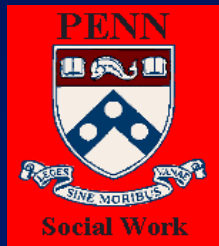


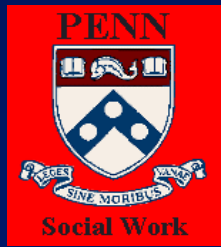
A Public Lecture by Richard J. Estes

University of Pennsylvania
School of Social Work
3701 Locust Walk
Philadelphia PA 19104-6214
Telephone: 215-898-5531
E-Mail: restes@ssw.upenn.edu

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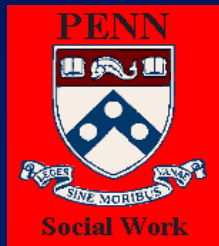


Toward Sustainable Development: *From Theory to Praxis*



Lecture Objectives

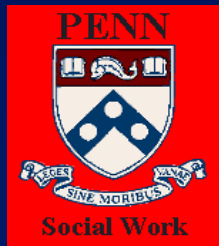
- **define “sustainable development”**
- **identify the intellectual traditions associated with the conceptualization of SD theory and practice**
- **identify the relevance of SD for a “developmentally-oriented” social work practice**



“Sustainable Development”

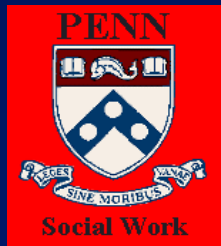
“...paths of human progress which meet the needs and aspirations of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs”

Brundtland Commission (WCED, 1987)



Assumptions of Sustainable Development

- **social, political, economic, and environmental problems are interconnected**
- **environmental stresses are not restricted to particular locales or boundaries**
- **local environmental catastrophes effect people everywhere**
- **only through SD can fragile ecosystems--and socio-political systems--be protected and human development enhanced**



