

Development Philosophy and Contemporary Issues

فلسفة التنمية والقضايا المعاصرة

Meriem Wafaa Medaci*

meriemkhencha@gmail.com

Philosophy of Ethics

Ecole Normale Supérieure ENS

laghouat / Algeria

Charif Eddine Bendouba

Charif.bendouba@gmail.com

Philosophy of Ethics

University of Saida

Received: 08-08-2025

Accepted: 26-12-2025

Published: 31-12-2025

Abstract:

Those interested in civilizational, developmental, and awareness-raising affairs have attempted to effect change in daily reality by reforming and improving what needs to be fixed. Here, we find that development will not be realized, nor will it reach evolution, civilization, intellectual growth, renaissance, or intellectual prosperity, without the existence of philosophy. Philosophy has not remained in its original primordial form; rather, it has produced reason and wisdom intended to establish an epistemic break from the Dark Ages in which the Church held control, giving reason and wisdom a prominent status.

Keywords: Development ; Sustainability ; Philosophy ; Life ; Prosperity.

ملخص:

لقد حاول المهتمون بشأن الحضاري والتنموي والتوعوي أن يحدثوا تغييرا في الواقع اليومي من خلال اصلاح وتحسين ما يجب اصلاحه، وهنا نجد أن التنمية لن تتحقق ولن تصل لتطور ولا لحضارة ولا لنمو فكري ولا لنهضة أو ازدهار فكري، إلا بوجود الفلسفة، فلفلسفة لم تبق على تلك الصورة الاولى التي وجدت عليها، بل انتجت الفلسفة عقلا وحكمة غرضهما انشاء فصل ابستيقي عن العصور المظلمة التي كانت الكنيسة تتحكم فيها وأصبح للعقل والحكمة مكانة .
الكلمات المفتاحية: التنمية؛ الاستدامة؛ الفلسفة؛ الحياة؛ الازدهار.

* Corresponding author: meriemkhencha@gmail.com

1. Introduction:

The relationship of the individual between his present and his reality is a conscious relationship especially nowadays. For, he started comparing his own reality to the Other's reality through his given privileges in the developed countries, beside that the he confirmed the daily life he lives, and started seeking for the best in term of the given standards besides taking into consideration the quality of all the fields. Hence, we find the Algerian paradigm seeking to plan development strategies Algeria's panning in order to improve the living, intellectual, cultural, educational and health standards. and more other fields.

We notice that there is significant attention given to the social reality in which the Algerian individual lives, because the engine of development in Algeria today is witnessing broad progress at a somewhat acceptable pace, especially as the open reality to developed countries has begun to contribute to shaping awareness among people within the country, and shows them the importance of advancement in education, health, and justice, to the point where our reality has become clearer than before and more developed.

This, perhaps, places on our shoulders the responsibility of determining the path through which we preserve our identity, morals, and even our traditions. Sustainable development has seen wide spread in the academic sphere today, along with the discussions it generates, especially in Third World countries. This growing interest confirms its importance, as it seeks to achieve positive goals and offers practical solutions within society.

Philosophy, as an effective field of knowledge, has also begun to contribute to development through its efforts to spread awareness and certain ethical principles that help in changing the current situation.

Hence, we ask the following question, what is development from a theoretical perspective? What are the efforts made by the Algerian state to achieve developmental awareness? And what are the future prospects for realizing a developmental philosophy in our daily reality?

2. The Essence of Development:

In Arabic dictionaries, development is defined as the increase in the quantity of things or their qualitative improvement. It has been mentioned in classical Arabic usage with expressions like "the crop grew" or "the wealth increased," indicating that the ancestors paid attention to development in all fields (Bakkar, 2011, p. 9). Today, we frequently hear about

sustainable development in almost all areas and that is due to the growing focus on the concept, as it contributes to building advanced societies with a productive and active mindset. Furthermore, the fate of humanity today depends on the extent to which development has progressed within a given society across all sectors, which serves as an indicator of that society's advancement compared to others.

Development was defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1990 as "a process of expanding the range of choices available to individuals. The most critical of these diverse choices are that people live long and healthy lives, acquire knowledge, and have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living." (PNUD, 1992, p. 11) This clearly shows that development is concerned with individuals as a tool for increasing productivity and quality of life in all fields, so that individuals can enjoy life without pressures or constraints, especially in daily living.

