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The paradigms of development and their evolution: From the economic to the multidisciplinary approach

Los paradigmas del desarrollo y su evolución: Del enfoque económico al multidisciplinario

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Abstract

This article presents the evolution of the concept of development, whose origin comes from the emergence of Economics as a science, presenting concisely the theories with more recognition for their contributions; and revealing, through bibliographic research, the milestones that marked significant advances in the knowledge about this social phenomenon. Four stages were observed: the first that confused development with growth guiding policies to increase GDP; the other is the incorporation of the social dimension from the economic approach by adding the (re) distribution of income as a variable, which was overcome with the contribution of other sciences such as Sociology, Politics and Law, creating multidisciplinary approaches that include the environmental dimension contemplating perspectives of hard sciences such as Physics and Biology, developing a new conception whose approach most accepted now is that of sustainable human development proposed by the UNDP, which incorporates Sen's approach to capabilities and sustainability principles, facilitating the agreement embodied in the 2030 Agenda that set out seventeen disaggregated objectives in one hundred and sixty-nine goals in the economic, social and environmental spheres; this is perhaps the greatest challenge in the creation of an environmental culture that promotes new values, and in other cases, regain ancestral values, where awareness, the product of an improved educational scheme complemented by a political apparatus adjusted to socio-environmental demands are key elements in the process.

Resumen

El presente artículo expone la evolución del concepto de desarrollo, cuyo germen antecede al surgimiento de la Economía como ciencia, presentando de forma resumida las teorías que tuvieron mayor reconocimiento por sus contribuciones, revelándose, a través de la investigación bibliográfica, los hitos que marcaron avances significativos en el conocimiento sobre este fenómeno social, hallándose cuatro estadios: el primero que confundió al desarrollo con crecimiento, orientando las políticas al incremento del PIB, seguido de la incorporación de la dimensión social desde el enfoque económico agregando la (re)distribución de la renta como variable, que fue superado con el aporte de otras ciencias como la Sociología, la Política y el Derecho, creando enfoques multidisciplinarios que hoy incluyen a la dimensión ambiental, gestando una nueva concepción cuyo enfoque más aceptado actualmente es el «Desarrollo Humano Sostenible» propuesto por el PNUD, que incorpora el enfoque de capacidades de Sen y principios de sostenibilidad, facilitando el acuerdo plasmado en la Agenda 2030 que planteó diecisiete objetivos desagregados en ciento sesenta y nueve metas en las esferas económica, social y ambiental, siendo tal vez el mayor reto la creación de una cultura ambiental que promueva nuevos valores, y en otros casos retome valores ancestrales, donde la concienciación, producto de un esquema educativo mejorado complementado con un aparataje político ajustado a las demandas socio-ambientales, resultan claves.

Keywords | palabras clave

Development theory, economic growth, capabilities, economic and social development, human development, sustainable development.
Teoría del desarrollo, crecimiento económico, capacidades, desarrollo económico y social, desarrollo humano, desarrollo sustentable.

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1. Introduction

The reasons that explain the progress of economies and the backlog of other economies, as well as the reasons that explain why a significant number of people live under poverty conditions, the most effective means of closing the gap between rich and poor, among many other questions relevant to the prosperity of the human being require the understanding of the characteristics and components of concepts such as richness, inequality, poverty and development, becoming the starting point to formulate theories, models, methodologies and policies that try to improve the quality of life of the population. These theories will maintain their validity as long as they explain the reality with an acceptable degree of success, and until new theories present arguments of greater conviction and completeness, giving way to the accumulation of knowledge and the advancement of science.

The study of development was formalized with the emergence of the "Development Theory" as a branch of the Economy, which initially took macroeconomics, microeconomics and Political Economy elements for its analysis, creating a bias towards the economic dimension that when insufficient, it required the support of other sciences, creating multidisciplinary approaches that continue in evolution, situation presented in this article based on the bibliographical analysis that aims to present in a concise way the recognized theories for their contributions to the comprehension of the development, pointing out the most important milestones that marked an impact in the knowledge about this social phenomenon.