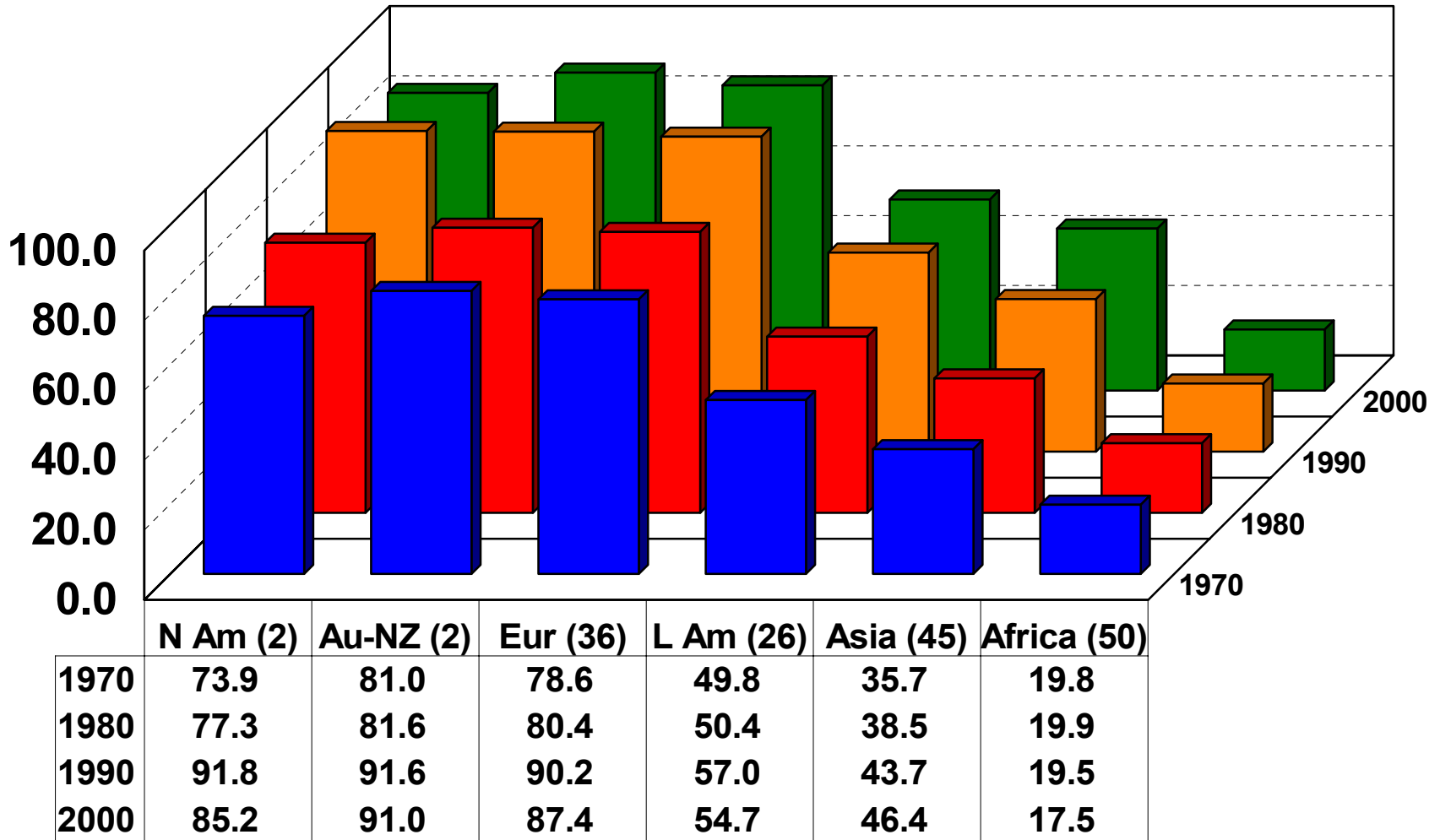
The Predicament

“After a century of unprecedented growth, marked by scientific and technological triumphs that would have been unthinkable a century ago, there have never been so many poor, illiterate and unemployed people in the world, and their number is growing...

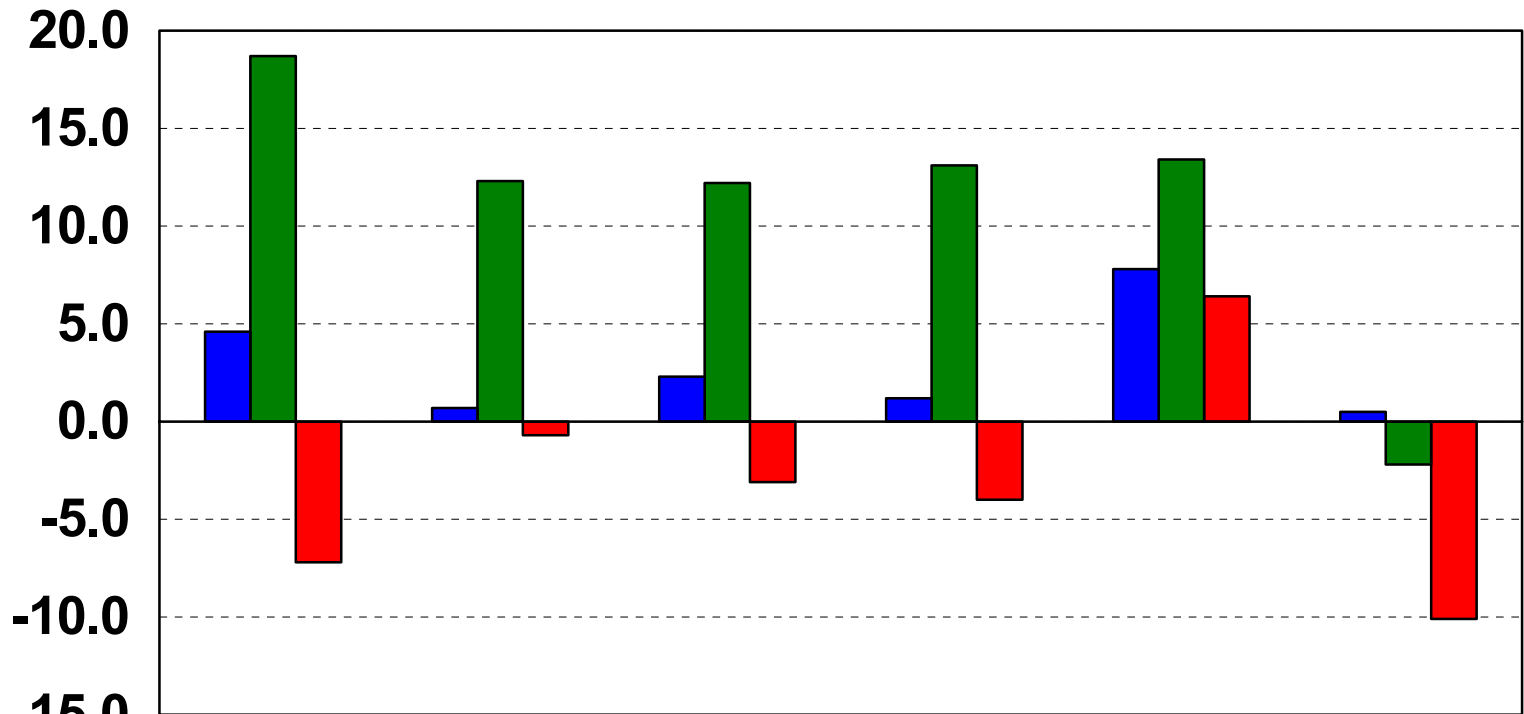
Close to a billion people live in poverty...a situation that leaves them little choice but to go on undermining the conditions of life itself, the environment and the natural resource base.”

