



Human Factors in National Development: *Developmental Assumptions*¹

Ted Ward

- In essential attributes, human beings are more similar than dissimilar.
- Essence of humanness is carried in genetic structure and is in every respect inherent. (Regardless of environment the human will be human.)
- Patterns of development are in the nature of humankind.
- Patterns of development cannot be significantly altered.
- Development can be seen in several aspects—physical, mental, emotional, social and moral—but these aspects are interwoven.
- Development must be understood holistically.
- Environment facilitates (stimulates, enhances) or represses (inhibits) development. (Environment does not control development or determine outcomes.)
- Development is a matter of losing limitations. (Development involves but is not essentially a matter of acquiring capabilities.)
- Development can be stalemated by adverse conditions. (Not to develop is pathological.)
- Fulfilling the continuing pattern of development throughout life is a requisite of fulfilling humanness. (Stalemated development is a denial of fullness of human nature.)

¹ Ted Ward. Human Factors in National Development: Developmental Assumptions. Workshop: The Role of the Church in Development, Summer Course, Wheaton College, 1981