2. Theroretical review

There are reflections throughout the history of mankind on how to improve the living standard and the achievement of happiness, among which stands out the Aristotelian thought that associated dignified life with production and consumption, including the importance of work and leisure in welfare (Martínez-Echevarría & Crespo, 2011), idea that was supported with the contributions of the classical school that marked the origin of the Economy as science, pointing out that the richness is the production, but not the precious metals or the money as assumed by the mercantilists, being priority to increase the productivity of capital and work to increase it, and thus, to achieve the development of the nation, proposing the free market as the most efficient mechanism for this purpose.

The hegemony of the classical thesis lasted up to 1929 when its theories and policies were insufficient to explain the "Great Depression" and remove the countries from the crisis, emerging the Keynesian school that proposed stimulating aggregate demand using fiscal and monetary policies to revive GDP and generate employment, conceiving the State as moderator of economic cycles, but continuing with the idea that the most important purpose is growth.

During the post-war period in which the United States positioned itself as the dominant power and implemented the "Marshall Plan" to rebuild Western Europe while strengthened its relations with regions where the "phantom" of communism of the extinct Union Soviet wanted to be reborn, the inequalities between developed and underdeveloped countries expanded, becoming in the subject of academic

research addressed from the "Development Theory", which was consolidated as an economic discipline.

Following are the lines of thought that were most accepted at the time of its diffusion, allowing to observe the evolution of development from the economic position to the multidisciplinary one.

2.1. Modernization theory

This theory states that in order to achieve development, it is necessary to overcome several stages already achieved by the great powers, whose steps were to be imitated by the underdeveloped countries, requiring that western values replace the traditional, because they mistakenly assumed them incompatible. The relevant models of this aspect are:

- Arthur Lewis' dual-sector model: Conceives development as sustained per capita growth that transforms a traditional economy, characterized by stagnation and subsistence, into a modern economy, centered on capitalist expansion, considering the increase of industrial productivity by implementing technologies, which increases the demand for labor, and thus, the salaries of the sector, motivating the migration of the countryside to the city. The shortage of labor in the field causes the rise in salaries in the primary sector by pressuring landowners to implement technologies that increase the productivity of the agricultural worker, leaving behind the traditional economy and joining the modernity (Lewis, 1958).
- Because of the belief that only capitalists' profits were able to finance investment, since middle-class incomes and low-class wages were insufficient to achieve a significant level of savings, it was stated that the importance was in the growth and not in the distribution of the income, because this one was to be biased in favor of the bourgeois (Gutierrez, 2007).
- Model of the development stages of W. Rostow: It assumes the development as the highest link between five progressive stages listed below:

  i. Traditional Society: The production is rustic, agricultural and intended for the consumption rather than trading, being a subsistence economy with little capital accumulation.
  ii. Pre-takeoff conditions: The State promotes modernity, facilitating the importation of capital goods and creating the necessary infrastructure.
  iii. Take-off: Local industry implements new technologies experiencing rapid growth. It requires that the investment rate exceeds the population growth by relying on external savings.
  iv. Maturity: Technological advances have been implemented effectively, increasing labor productivity, wages and national income. Economies are projected outward. It has an estimated duration of sixty years.
  v. High mass consumption: production has grown significantly and has diversified to the service sector. The State is able to implement social policies and the country has international presence (Aguilar, 2017).

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2.2. Structuralist theory

It originated in Latin America marking its beginning in the Havana Conference of 1947 with the speech of Raúl Prebish, who opposed the idea that underdevelopment is a stage of development and questioned the effectiveness of neoliberal policies indicating that the periphery countries are inserted into international trade by exporting cheap raw materials to developed countries and importing capital and consumer goods with high added value, situation that deteriorates its terms of exchange and makes difficult the effective implementation of new technologies in its productive processes, lagging behind the benefits of progress (Rapoport & Guiñazú, 2016).