Gro Harlem Bruntland (1989:13)

Average WISP Scores by Continent (N=161) 1970-2000



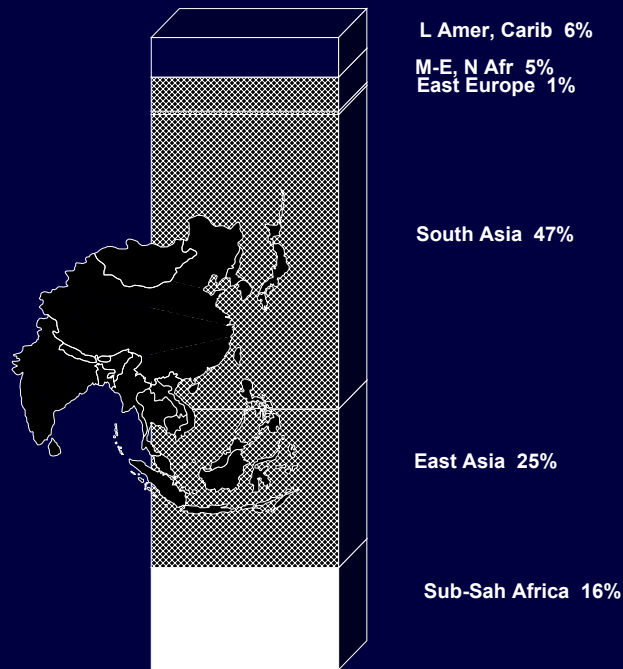
Percent Change in Average WISP Scores by Continent (N=161), 1970-2000



	N Amer (2)	Aus-NZ (2)	Europe (36)	L Amer (26)	Asia (45)	Africa (50)
1970-80 ■	4.6	0.7	2.3	1.2	7.8	0.5
1980-90 ■	18.7	12.3	12.2	13.1	13.4	-2.2
1990-2000 ■	-7.2	-0.7	-3.1	-4.0	6.4	-10.1

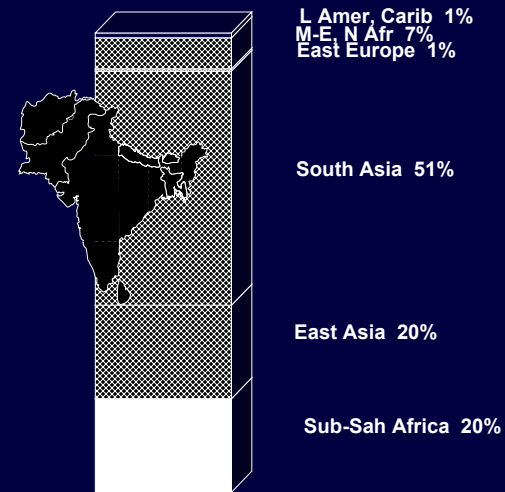
THE WORLD'S POOR

(Including the "Extremely Poor")



All Poor

(N=1,116 Million)



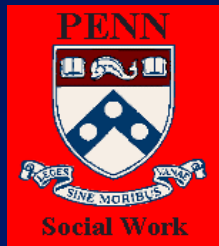
The "Extremely Poor"

