



## **Core Concepts of Development Of the Prout Institute**

The PROUT Institute seeks to promote sustainable, empowering, holistic and abundant development on the basis of a guiding theory framework. Some core elements of this theory of development are outlined below.

### **Philosophical Ground: Holism / Oneness of Being**

Unity of being as held by wisdom traditions, indigenous cultures, mystics, ecological science, and quantum physics.

Recognition of the presence of the sacred in all life.

### **Value Base: Neohumanism**

Cardinal values of neohumanism include:

1] respect for all life; this includes (a) coordinated cooperation, not subordinated cooperation, in all human relations; (b) recognition of the existential rights of living beings of the natural world

2] participation in supporting the wholesome development and expression of all people, and fostering conditions that support the expression of life in the natural world

### **Fundamental Principles: Design Principles to Actualize Balanced Potentialities**

To remain sustainable, social development must be true to the way natural systems work.

To nurture and give scope for expression the full expressions of all people, there must be a holistic understanding of and appreciation for human potentialities.

Fundamental social design principles that emerge from this framework include:

1] no over accumulation of physical wealth without social permission

2] equitable distribution and optimal utilization of all potentialities

3] balanced and holistic development of individual and collective potentialities

4] opportunity for expression of people's highest potentialities

5] dynamic and proactive adjustment of social policy with changing conditions

## **Socioeconomic Development: Regional and Local Empowerment**

Regions should attain self-reliance in production of basic commodities.

Regions should take responsibility for, and be empowered to undertake, social and cultural development.

## **Socioeconomic Units (Bioregions): 'Natural Nations' Defined by Unifying Factors**

Socioeconomic units (bioregions) are natural nations in which people have a shared identity which supports them in working effectively together to create social, cultural and economic development. Bioregional boundaries are best demarcated by taking into consideration the following unifying factors:

- 1] common economic problems and potentialities
- 2] common ethnic or social identification
- 3] common geographical features
- 4] common culture and historical legacy

## **Citizenship in a Socioeconomic Unit (Bioregion)**

Bioregional citizenship established through identification of a person's socioeconomic interests with the socioeconomic interests of the region.

There should be no scope for a comprador class or for floating labor.

## **Relationship of Individual and Collective Interests: Inter-related Development**

Development of individual potentials supports collective development and development of collective potentials enhances scope for individual development.

## **Locus of Economic Planning: Block Level (Local) Planning Units**

Block level planning units defined on the basis of population, economic, cultural and geographic factors, so as to maximize planning effectiveness.

## **Economic Decentralization: Guided by Holistic Set of Principles**

- 1] *resources* should be controlled and used by the local people
- 2] *production* should provide for local needs
- 3] *workplaces* should be controlled by workers
- 4] the *workforce* should be comprised of local workers
- 5] *money* should be locally contained and circulated

## **Local Economic Planning: Guided by Block Level Planning Principles**

The primary factors to consider in formulating local development plans include:

- 1] cost of production
- 2] collective necessity
- 3] enhancement of purchasing capacity
- 4] productivity

Importance secondary factors to consider include:

- 5] protecting sustainability of the resource base
- 6] vitalizing local culture and local ecosystems
- 7] balanced investing in infrastructure development
- 8] deepening understanding of interactive relations in local ecosystem

### **Balanced Economy: Ensuring Human Capital for Local Self-Reliance**

There should be a balanced development of, and balanced distribution of workers among, the major sectors of the economy: agriculture/silvaculture, agro-industry, agrico-industry, other industry, commerce, administration and services.

### **Three Tiered Enterprise System: Situation Appropriate Forms of Enterprise**

- 1] private enterprise: limited to small scale businesses and commercial activities not involved with the production or distribution of staple commodities
- 2] cooperatives: worker owned and operated cooperatives should be the primary form of enterprise
- 3] key industries: no profit-no loss, state-regulated, cooperatively managed businesses engaged in production of key commodities or providing primary services

### **Rational Distribution: Assuring Equity for All Humanity**

- 1] basic necessities and basic amenities should be guaranteed to all
- 2] the standard of living [ie, the quality of life] should be improved while maintaining balance and sustainability
- 3] rational incentives should be distributed to motivate full utilization of human potentials
- 4] there should equitable global distribution of essential resources