With a Keynesian ideal promoted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the import substitution industrialization (ISI) was proposed, which required the active participation of the State as a planner and director of the economic activities, using tax exemptions, subsidies, elimination of tariffs on capital goods, among other initiatives to encourage investment in new industries, but also by applying entry barriers to the goods from the rest of the world that could be rival in the local market with the products offered by the national industry (Ariel, 2015).

In this way, the development would be initially endogenous, depending on the internal consumption, while the implementation of the technological advances progressively increased the productivity of the industrial sector lowering its costs, until reaching the time when their competitiveness would be equated with those of developed-country industries. Thus, value-added products would be exported and barriers to imports would be eliminated, allowing the country to enter into international trade under fairer conditions.

However, in most of the Latin American countries that adopted this model, local industries did not improve their competitiveness because they were created by national power groups associated with transnational corporations that took advantage of the absence of competition and captive demand for extraordinary benefits, requiring "State paternalism" for sustainability, generating inflation and fiscal deficits and balance of payments explaining the failure of the model (Polo, 2016).

2.3. Dependence theory

It was born in the 1950s, gaining strength in the two subsequent decades. Taking lines of Neomarxism and Weberian thought, it advocates the idea that there are national power groups interested that Latin America continues being primary-exporting, subjecting nation-States to a relationship where their development depends on the progress of the hegemonic countries (Vergara & Ortiz, 2016).

The "Peripheral countries", despite the deterioration of the trade terms, maintained their export offer by achieving competitiveness through labor exploitation, which caused domestic demand, while importing goods with added value and obsolete technology that did not allow them to increase their productivity to the levels of the "center" countries, perpetuating internal and external imbalances, and consolidating a dual model where development and underdevelopment are opposite faces of the same coin (Gutierrez, 2007).

This theory differentiates the concept of 'growth' from 'economic development' by arguing that the growth is not a product of the implementation of new technologies, therefore, it does not contribute to leaving the dependency structure, while economic development does. It also proposed to maintain the "ISI model" but with a moderate protectionist policy applied on previously prioritized activities (Hunt, 1989).

2.4. Neoclassical institutional theory

The Institutionalist School was founded in the United States by Thorstein Veblen and John R. Commons, whose studies were based in the role of institutions in development, considered an evolutionary process that is based on behaviors associated with activities that emerge as technological progress is implemented, which they called "universal values" aligned with efficiency and economic benefit, finding as resistance the "cultural values" associated with the ethics, the moral and the opinion of the community, revealing the dual character of the people who are finally those that promote the change (Macagnan, 2013).

This school, unlike classical thought, believes that tastes and preferences vary and that rationality is limited since there is a learning process circumscribed to culture, norms and institutions, which links economic behavior to law because the laws regulate transactions, thus, development should be considered in addition to the economic, social and political dimension (Commons, 1931).

2.5. Marxist theory of global systems

Immanuel Wallerstein, the main theorist of the system-world analysis, acknowledged that studying the nation-State isolated without considering global conditions is insufficient, suggesting a holistic view that includes the dynamics of the systems of Global communication, international financial systems, knowledge transformation, trade evolution, and even military linkages, for which the Economy should rely on Sociology, adapting to the new logic of the capitalist system that ignored the frontiers in search of profits in an increasingly integrated world to the global market, generating different stages of development that allowed to categorize the countries in peripherals, semi-peripheral and the center, being the center countries the biggest beneficiaries of the unequal distribution of wealth (González, 2004).

2.6. Neoliberal model and globalization

In the context of the interconnection intensification between distant and diverse communities that changed their cultures and strengthened their economic, social and political linkages as a result of advances in information and communication technologies (ICT) during the seventies and eighties, and the external debt crisis that hatched in Latin America, the "School of Chicago" conceived this model, accusing protectionism as the causality of the crisis, prioritizing the dismantling of the "Welfare State" through the implementation of reform packages suggested by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the United States Department of the Treasury, to which John Williamson called the "Consensus of Washington», which began with the signing of a letter of intent where the government pledged to contract

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public spending, above all social expenditure, to non-intervention in the money market to have an interest rate and exchange rate governed by competition to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to international trade, to open to foreign capitals, to privatize public enterprises, to respect property rights, and in general, to deregulate markets, in exchange for access to loans granted by multilateral agencies (Castañeda & Díaz-Bautista, 2017).