(N=633 Million)



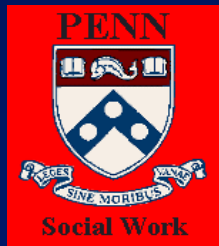
Continuing Challenges to Sustainable Development (Estes, 1992)

- Population Dynamics
- Population Mobility (rural > urban migration)
- Refugees (7-8 million in Asia)
- Urban Agglomerations (> 5 million)
- Increasing Global Poverty
- Inter-group Conflict (esp. under deteriorating economic conditions)
- Crime & Social Disorder



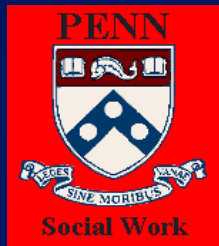
Continuing Challenges to Sustainable Development (cont'd)

- Transformations in the Structure and Role of Family (esp. in the absence of supportive services and programs from governmental/NGO sectors)
- Redefinition & Restructuring of Work
- HIV/AIDS
- Other Communicable Diseases
- Drug Use/Abuse
- Continuing Assaults on the Environment



Criticisms of Current Paradigms

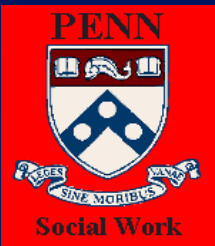
- economic growth does not automatically improve people's lives
- rich and poor compete in the global marketplace as unequal partners
- neither "free market," "dependency," nor Marxist paradigms of development have succeeded
- the situation of the LDCs has worsened



Criticisms of Current Paradigms

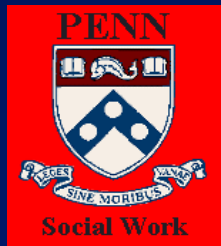
(cont'd)

- **development problems are systemic**
- **sectoral approaches are inadequate to the task**
- **new paradigms are needed**



Sustainable Development: The Unifying Concept

- offers a new vision
- unifies disparate elements of development community
- eases pressures on ecosystems
- new solutions to problems of LDCs
- enhanced relationships between government and non-governmental sectors
- protect resources needed for future generations



Sustainable Development

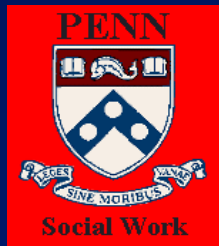
Before

Brundtland

and

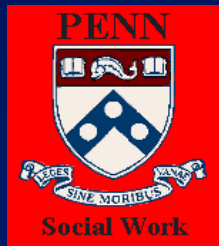
the World Commission for

Environment and Development



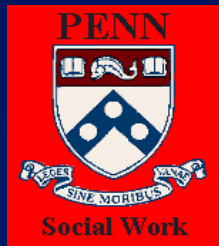
Sustainable Development: Pre-1960

- utopian movements (Confucius, Buddha, More, Kant, Penn, Wilson)
- religious rituals (sacrifices to/by deities on whom self and environmental renewal depended)
- magical practices (Frazer and *The Magic Bough*)
- mystical cosmologies (of native peoples throughout the world; GAIA)



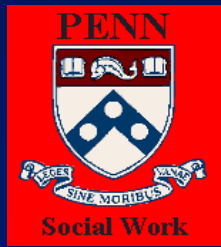
Sustainable Development: Post-1960

- the early environmental and ecology movements (Carson, Ehrlich, Commoner, Brown)
- anti-war & anti-nuclear movements (Fuller, Roszak, Pauling, Spock)
- world order movement (Falk, Myrdal, UN)
- world dynamics movement (Club of Rome: Forrester, Meadows, Mesarovic, Pestel)

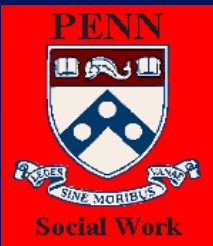


Sustainable Development: Post-1960 (continued)

- **Green Movement** (Schumacher, Von Weizsacker & Jesinghaus)
- **alternative economics movement** (Brandt, Ekins, Henderson, Latouche, Max-Neef)
- **women's movement** (Sivard)
- **indigenous peoples movements** (Fanon, Friere, Guiterrez, Klandermans, Korten, Wignaraja)
- **human rights movements** (Amnesty International, Freedom House, Humana)



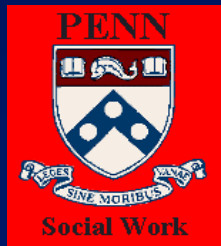
Alternative Visions of Sustainable Development



Lindner's Conception of Sustainable Development (1989)

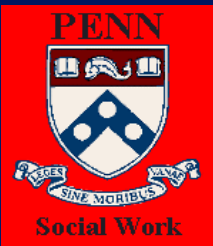
...a continuous and on-going process of change and adaptation in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technical development, and institutional changes *are all in harmony* and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations...

