THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SPECTRUM:
SUB-SPECTRA AND SOCIAL INDICATORS FOR USE
IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PLANNING, DESIGN,
AND IMPLEMENTATION

ABSTRACT. A spectrum of human development has been observed which has application in international development project planning, design, and implementation. Based on experience with privately funded development projects in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, seven components or sub-spectra of the human development spectrum which are vital to effective development projects are identified: need, resources, technology, social conscience, integrity, attitude, and problem solving. Their implications for the development process are explained, and indicators for each sub-spectrum are described.

INTRODUCTION

It has long been recognized in the field of social indicators research that a wide array of social indicators may be used to characterize an individual's or population's quality of life, whether perceived or actual. It has also been advocated that social indicators should be center stage in national, regional, and community policy-making theaters. While the policy-making implications of social indicators have received ample attention in the literature, the use of similar indicators by private groups, particularly those groups involved in international development in the less developed countries (LDC's), has been neglected. This paper is an initial response to that neglect and stems from the authors' experience in planning, designing, and implementing privately funded international development projects in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

The human development spectrum is a scale of status, achievement, and potential which can be used to assess the human development of individuals, families, or communities. For the purpose of measurement and analysis, we have identified seven sub-spectra of the human development spectrum: need, resources, technology, social conscience, integrity, attitude, and problem solving. These sub-spectra have been selected because of their pivotal importance in planning, designing, and
implementing international development projects. They emerged initially as factors that might account for project failures which we observed in the field. Once the sub-spectra were identified, it became clear that the avoidance of similar failures in future projects would require the use of these sub-spectra as guideposts. Furthermore, in reviewing and evaluating many development projects, we feel that these sub-spectra are not parochial, but have broad application in the area of international development in the LDC's.

Several of the indicators presented below differ from the more conventional types of social indicators that have received attention in the literature. This is not a rejection of the more familiar indicators. Our research and applied work has made use of the latter as a means of status assessment and project evaluation.

However, the primary purpose of this paper is to discuss the human development spectrum, its sub-spectra, and their associated indicators. In addition, we will show how these may be used in the international development process. Understanding the components of the human development spectrum is important for development administrators and field personnel in order to effect permanent and positive change among project beneficiaries.

THE SPECTRUM OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Drewnowski's (1986) "level of civilisation" is similar to what we have called the human development spectrum. In an article that diverges from the discussion of conventional social indicators, Drewnowski argues that an understanding of the level of civilisation, or "quality of society", is essential for effective policy analysis and policy making. Calling in effect for "new kinds of social indicators," he describes five key components of civilisation: fulfillment of personal duties/disregard for personal duties, gentleness/violence, honesty/thievery, equity/exploitation, equality/discrimination; and suggests indicators that may be used to measure them.

Drewnowski's components of the level of civilisation are assessed by using various social indicators. Likewise, the human development spectrum is analyzed by identifying the social indicators of each sub-spectrum.