The implementation of these policies, initially called "austerity" and later "structural adjustment", led to the deterioration of demand and aggregate supply that reduced efficiency and increased inequality and poverty, adversely affecting Development of those who adopted them (Casas, 2017).

2.7. Theories of sustainable development

During the 1940s, civil movements and academic studies appeared that warned about the possible environmental crisis consequence of the models of development that promoted the industrial production and the consumption in masses without contemplating the degradation and the restrictions they impose on the current and future quality of life.

At the beginning of the seventies, the United Nations recognized the environment as a dimension of development, a situation complemented by the creation of the "Club of Rome" (Gutierrez, 2007), motivating the debate in different committees and reports, being important the Brundtland report of the World Commission on the Environment and Development, which questioned the model based on the assumption of an unlimited possibility of growth and developed the definition of "Sustainable Development", understood as the one that allows to meet the needs of the current generation without compromising the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own (CMMAD, 1988), promoting the diffusion of new development theories, including:

2.7.1. Degrowth theory

In 1972, after the publication of the report of the "Club of Rome" called The limits of the growth whose main author was Donella Meadows; Herman Daly, influenced by the thought of John Stuart Mill, proposed the "steady-state theory of dynamic equilibrium" in which the system, through conscious political action, is composed of a constant stock of capital and population that is maintained by natural resources, being imbalances when the natural budgetary restriction is exceeded, limited by the solar and mineral sources, overexploiting scarcity absolute resources to meet relative and trivial needs (Daly, 1991).

Georgescu-Roegen (1976) refused Daly's proposal (*ob. cit*), stating that stagnation nullifies the possibilities of improving the quality of life of poor countries and that growth is measured by the increase of the real product without contemplating the contradictions in the depletion rate of natural resources, causing the slowness of their depredation, when what the necessary action is to convert them (Naredo, 2011), and since man is unable to create and destroy matter or energy, man is only able to transform it, and that by the law of the entropy there is energy that dissipates in each

process, the sustainable would be to reduce the indiscriminate extraction to extend the existence of humanity (Zaar, 2018).

Latouche (2009), recognizing the unsustainable system, proposed to perform a planned degrowth that eliminated the existing asymmetries that overvalue the monetary flows while undervaluing the physical and human costs, quantifying the extraction costs and omitting the replenishment of natural resources, supported by an institutional framework skewed towards capital resulting in social and environmental detriment (Naredo, 2010), this would aim to ensure that people live "within the limits" in the biospheric sense (Riechmann, 2004), and it is a priority to consolidate a new "political culture" (Morin, 2011).

2.7.2. Human scale growth theory

Max-Neef, Elizalde and Hopenhayn (1986) proposed the "Theory of fundamental human needs" composed of three subsystems that allow an understanding of development that exceeds the economic perspective, these are:

- Needs: that are part of the human interiority, and therefore immutable, existing nine of equal importance: subsistence, protection, affection, understanding, creation, participation, leisure, identity and freedom. The lack of a need below a pre-systemic minimum threshold causes poverty.
- Satisfiers: these are the bridge that connect the needs with the goods, and these are affected by the culture and the historical context.
- Goods: which are materials and, therefore, limited to the biosphere. Its use powers the satisfiers attending the needs.

Therefore, while the needs and goods are finite, the satisfiers are unlimited, and to reach a sustainable society, the awareness of the population must be increased by transforming the culture towards an ecological vision, where devices are at the service of life, and not the other way around (Elizalde, 2000).

2.7.3. UNDP's sustainable human development

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) formulated a multidimensional proposal to address the concept of development that contemplates the human system from the economic and social dimension, and the natural system from the environmental dimension; pretending that economic growth will be achieved simultaneously with the eradication of poverty, the promotion of equity, the increase of human capacities and freedoms, without violating the environment to guarantee the extension of the existence of humanity.