Sustainable development is all about *meeting human needs and aspirations--not just those of one country or region, but those of all people who inhabit the earth, both now and in the future.*



Dimensions of Sustainable Development (Brown, 1991)

- Ecological sustainability
- Economic sustainability
- Political sustainability
- Cultural sustainability

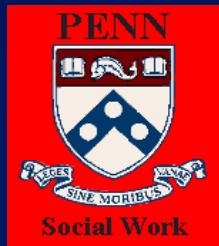


Ecological Sustainability

(ala D. Brown, 1991)

Implies that nonrenewable and other natural resources are not depleted for short-term improvements

(e.g., protection and promotion of biodiversity; use of renewable energy; stabilized world population; elimination of weapons of mass destruction; developing and sharing appropriate technologies reflective of local needs and resources)

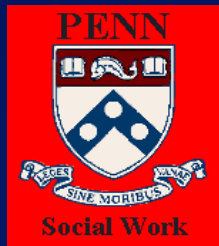


Economic Sustainability

(ala D. Brown, 1991)

Implies that improvements do not depend on continuing infusions of resources that cannot be maintained

(e.g., markets that fix prices for goods and services with reference to human and environmental investments incurred in production; progressive *global* taxes based on wealth and consumption patterns)

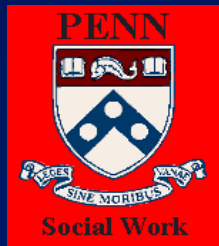


Political Sustainability

(ala D. Brown, 1991)

Requires that changes are consistent with present or emerging distributions of power in society

(e.g., popular participation in governmental policy formulation and decision-making at all levels of social organization; significantly strengthened non-governmental sector)

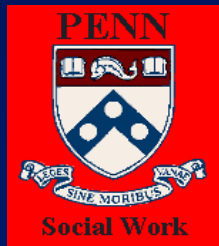


Cultural Sustainability

(ala D. Brown, 1991)

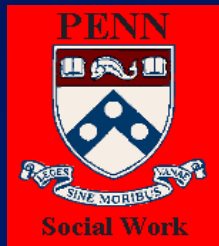
Suggests that changes must be consistent with core values, expectations, and mores of society

(e.g., emergence of values, expectations, and mores that foster tolerance of socio-cultural differences; gender role definitions that permit women and men to share equally in making decisions that affect them separately and together)



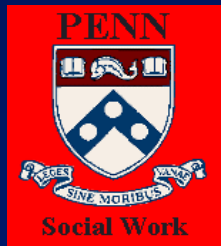
Orienting Values of Sustainable Development (Falk, 1972)

- **unity of humanity and unity of life on earth**
- **minimization of violence**
- **maintenance of environmental quality**
- **satisfaction of minimum world welfare standards**
- **primacy of human dignity**
- **retention of diversity and pluralism**
- **need for universal participation**



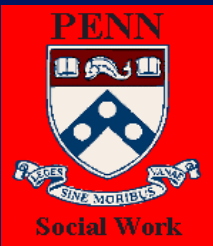
The Goals of Sustainable Development

- the formulation of new development paradigms
- the realization of a better balance between social, economic, political, cultural, and physical development
- the promotion of more fully integrated approaches to development that bring together all relevant sectors and actors into a common framework of local, national, and international action



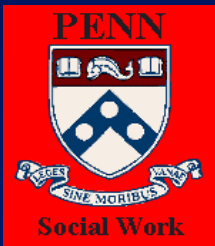
The Goals of Sustainable Development: (continued)

- accounting more completely for the *long-term costs* of short-term improvements in development
- making more judicious use of non-renewable resources



