Development

Individual or Social

Individual - centric

- Current thinking on development is individual-centric.

- Millennium Development goals are also concerned with the poverty alleviation of individual actors.

- Group dimension is neglected.

- Frances Stewart, UNU-Wider Annual Lectures, 2000

Identity

- Family affiliations
- Cultural affiliations
- Location based
- Age-based
- Differentiation

- "There is a universal human need to belong, to identify and hence to exclude." (Gellner, 1964: 149)

Changed world

- After the fall of the Soviet Union, ideological polarization between capitalism and communism has waned.

- Because of globalization, identity has come to the fore. "Globalization has brought people of different cultures into physical proximity."

- Some examples of cultural upheavals are Rwandan genocide, Kosovo ethnic-cleansing, war against terrorism

Some thriving multicultural societies

- Tanzania, Uruguay, Costa Rica
- Finland – large Swedish minority
- What are the reasons for the peaceful co-existence of different cultural groups in some states and not in some other states?
- Would democracies help in fostering amity and peace among various groups?

Horizontal Inequality

- Civil wars and violence erupt between two groups owing allegiance to different cultural groupings. The most important factor that underlies the tension between two groups defined cultural is inequality.

- Frances Stewart defines inequalities between cultural groups as horizontal inequalities. (caste, religion, region, language)

- Horizontal inequalities are multi-dimensional in nature and include social, political and economic inequalities.

Vertical Inequality

- Difference in per capita income
- GDP, GNP
- Average national income
- Average salaries in a region for various professions
- Average home ownership
- Cars owned per 1000 people

Impact of Horizontal Inequality

- The status of the group to which individuals belong, affects the quality of individuals living in a group. (e.g., people living and working in IIT Madras)

- IIT Madras evokes a sense of awe. IITians are generally considered to be smart. Hence, the self-esteem of an individual iitian is definitely enhanced when being a part of the IIT fraternity.

- But there is also the danger of iitians being considered elitist and not socially responsible.

Impact (contd)

- "Men may and do certainly joke about or ridicule the strange and bizarre customs of men from other ethnic groups, because these customs are different from their own. But they do not fight over such differences alone. When men do, on the other hand, fight across ethnic lines it is nearly always the case that they fight over some fundamental issues concerning the distribution of and exercise of power, whether economic, political or both. (Abner Cohen, 1974: 94)

Impact (contd)

- Horizontal inequality spawns great social turmoil. (Singur riots, Maoist insurgency, aftermath of Rodney King beating in the US)

- Everyday occurrences such as road-roko agitations, bandhs, and hartals that are spontaneous, not designed by political parties.

- Jammu & Kashmir agitations are also examples of horizontal inequality. Underdevelopment in the North Eastern states of India also causes alienation.

Rodney King episode

- **Rodney Glen King (born** April 2, 1965 in Sacramento, California) is an African-American construction worker [1] who, in 1991, was stopped and then beaten by Los Angeles Police Department officers (Laurence Powell, Timothy Wind, Theodore Briseno and Sergeant Stacey Koon) after being chased for speeding. A bystander, Georg [2] Part of the video was broadcast around the world and shows f tasered by the officers.[3] [4]The resulting public outrage raised tensions between the blac police brutality and issues such as unemployment, racial tension 1992 Los Angeles riots.

Misadventures in Foreign Policies

- Misadventures such as the Iraq invasion arouses passions as witnessed by the popularity of al-Sadr in Iraq.

- Such actions are counter-productive to any form of development. The group-identity becomes stronger and not weaker because the group even though pervaded by inequalities fuelling internal colonization and structural violence still rallies around the leadership.