While the predecessor theories focused on the promotion of production from productivity, in some cases considering their distribution, the sustainable human development adopted the approach of Amartya Sen, who proposed as a measure the abilities people have to achieve valuable functions that give them the freedom to choose the living standard to value, so that there is a positive correlation between the abilities, which are translated into freedoms and human development (Iturralde, 2018).

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Thus, the core of the analysis was moved from the economic activities to the abilities of people, understood as the set of basic and specialized, physical, legal and intellectual functions that they possess to achieve their well-being. Thus, the amount of assets determines the potential well-being as they increase abilities, which depend on the state of the individual, since two individuals may have the same resources, but their enjoyment may differ according to their condition (Urquijo, 2014).

In this sense, access to monetary resources is important for the development, but it is not the only point of interest, because the purpose is to create an environment of achievable opportunities that improve the life level of the population, for which must be included The 'social dimension' comprising elements such as: health, education, leisure and recreation, dignity, political rights, community participation, among others (Sen, 2000).

By placing the human being as the ultimate goal of development, the need arose to incorporate the environmental dimension into the concept, with the first debates on the importance of ecological heritage at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 promoted by UNDP, which subsequently continued at the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, among other important interventions and conventions that enriched the concept of sustainable development that is now widely accepted by the scientific community.

UNDP also formulated a new instrument that best fits the vision of Sustainable Human Development, called the "Human Development Index" (HDI) resulting from the three-dimensional arithmetic mean (see Table 1).

Table 1. HDI Measurement Components and variables

Component	Measure variable
Richness	GDP per capita
Education	Expected education Literacy rate in adults Gross rate of enrollment
Health	Life expectation

Source: UNDP, 2016

According to the score obtained, the HDI categorizes the countries as follows:

- Very high development: 0.80 or more points
- High development: Between 0.70 and 0.79 points
- Medium development: Between 0.55 and 0.69 points
- Low development: 0.54 points or less

From this approach, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, seventeen "Sustainable Development Goals" (ODS) were raised to address the actions of participating countries towards eradication of poverty, the care of the planet and the creation of an environment of peace and prosperity, replacing the 'Millennium Development Goals' (MDGS), and

coinciding with the Paris Agreement, adopted at the Conference on Climate Change (UNDP, 2016).

3. Towards an integrative understanding of the paradigms

Until the post-war period when the "Development Theory" was constituted as a discipline of the Economy, being one of its forerunners the theory of modernization that studied the steps that allowed the powers to develop with the desire that the countries with less development imitate them, it was assumed to grow as a synonym for development, directing the debate towards how to produce more, using as a key indicator the GDP per capita, which although relevant, suffers from several deficiencies among them: being an average that does not present data on the dispersion and hiding information on the distribution of wealth, in addition that its calculation omits data from the submerged economy (illegal and informal) and activities that have value but are not remunerated as domestic work, volunteering, among others, to which it is to be added that it does not reflect neither the quality of the goods nor the negative externalities that causes its production and consumption. For example, Brazil's GDP would grow if the Amazon was deforested but the quality of a countless number of environmental services that are determinants of well-being is reduced, restricting future progress and worsening the development conditions.

With the theory of dependency, which included elements of the structuralism theory, the first clear distinction between growth and development emerged, pointing out that the application of technologies that cause changes in the productive structure derives in development; otherwise, if the economy expands without structural changes there is only growth, prevailing schumpeterian neoclassical idea to analyze the problem exclusively from the economic dimension (Jahan, Mahmud, & Papageorgiou, 2014).

Although attempts to increase well-being, measured by increased product and mass consumption, resulted in problems of increasing inequality and social exclusion pointed out by the dependent Cepal and structuralists, it was not until the institutional theory was propagated, which exceeded the one-dimensional economic perspective by adding the social dimension, emphasizing the importance of human behaviors to understand development and requiring the contribution of other sciences. The theories of global systems and globalization, in addition to accepting the economic and social dimensions of development, broadened the scope that was restricted to the nation-State by contemplating the effects of the global context and its subsystems.