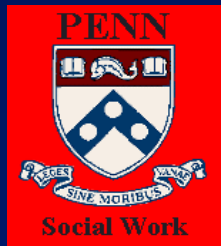
The UNDP's List of Sustainable Development Goals (1994)

- **elimination of poverty**
- **reduced population growth**
- **more equitable distribution of resources**
- **healthier, better educated and trained people**
- **decentralized, participatory government**
- **more equitable, liberal trading systems**
- **increased production for local consumption**
- **biodiversity and protection of ecosystems**



The World Bank's List of Sustainable Development Goals (1994)

- restructuring the international trading system
- a new system of international financial institutions
- official debt forgiveness for LDCs
- ending international trade in arms
- converting military assistance to humanitarian aid
- controls on non-sustainable activities of TNCs
- regional solutions to development problems that benefit all



Sustainable Development Practice



Sustainable Development Practice: The Theory Base

- *Philosophy* (esp. theories of justice and ethics)
- *Political Science* (esp. power domains, political influence, structure and dynamics of political parties)
- *Sociology* (esp. theories of social stratification, mass movement, regional development)



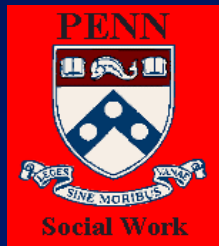
Sustainable Development Practice: The Theory Base (continued)

- ***Religion*** (esp. of religious mandates to “do good” and “help others”; “liberation theology”)
- ***Economics*** (esp, theories of micro- and macro-economics; dynamics of local, national, and international production, distribution, and consumption)

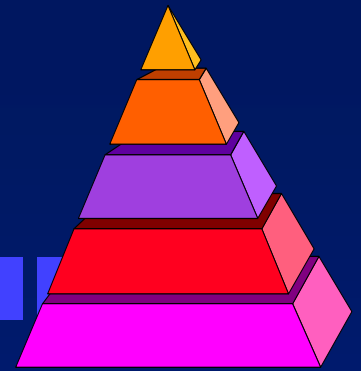


Sustainable Development Practice: The Skill Base

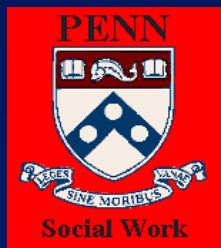
- *Psychology* (esp. theories of individual, group, and organizational change)
- *Adult Education* (esp. conscientization and praxis theories of Fanon, Friere)
- *Community Development* (esp. approaches that emphasize empowerment, self-help, mutual aid, and sustainable development)
- *Social Work* (esp. group, community and organizational intervention skills)



Eight Levels of Sustainable Development Practice



- Individual Empowerment
- Group Empowerment
- Conflict Resolution
- Institution-Building
- Community-Building
- Nation-Building
- Region-Building
- World-Building



Individual and Group Empowerment

- Self Help
- Mutual Aid
- Conscientization





Individual and Group Empowerment: *Self Help*

Face -to -face relationships in which members are alternatively “helper “and “helpee”

Power relationships are those of co-equals who work together for the purpose of solving a common problem or in responding to a shared need



Individual and Group Empowerment: *Mutual Aid*

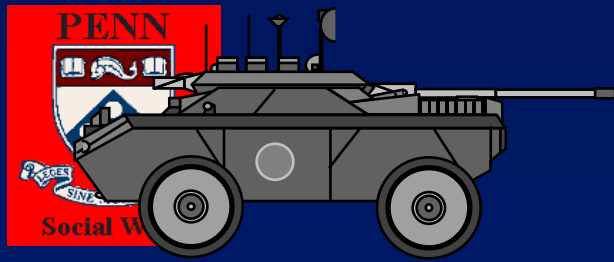
Mutual Aid refers to the extension of limited responsibility by a collective of people who share a common concern for the well-being of others

Mutual aid may involve participation of members in face-to-face relationships with one another; responsibility, however, is often extended to members of the group that are unknown to the majority of the group's membership