Moreover, if we seek definitions of development in the economic and social fields, we will find a vast number of them that cannot be easily enumerated. Some have defined development as a scientific movement that occurs through the systematic and planned establishment of groups aimed at changing the social and economic situation, with the goal of achieving a fundamental transformation of all infrastructure, aiming toward growth and progress.

The efforts made by development to achieve the noble goals of both society and the state are hopes being pursued amid the significant global transformations.

The main objectives of development today include reforming healthcare, creating more job opportunities, employing skilled individuals and professionals, and seeking better education than what currently exists... and many other essential needs that no state can grow or stabilize without (Lalande, 1996, p. 224).

This takes us back to Lalande's definition of development as "a process of transformation or transition from one stage to another." It is clear that this transition process is accompanied by intellectual advancement, which allows for improvement on both the individual and collective levels, and this is what we call a comfortable life or the achievement of well-being in daily life. "The concept of sustainability has emerged within the field of knowledge to address topics through investigation, analysis, deduction, and inference about

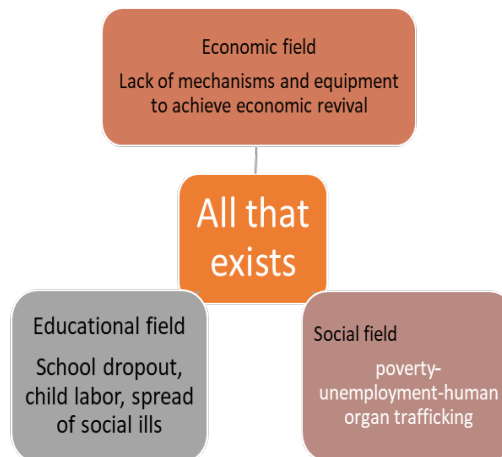
what the patterns of safe living and wise behavior should be for the inhabitants of this planet, with its limited resources and natural wealth." (Amer Khaider Al-Kubaisi , 2019, p. 11) It is certain that both development and sustainability play essential roles in overcoming most of the crises faced around the world, as they aim to achieve the best outcomes and invest in both the individual and the society.

Development is a multidisciplinary field, and it can be seen as the desired outcome we aim to achieve. It is the paradigm that specialists today strive to realize and translate into tangible reality.

Besides, sustainable development has three levels of systems: (Amer Khaider Al-Kubaisi , 2019, p. 19) Global, social and human. All these levels contribute to improving the quality and standard of life to ensure survival in its best form.

3. Development Issues:

The goals of development cover several key areas that are considered, in some countries, as dangers and obstacles that must be addressed and reconsidered, as they are essential to building society and development cannot be achieved without them. These include: poverty, hunger, health, education, sanitation, environment, justice... All these issues pose a threat if they spread and worsen within a society. This is where development intervenes to provide practical solutions. In the plan, we will work on clarifying the current situation and what societies represented by institutions, associations, and even state policies aspire to achieve today.

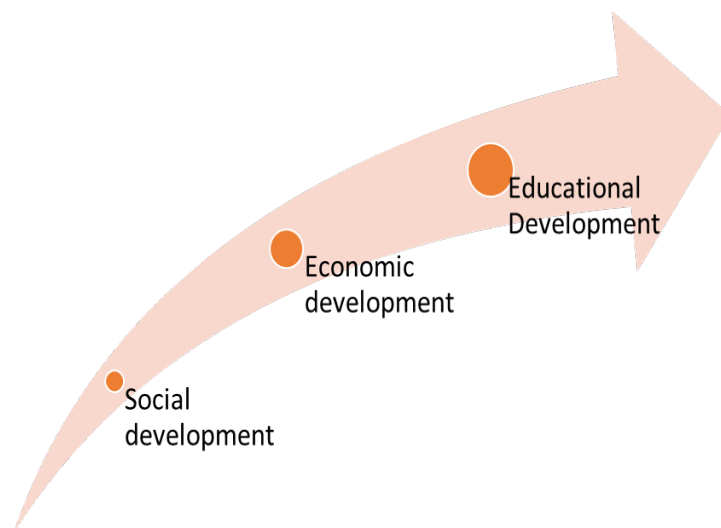


4.

What is supposed to be?

Hence, Work is one of the foundations for achieving development, and work cannot be effective without the presence of a conscious mindset which we might call wise or philosophical in managing the affairs of society. Therefore, development arises from these principles and achieves a balance between development and environmental sustainability, meaning a balance between production and consumption and the environment's capacity to give and function.