As a result, development is conceived as the capacity of countries to create wealth and promote social welfare in the framework of globalization, recognizing that the quantitative accumulation of capital and the measurement of development with a single variable (GDP) and a single dimension (economic), were insufficient, so it was necessary to add the qualitative leaps that progress provokes in society (Chirinos, Meriño, Martínez & Pérez, 2018), however not yet incorporated the environmental system, as seen in Figure 1.

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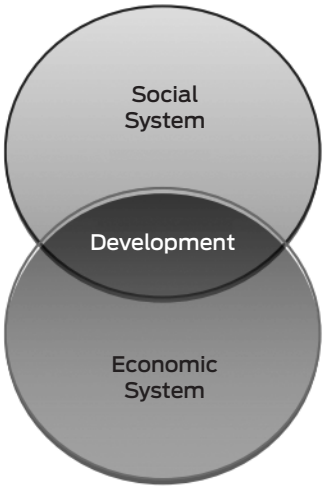
Figure 1. Economic and social Development



The exclusion of the environmental system implies the assumption that growth can be unlimited, representing the supply curve with a positive slope that grows infinitely as prices increase, restricting basically by the quantity and productivity of labor and capital that provoke production possibilities that can be expanded with demographic growth and technological progress, focusing the discussion on the most effective mechanisms to increase the marginal productivity of factors as well as the most efficient way for wealth to be distributed equitably.

This capitalist logic propelled consumerism and individualism, establishing models that seek exponential growth ignoring the "Law of Entropy" (Rifkin, 2014), deteriorating natural capital and allowing a living standard present due to the well-being of future generations (Sempere & Tello, 2007), since the market is the ideal mechanism for determining production and distribution, because to suppose the market as the ideal mechanism to determine the production and distribution is not to know the functioning of the social and natural systems whose interrelation leads to changes that can have unexpected magnitudes at different times that, by rapidly and significantly deteriorating the environment of the human being it puts at risk the prolongation of its existence (Bermejo, 2008), as mentioned by various reports, including the Live Planet Report of 2016 which revealed that the 2012 natural resources and environmental services consumed by humans demanded the biocapacity of 1.6 planets, so the supply was carried out by extracting resources and returning waste at a rate higher than that of its regeneration, in addition to the population of vertebrate animals contracted in 58% between 1970 and the referenced ut supra year (WWF, 2016).

Surpassing predatory capitalism is imperative, and according to Gorz (2008), it will occur in an uncivilized way through catastrophes or through programs based on new sustainable models, a situation that according to Martínez Alier (2008) has motivated to initiate a subtle declination process, more than GDP of the use of resources and emissions, which must be intensified with the use of renewable energies, the

construction of a framework that strengthened green concepts, and the transfer of new knowledge that empower the citizenship with these processes (Barcena, 2011).

The most widely accepted proposal is the "sustainable human development" of UNDP, which presents two fundamental advances that mark the concept of development:

- The strengthening of the social dimension using Sen's capabilities approach rather than focusing on the (re)distribution of wealth, modifying the perspective of equity and social justice. Traditionally, it was assumed that two agents with equal income had the same welfare which is false if, for example, one of them suffers blindness. In the same way, it happens if it is measured by the assets, because a woman due to religious and/or cultural beliefs is prevented to study or to vote, although she has access to clothing, housing or jewels, satisfying her motor and health needs, the political needs, community life and self-realization are not, because the lack of equal rights, preventing her from properly development.
- The Explicit incorporation of the environmental dimension, recognizing that non-renewable resources are finite and renewables have a production and reproduction cycle that does not necessarily correspond to the market demand, deriving in their overexploitation to finally return to a deteriorated natural system; and although there is Kuznets´s hypothesis of the environmental curve that indicates that the environmental damage grows as the country develops until reaching a point where the situation becomes an inverse relationship where a higher degree of development translates to lower volume of emissions, the empirical evidence is rather poor and even contradictory, so it cannot be assumed as tautological (Suárez, 2011; Mendaza, 2015; Falconí, Burbano & Cango, 2016).