Individual and Group Empowerment: *Conscientization*

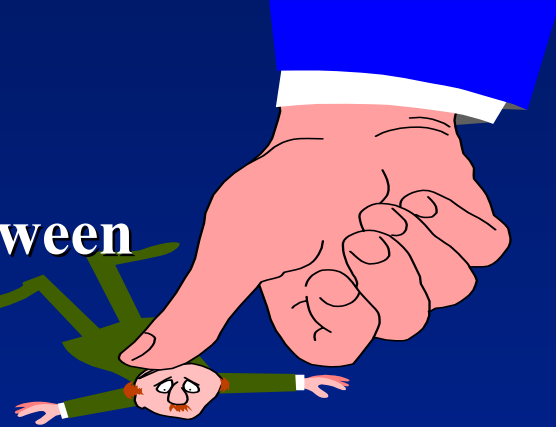
The process whereby individuals and groups learn how to perceive and act upon the contradictions that exist in the social, political, and economic structures that are intrinsic to all societies

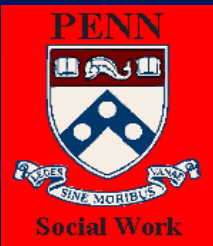


Conflict Resolution

Efforts directed at:

- reducing asymmetric power relationships between members of more powerful and less powerful groups
- solving grievances between persons or groups

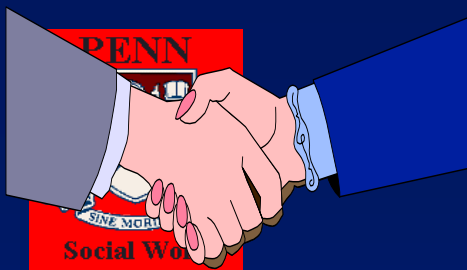




Enduring Sources of Social Conflict

- **Plurality (Bosnia, China, India, US)**
- **Race (US, South Africa)**
- **Religion (North Ireland, India, Thailand)**
- **Ethnicity (Cambodia, China, Germany, India, Malaysia, Rwanda, Singapore, Viet Nam)**
- **Language or Accent (Belgium, Canada, USA)**
- **Caste (India)**
- **Class (UK, Malaysia)**





Conflict Resolution: Strategies for Change

- Segregation (legal and physical)
- Integration (“melting” pot)
- Co-existence (inter-dependence in a culturally heterogeneous context)



Institution-Building

The process of:

- establishing new social institutions; or
- “realigning” the values of existing institutions to make them more responsive to changing human needs

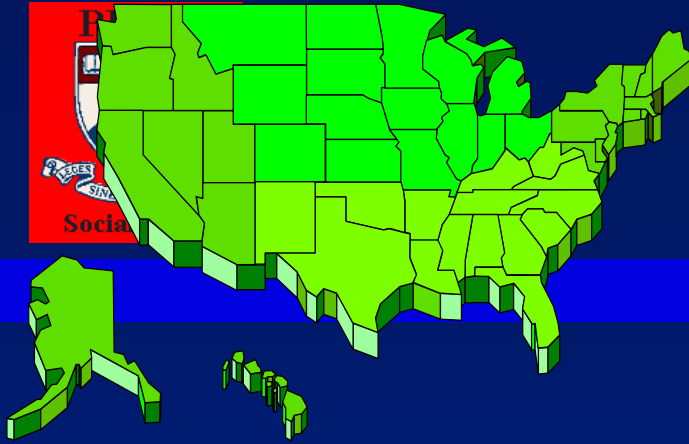
A stylized silhouette of a city skyline with various building shapes and yellow dots representing windows, set against a background of horizontal blue and purple bands.

Community-Building

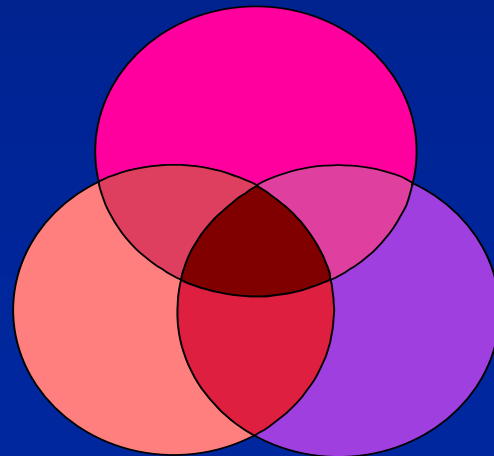
Through increased participation and “social animation,” the process through which communities realize the fullness of their social, political, and economic potential

The process whereby communities respond more equitably to the social and material needs of their populations