In addition, the real challenge lies in how to find ways to achieve economic development and well-being without depleting nature or harming it through issues such as pollution (Jamal, 2016, p. 63). Thus, when health and education are available, unemployment is overcome, poverty and social scourges are eradicated, and sound infrastructure is provided among other necessities, and this makes it easier to live life in a smooth and comfortable way, and this is what societies today should strive for, through following the plans developed by an elite group of competent individuals.

**5. From Economic Development to Human Development:**

The interest in the topic of development is essentially an interest in human daily life and the reality in which we live, as development has gained significant traction in most fields concerned with the human being.

Researchers have focused on its ethical, political, and even economic aspects. The attention given to development stems from several motivations, among them the search for ways to improve current conditions and for methods and foundations to advance daily life, and this is what came to be known as development. In reality, development emerged in opposition to all forms of underdevelopment left behind by wars and conflicts, particularly after the Second World War.

Additionally, the world sought ways to overcome crises by proposing strategic plans as a driving force toward development, and one of the first areas to receive major attention was the economic field, as it was considered essential for achieving economic independence. "The rapid progress that developed countries achieved during those periods in various fields especially in industry, technology, capital development, and human skills were remarkable (Jamal, 2016, p. 45)".

For a long time, development was limited to the economic sphere, with the hope that it would meet the material and moral needs of individuals. However, it quickly became clear that this could not be achieved unless efforts in all life domains were unified. Some UN reports have defined human development as the process that assumes the responsibility of distributing certain key choices to people. These choices include (Tariq, 2019, p. 123):

- Living a long and healthy life.
- Acquiring knowledge.
- Accessing the resources necessary to ensure an adequate standard of living.

Human development, therefore, aims to drive progress by improving the standard of human life, paying attention to the health sector as well, and developing new skills among individuals so that they may benefit their social environment and achieve positive goals. However, this does not mean ignoring the technical and technological level prevailing in society, nor abandoning traditions and customs, which are among the foundational elements that must not be overlooked because proper planning is that which considers all aspects of reality.

Over and above, if we look at development in Algeria, we find that it kept pace, especially after independence when it became clear that the economy was fragile, infrastructure was destroyed, and numerous issues emerged such as illiteracy, poverty, and the spread of diseases. All of this prompted planning policies to urgently search for prospects to emerge from these crises and achieve development in all fields. The state, therefore, established many urgent programs to improve the situation at that time until today, it continues to strive for development.

6. The Human Between Philosophy and Development:

Research in philosophy is in its essence a search for life through renewed approaches and new methods, because philosophy at its core is all that is rational, logical, inferential, and conscious in the principles of life. Hence, the philosopher's mission today is far greater than exploring the metaphysical or studying issues disconnected from reality. A successful philosopher is one who seeks keys to changing reality paths to achieving sustainable development, reflected in intellectual and mental awakening. "It is not for the philosopher, after that, to say this is good or bad, or that the state must do this or that (Omar, 1993, p. 9)." The philosophy of development rests on three fundamental pillars, the achievement of which brings about developmental awareness. These are:

- **The Human Being:** As the tool that drives reality.
- **Society:** As the most active force in achieving development.
- **Nature:** As the field that must bear witness to the potential of both the individual and society.

A philosopher must be aware of the domain in which they philosophize, while also recognizing its limits: "A philosopher's engagement with a field is different from that of a scientist in the same field (Omar, 1993, p. 14)." This brings us to a central question: How can an intellectual elite adapt their ideas to reality to bring about development? Given our current context, it is imperative to first cultivate minds and prepare them for this developmental act, as it is a valuable asset for individuals and society alike. We describe it as a "developmental act," certain that it is dynamic, not static, and that its issues evolve over time. Therefore, it must be continually updated.

Hence, to care for individuals is, in truth, to care for the youth's potential to make a difference. The individual is the one who can implement all plans if invested in properly and rationally. Being both vital and free, they will engage with life based on their humanity, not hostility that could otherwise undermine administrative planning.