In this way, the organic and multidisciplinary interconnection are accepted recognizing the current and future importance of the well-being that was embodied in the Brundtland Commission in 1991 (Carro-Suárez, Sarmiento & Rosano, 2017), generating a model that encompasses at least the three dimensions presented in Figure 2, where point A symbolizes development proposals that seek growth and social welfare but damage the ecosystems; the development model B that seeks social benefit and environmental care but is not sustainable because it lacks the economic perspective; model C where the environment is cared for but the benefits of economic progress are concentrated in few people because it does not tend to the equity or social justice; and Point D where the three dimensions converge, i.e., the sustainable development understood as "the design of human and industrial system that ensure that the use that makes humanity of the natural resources does not diminish the quality of life by the impact in the social conditions, the human health and the environment" (Mihelcic & Zimmerman, 2012, p. 4).

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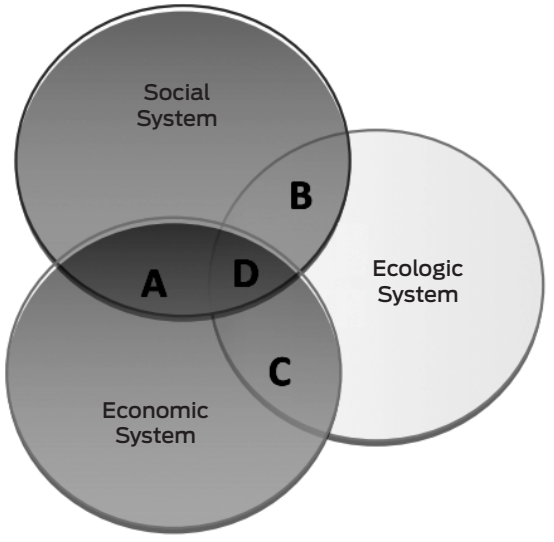
Figure 2. Sustainable human Development.



Source: own elaboration from information based on Salcedo, Rebolloso and Barber (2010, p. 26)

Each dimension has goals whose aggregation results in a level of sustainable human development, the HDI being an effort to measure the overall outcome of the model. However, there are different variables of interest that are studied with specific indicators for each dimension, as exemplified in Table 2, creating an interconnected system where the variation of a component affects others, as could be the case of an increase in the years of schooling (of the social dimension) that derives in the increase of the production (of the economic dimension) and in more environmental awareness (environmental dimension), or deterioration of water quality that impacts negatively on the child morbidity and on the productivity of a territory.

Table 2. Example of variables and indicators by development dimension

Dimension	Variables	Indicators
Economic	• Economic growth • Unemployment • Inflation • Balance of payment	• Variation rate of the real GDP per capita. • Unemployment rate, underemployment and full occupancy. • Consumer and producer price index. • Balance of payment rates and commercial balance.
Social	• Education • Health • Poverty • Unequality	• Schooling years, illiteracy rate. • Death and malnutrition rate. • Povery, poverty gap per consumption, poverty per NBI. • Gini coefficient, income distributio by decil.

Dimension	Variables	Indicators
Ecologic	• Air quality • Emission to the atmosphere • Quality of water • Quality of the soil • Environment • Green economy	• Year mean concentration of NO2 and O3. • Gas emiccion of greengouse effect, particles emission • Quantity of water used per day, level of ground water, purification of residual water • Soil lost by erossion • Concentration of pollutants in the tissues of alive organisms, diversity of wild species. • Energetic intensity of the economy, ecologic impact, national consumption of the materials.

Source: Own elaboration based on SICES (2018); MAPAMA (2016) and BCE (2018)

It pointed out that the different aspects of thought agree on the fact that the action of companies and consumers is essential, because their interactions affect the level of development; reason for which in the context of sustainability, economic behavior must be overcome by incorporating the environmental dimension into business models and consumption habits, which requires the normative and institutional support of the State (Moreno, 2017).

