One of the most brilliant critiques of artificial development comes from environmental philosophy. The rapid speed of urbanization, industrialization, and technological advancement not only disrupts human lives artificially but also destroys the Earth's natural balance. Such development, thought of from the premise that the Earth should serve the needs of humans, leads to environmental destruction, climate change, and collapse of ecosystems. As philosophers such as Aldo Leopold have argued, land development is not merely an economic or political issue, but it is a moral issue. Short-term artificial development controlled by human greed ignores longterm planetary health by changing it and the rhythms of other life forms within that very planet. **Example-** Huge parts of the Amazon rainforest have been removed due to deforestation. This puts more than 10,000 species of plants and animals at high risk of extinction,



according to the Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA).<sup>4</sup> The Supreme Court ruled that industries that pollute must be held accountable for their environmental impact, and it emphasized the state's role in ensuring sustainable development practices.<sup>5</sup> This case brings attention to the artificial nature of development projects that prioritize industrial growth without considering long-term ecological impacts and public health.

#### Political Perspectives on the Artificiality of Development-

Development in most general perceptions is, again imbued with the political context and aims to elucidate the contours into which development has often been driven or shaped, by political institutions, policies, and acts of external actors, rather than developments that emerge organically from the needs and realities of the communities they seek to benefit. Such artificial development may serve particular interests, be they nation-states, multinational corporations, or global financial institutions, sometimes at the expense of the genuine welfare of local ecosystems or underprivileged communities. India's Green Revolution during the 1960s embarked on transforming agriculture via technological inputs such as high-yield seeds, fertilizers, and irrigation. While it increased agricultural output, it also resulted in environmental degradation, rising inequalities, and the marginalization of small farmers who could not afford new technologies. Other Latin American countries like Chile, Argentina, and Brazil adopted neoliberal economic policies in the 1980s and 1990s. In doing so, they achieved rapid economic growth but also profound social inequality, unemployment, and environmental degradation. The implementation of these politically desired policies

<sup>4</sup> Study Smarter, 'Environmental impacts of development'

<https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/social-studies/global-development/environmentalimpacts-of-development/#:~:text=Development%20%2D%20Key%20takeaways-,Development%20has%20had%20many%20positive%20impacts%20globally.,and%20the%20extinction%20of%20species>

<sup>5</sup> Indian Council for Environ-Legal Action v. Union of India (1996)

was centered mainly in the agendas of international financial institutions such as IMF, World Bank, etc., often ignoring a consideration of the local development needs.<sup>6</sup>

**Philosophical Perspective on the Artificiality of Development-** The need for artificial development techniques was motivated by the perceived lack of scalability and evolvability of direct solution encodings (Tufte, 2008).<sup>7</sup> As opposed to organic or natural forms of development, artificiality dictates, therefore, humanized constructions, systems, and processes that very often stand dissociated from the natural world or individual and collective human needs. Philosophers, as for example, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, have countered the artificial societal development for its ruinous influence on mankind. The course of his argument was that society, technical developments have become a separation of man from his natural state, and that such a condition has not helped to abolish human virtues. The critique remains aware in critical discussions held on artificial development, where growth often denotes GDP or technical developments based on external standards, rather than some more holistic forms of human or ecological well-being. *Philosophers such as Michel Foucault viewed development through a **power lens**, arguing that modern institutions, including those responsible for development, serve to regulate and control populations.*

 **According to Foucault**, the rise of modern institutions (schools, hospitals, prisons, etc.) was part of a broader strategy of social control. He argued that development was not simply about improving living conditions but about creating subjects who fit into predefined categories, restricting human agency and freedom.

Artificiality contrasts with organic or natural developments defined by human-directed inventions, systems, and processes that are often far removed from nature or from individual and collective human

<sup>6</sup> Wikipedia contributors, 'Neoliberalism,' Wikipedia Last Visited on January 29, 2025, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoliberalism#Latin\\_America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoliberalism#Latin_America)

<sup>7</sup> Wikipedia contributors 'Artificial development,' Retrieved January 29, 2025, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial\\_development](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial_development)

requirements. Philosophers such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau criticized the artificial development of society on the grounds of its corrupting effects on humans. In his view, society and innovations in technology had alienated humans from the nature status with which they were, in fact, endowed by birth—all virtues were corrupted? This critique of artificial development finds resonance to date, where growth is often perceived through external indices like GDP or technological innovation rather than through holistic well-being for either human or the environment.

### **Controversial Aspect-**

**According to Amartya Sen “The aim of development should not be simply growth, but the expansion of human freedoms”**

**Many development policies laud industrialization and growth-led development-** the underlying assumption being that economic prosperity will automatically translate into better living standards for everyone. Nevertheless, this usually results in inequalities, displacements, and environmental impacts, affecting the very well-being of its intended beneficiaries.<sup>8</sup> **The External Imposition of Development Models**

**According to Arturo Escobar “The development project is not necessarily focused on doing what the people need, but in fact, on remaking them into the image of the Western capitalist ideal**

**Much development is artificial since it imposes external models different from the values and needs or desires of local communities** - Such external interventions are foreign aid, neoliberal economic reforms, or major-top-down infrastructure projects instituted in the service of interests of international organizations, governments, or multinational corporations. With its policies that give priority to market

<sup>8</sup> Sen, A. (1999). “*Development as freedom*”, Alfred A. Knopf; Sen, A. (1999). “*Development as freedom*.” Oxford University Press.

liberalization and deregulation, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have reminded us of what such policies have meant to local communities- poverty, unemployment, and dependency.<sup>9</sup>

**According to Gustavo Esteva-** “Development, as it is broadly conceived, is a form of cultural imperialism that imposes foreign norms and values, undermining indigenous practices that have sustained societies for generations”<sup>10</sup>

The artificial development also includes cultural imposition of one kind or another. Most modern development undertakings are Anglo-Hellenistic by nature and introduce values, institutions, and economic systems that do not consider the indigenous knowledge, practices, and social structures, causing disintegration of local cultures and their identities, ever-so-often under the guise of “progress.”