Moreover, the Western model of societal development is clear, and this is largely due to the contributions of philosophy and philosophers in transforming a previously stagnant reality, particularly under the dominance of the Church. Without the intervention of wisdom and philosophy, the situation would not have improved intellectually or ethically. "One of the most important factors in the development of Western civilization was the emergence of philosophical theories that contributed to forming a theory of knowledge and freeing the Western mind from stagnation and unproductive methodologies (Ghiat, 2020, p. 6)." Thus, philosophy came as a force to overcome backwardness and move toward progress and intellectual development, contributing to the building of competent individuals through investment in their minds to transform reality. This is the essence of Philosophy of Action, which seeks daily solutions. Philosophy must serve this rational endeavor with full transparency.

Philosophy no longer retains the stereotypical image it once had in its early beginnings. It now keeps pace with reality, lives within it, and constantly seeks practical solutions and outlets for human life. "Philosophy has not abandoned its essential mission. The contemporary world needs a new kind of philosophy in terms of topics, methods, and how it raises studied issues. Philosophy must be positive and open to reality, capable of dealing with philosophical, ideological, political, economic, and intellectual changes and challenges other fields where philosophy can contribute effectively (Ghiat, 2020, p. 11)." Philosophical awareness is a powerful motivator in facing the challenges of reality. This makes it necessary for Algeria to find urgent and practical solutions to transform its current state toward a more developed one. This should involve all disciplines, collective efforts, and no exclusion of any field. Perhaps the greatest focus should be on philosophers and the intellectual elite, as they are the ones who analyze and interpret reality and chart a future roadmap for a better tomorrow.

Our current reality as an Algerian society requires inclusive participation, not exclusion. This shared effort in finding solutions nurtures citizenship in individuals,

transforming it from a passive concept into an active principle within the community. This sense of belonging itself fosters care, unity, and collective conscience in the nation, making a significant difference in the face of marginalization and exclusion that individuals experience today.

The Algerian thinker Malek Bennabi is considered one of the pioneers who offered explicit writings and a range of solutions to escape poverty and unemployment. He studied reality and looked to the future, focusing much of his attention on how to build the human being, as he believed this is the effective and directly influential tool. "Malek Bennabi referenced José Castro in stating that the human being is the key to development (Harbi, 2020, p. 3)." Malek Bennabi emphasized collective participation in achieving development and changing the current situation. This will not happen without collective awareness among individuals. Focusing on the economic situation is a crucial and necessary starting point, followed by the improvement of other fields leading to the ultimate goal which is comprehensive development.

7. Conclusion:

In the end, we conclude that the topic of development, as much as it is relevant to the present reality, also has deep historical roots, representing a clear contribution to the search for practical solutions to overcome existing crises that threaten society and institutions especially when it comes to education, health, and the environment, a trio that poses great danger if it deteriorates, as it forms the backbone of progress and advancement. Hence, philosophy is considered a fundamental factor and essential condition in building development, through the awareness it spreads, the sound visions it offers, and its insight into reality. It also revives a collective spirit that creates opportunities for meaningful work and change in the present state, and obstacles facing development in Algeria are numerous and complex, and they must be addressed one by one, and in stages, to ensure real change through the involvement of wise individuals who operate within a comprehensive plan, alongside the combined efforts of all to achieve sustainable development. Moreover, keeping pace with development across all fields has become a reality and a decision that can no longer be avoided, for it is the only driving force through which the situation can be improved, growth can be pursued, and various social scourges can be eradicated.

List of references:

1. Amer Khaider Al-Kubaisi , a. (2019). *Studies on Development Approaches*. Naif University Publishing House.
2. Bakkar, A. K. (2011). *Introduction to Integrated Development* (éd. 4). Damascus: Dar Al-Qalam.
3. Ghiat, B. (2020). The Philosophy of Action and the Problem of Development in the Arab World. *Ab'ad Magazine*, 7(2).
4. Harbi, H. B. (2020). The Philosophy of Development and Underdevelopment in Third World Countries in the Thought of Malek Bennabi. *Al-Hikma Journal of Philosophical Studies*, 8(1).
5. Jamal, F. (2016). *Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning* (éd. 1). Jordan: Dar Dijlah.
6. Lalande, A. (1996). *Philosophical Dictionary* (éd. 18).
7. Omar, I. A. (1993). *The Philosophy of Development: An Islamic Vision* (éd. 2). America: International Institute of Islamic Thought.
8. PNUD. (1992). *defining and measuring of development*. new York.
9. Tariq, S. (2019, December). Sustainable Development in Algeria,. *Journal of Development Research and Studies*, 6(2).