

Culture: The 'Silent' Narrative in Sustainable Development

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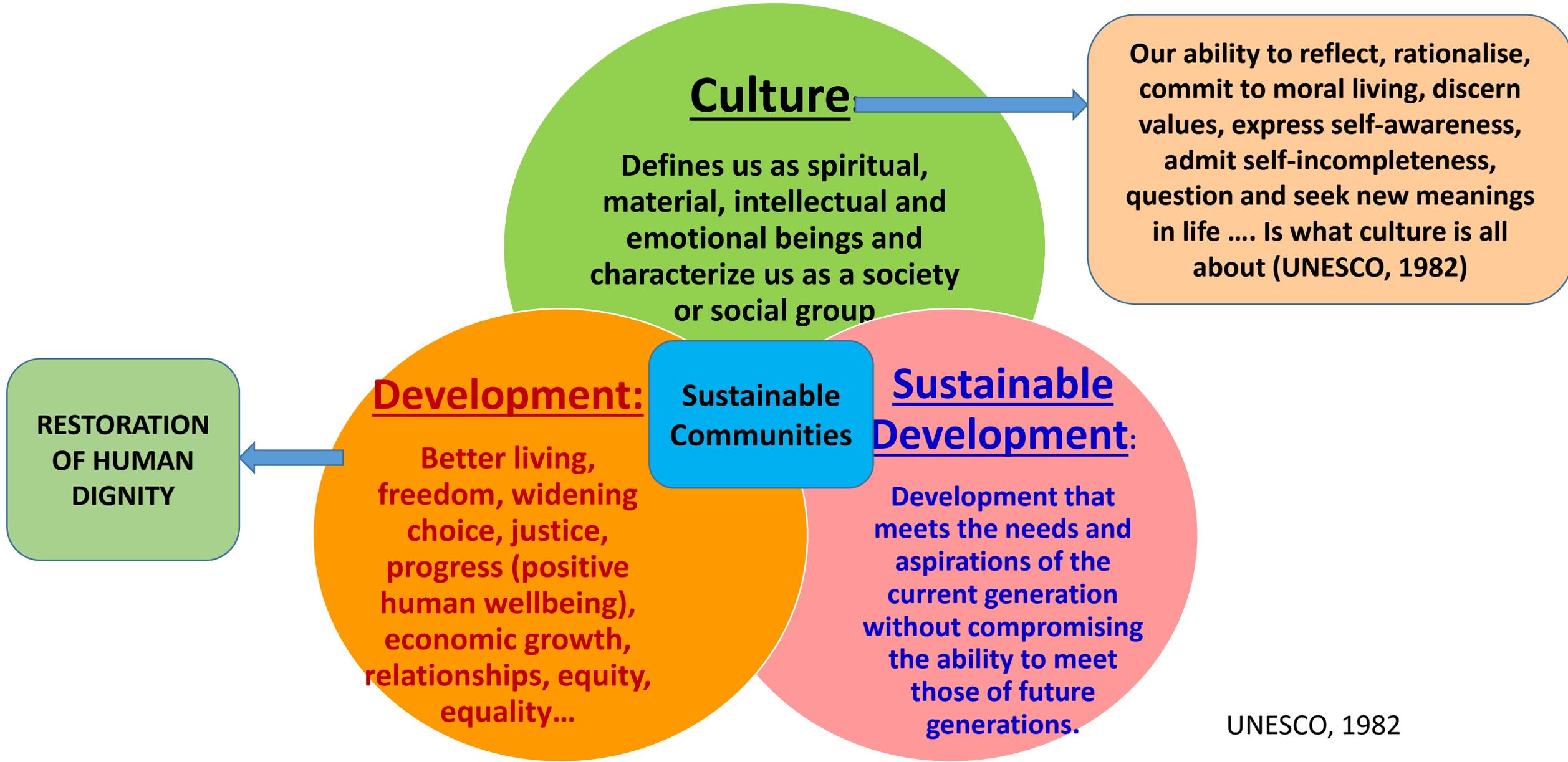
Highlights of the presentation

- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Meanings of culture, development and sustainable development
- ✓ Importance of culture in sustainable development
- ✓ Examples: Governance of communities; equity and social inclusion

Central thesis

- ✓ Social and cultural norms influence people's attitudes and choices
- ✓ Correlation between people's cultures and life.
- ✓ Cultures are not static; they adapt to time and space.
- ✓ People are constructs of their culture
- ✓ Culture gives people their identity and dignity
- ✓ Not all cultural practices are good

Culture, Development & Sustainable Development



Learning the hard way: Talking Development

'Rootedness' in African cultures



- ✓ My own grandmother
- ✓ Rooted in her culture
- ✓ Lived 101 years
- ✓ Never went to a hospital and totally trusted in her traditional herbal medicine.
- ✓ Never used fertilizer in her garden but used *traditional conservation agricultural methods* and harvested a lot.
- ✓ Thrived on her social capital
- ✓ Lived a sustainable life.

What should development be?

- If development can be defined as a “A warm, gradual and considerate process in its attempt to alleviate man’s [sic] economic and technological standard or conditions without disregarding or disrespecting any aspect of man’s existing social, cultural and political values (Ifeyinwa 2004 in Olasunkanmi, 2011, p. 98).... THEN....

Three different view of the essence of culture must be heeded.

Franz Fanon (1968) culture
“awakens people...to speak to the nation, to compose the sentence which expresses the heart of the people and to become the mouthpiece of a new reality in action”.

Amilcar Cabral (1970): Culture
“enables us to know what dynamic syntheses have been formed and set by social awareness in order to resolve these conflicts at each stage of evolution of that society in search of survival and progress.”

Examples

1. Culture and the idea of “community”
2. Culture and emancipatory development
3. Stewardship (Responsible custodianship) (
4. Africa gifting (Fowler, 2016)
5. Culture and ‘ethics’
6. Cultural rights and rights-based development approaches
7. Culture can provide avenues for healing and reconciliation which can lead to the needed development in Africa.
8. Cultural diversity as a strength ... a tool for development

Conclusion

At the heart of culture lies the “Ubuntu”

THANKS FOR LISTENING

QUESTIONS, DISCUSSION & COMMENTS