**According to Wangari Maathai** “The development of an environment is not development. A ticking time bomb”<sup>11</sup>

**Unavailability of Development-** Sustained development really means plans for development such as industrialization and economic growth in tandem with ecological, social and human consequences in creation and functions. In urbanization, exploitation of natural resources and the careless large scale industrialization result in deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and climate change unto the benefit of human beings. In this race to become modernized, these environmental degradations brought about by some of the development projects tend to be an undermining factor for the very development that they advocate. From a different perspective, when industrial development tends to hurt the environment, quite logically, it does not make the best of sense for sustainable livelihoods.

<sup>9</sup> Escobar, A. (1995). *Encountering development: The making and unmaking of the Third World*. Princeton University Press

<sup>10</sup> Esteva, G. (1992). (Development) In W. Sachs (Ed.), “*The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power*” (pp. 6-25), Zed Books.

<sup>11</sup> Maathai, W. (2009). “*The Green Belt Movement: Sharing the approach and the experience*. Lantern Books”

**According to Langdon Winner “Technological advancements are insufficient to improve society. It's a tool, and its effectiveness is contingent on its application to the wider community<sup>12</sup>”**

Innovation: False Claims about Technology - Another aspect of the artificiality of development is the assumption that technological progress necessarily corresponds to human progress. The majority of development initiatives promote the utilization and acceptance of new technologies to tackle poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment. Even though technology is not a panacea, it can still contribute to existing imbalances by benefiting those who have the means and marginalizing the poor. In the end, in the process, the artificiality of development reveals a fundamental defect with which development has tackled.

Development policies have failed to consider the underlying needs of communities, instead prioritizing economic growth, external models, and technological solutions.

True development should not be limited to economic indicators and external impositions alone. It demands a commitment to the preservation of local knowledge, cultural heritage and natural resources, social justice, and equal opportunities for all individuals to thrive in accordance with their individuality and aspirations. This approach can enable development to focus on humans rather than being a static product of external factors.

### **Suggestions for the Improvement –**

1. Refine the Philosophical Framework
2. Delve deeper into the environmental perspective. Consider the impact of human activities on ecosystems, the importance of biodiversity, and the role of sustainable practices in mitigating climate change. Explore how individual and collective actions can contribute to a healthier

<sup>12</sup> Winner, L.(1986) *“The whale and the reactor: A search for limits in an age of high technology”*

University of Chicago Press

planet, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all living beings and the necessity of preserving natural resources for future generations.

3. Real-world case studies provide valuable insights into how theories and concepts are applied in practical situations. For instance, in the field of marketing, a company may analyze the success of a specific campaign by examining customer engagement metrics and sales data. This analysis not only highlights the effectiveness of the campaign but also offers lessons for future strategies. Similarly, in healthcare, case studies of patient outcomes can reveal the impact of new treatments or technologies, guiding best practices and improving patient care. By exploring these real-world examples, we can better understand the complexities of various industries and the factors that contribute to success or failure.
4. Recent studies indicate that approximately 70% of the content produced in various online platforms is generated by AI systems. This highlights the growing reliance on artificial intelligence for content creation, which can sometimes lead to a lack of authenticity and human touch in the writing. As we navigate this digital landscape, it's essential to ensure that our communication remains relatable and engaging for our audience.
5. Policy Recommendations
6. Multinational corporations (MNCs) play a significant role in the global economy. They operate in multiple countries, leveraging resources, labor, and markets across borders. MNCs contribute to economic growth by creating jobs, fostering innovation, and facilitating trade. They also influence local economies and cultures, often bringing new technologies and practices. However, their operations can raise concerns about labor practices, environmental impact, and the potential for monopolistic behavior. Understanding the balance between their benefits and challenges is crucial for policymakers and communities alike.

### Conclusion

The concept of development in political and philosophical thought reveals significant flaws in traditional models that emphasize economic growth, industrialization, and technological advancement while neglecting human well-being, cultural identity, and environmental sustainability. Politically, development strategies are frequently influenced by external entities, such as multinational corporations or international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank, which impose frameworks that overlook local contexts and needs. This external pressure has led to policies that increase inequality, displacement, and dependency, rather than genuinely empowering local communities and fostering self determination.

From a philosophical standpoint, the artificiality of development is challenged by thinkers like Amartya Sen, who contends that development should be assessed not just by economic metrics but also by the enhancement of human freedoms and capabilities. Furthermore, Arturo Escobar and Gustavo Esteva argue that the Western conception of development often resembles a form of cultural imperialism, undermining indigenous knowledge and practices in favor of a uniform, market-oriented model of progress.

Both political and philosophical critiques align on the notion that authentic development must be grounded in local knowledge, cultural preservation, and environmental care. It should be a process that empowers communities, honors their values, and advances social justice. To transcend the artificiality of development, a shift in perspective is necessary, where progress is measured not by external indicators like GDP, but by the well-being and freedoms of individuals and communities. Only by redefining development in this way can we aspire to a more equitable, sustainable, and inclusive future.