4. Final considerations

"Sustainable human development" encompasses Sen's capabilities approach and the sustainability described in Brundtland´s report, whose aggregation and interaction provide a holistic view of the phenomenon from three dimensions: economic, social and environmental; becoming the dominant thesis currently covering the individual with a multidisciplinary perspective that considers, in addition to Economics, other sciences such as Sociology, Biology and Politics.

- The abstract concept of development that governs today responds to an evolution of thought that presents the following ideas:
- Development was treated as a synonym for economic growth and studied only from the economic dimension considering GDP as a key indicator. Later, Sen revealed that there are food-producing countries that suffer from famines, and tha, by increasing its production, it is exported to countries with greater purchasing power, preventing the local food crisis from overcoming, showing that production without distribution does not necessarily produce development.
- The "economic dimension", even dominant, was added to the "social dimension", contemplating the production and distribution of wealth and its impact on the well-being of the population measured through utility, understood as the satisfaction of consuming, and the distribution of the income to be governed by Pareto improvements, i.e., using policies that increase the position of less favored agents without reducing the other agents (Pindyck & Rubinfeld, 2018).

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- The "social dimension" was consolidated by changing the monetary approach to Sen's capabilities, which by collecting the concepts of equity and social justice focused its attention on the generation of opportunities and on the capacity to seize them, requiring the creation and strengthening of functions that allow people to achieve the living standard they value.
- The "environmental dimension" was added to the "economic" and "social" dimensions, by explicitly adding the relevance of the environment for the development, incorporating the right of future generations to meet their needs, ensuring the conservation and extension of human life, and consolidating the multidimensional perspective that requires the support of social and natural sciences, definitively surpassing the economic vision.

This concept of development centered on people with an intergenerational perspective, rather than the institutions or the market, constitutes a significant theoretical advance that incorporated Sen's approach, warning that the freedom to reach the living standard valued by the agents is based on their capacities and the real opportunities, being the object-value the "set of material and immaterial goods that undergo an evaluation process to prioritize them in terms of individual utility, this is pleasure, happiness or satisfaction of desires" (Arteaga & Solis, 2005, p. 39).

The 'agency role', understood as what people are free to do and achieve, as well as the responsibilities of their actions and omissions that are subjected to values, requires the role of social cohesion as it can multiply the individual effort in addition to directing their actions through the institutionality of the state or communal behavior.

Thus, the exercise of individual freedom is framed in a dynamic and interconnected global social environment that provides information in the form of culture and values, affecting the behavior of the agents, who under the consumerist logic of the prevailing capitalism, aim to maximize benefits and expenses subscribed to an ideology that rewards the selfishness and the economic efficiency, encourage to maintain an untenable stance that imposes the future quality of life at the expense of a superfluous current benefit, to which Max-Neef *et al* (1986) called a "stupid way of living", as they develop capacities whose incorrect application deteriorates basic functions, limiting their future freedoms and attacking their own quality of life to the point that "much of the scientific and technological effort is directly or indirectly directed towards securing the possibilities of destroying the entire human species" (Max-Neef, Elizalde & Hopenhayn, 1986, p. 145).

Although the "environmental culture" is discursively accepted, it is factually little applied, making it necessary to cultivate new values, and in other cases to retake ancestral values, providing information that create awareness on the latent social and environmental reality, allowing to reorder the objects-value in a hierarchy that promotes the solidarity and environmental care, being education the right and transcendental vehicle of the process that requires the accompaniment of a new political vision, as well as the effort of the academy to finish the construction of the concept of development that presents theoretical and instrumental voids. Although they have been improved, they fail to synthesize the complex theme of development and its

interaction between dimensions that contemplates quantitative but also subjective qualitative variables such as the concept and level of happiness.

To characterize man's balanced coexistence with nature as a utopia and as an unattainable dream that is worthy, is to disparage the adaptive and rationality capacity of humanity, condemning it to extinction. When Social and environmental awareness is clarified, our species will know, want and would be able to coexist harmoniously with the environment, consolidating an environmental culture that will govern on the daily, individual and social action, and in all the dimensions and variables of the development.

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