Nation-Building



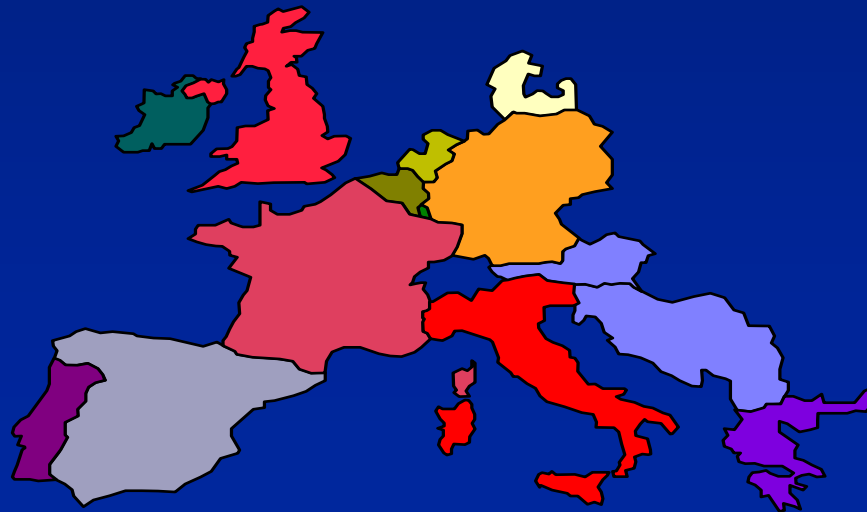
The process of working toward the integration of a nation's social, economic, and cultural institutions at all levels of political organization





Region-Building

The process of working toward the integration of a region's social, economic, and cultural institutions at all levels of political organization

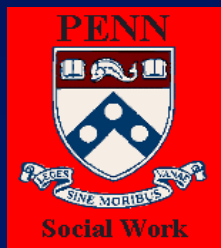




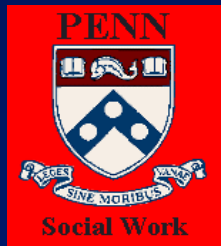
World-Building

The process of working toward the establishment of a new system of international relationships guided by the quest for:

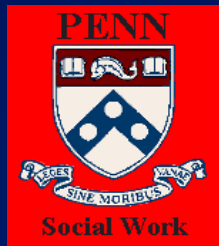
- world peace
- increased social justice
- the universal satisfaction of basic human needs; and
- the protection of the planet's fragile eco-system



The
End

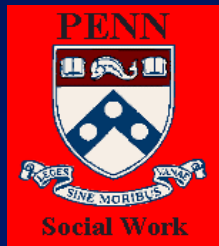


Sectors of Developmental Social Work Practice



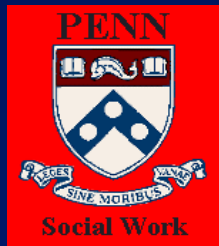
Sectors of *Developmental* Social Work Activity

- Agriculture (e.g., farmer collectives & cooperatives)
- Communications (e.g., media reports/exposes)
- Consumer Security (e.g., credit, product safety)
- Criminal and Juvenile Justice
- Culture (e.g., promotion of collective norms and values)
- Defense (e.g., services to injured and their families)
- Economic Development



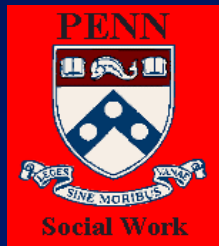
Sectors of *Developmental* Social Work Activity (cont'd)

- Education (primary, secondary, and post-secondary)
- Employment and unemployment
- Energy (e.g., emergency assistance to poor)
- Environment
- Food
- Health
- Housing



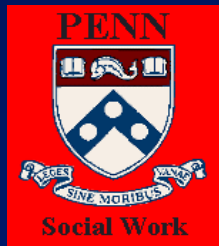
Sectors of *Developmental* Social Work Activity (cont'd)

- Human Rights
- Income Support
- Population
- Religion and religious organizations
- Rural Development
- Social Services
- Sports and Recreation (e.g., to promote social cohesion and participation)

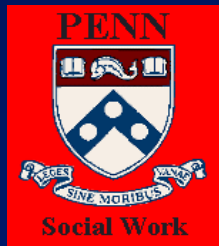


Sectors of *Developmental* Social Work Activity (cont'd)

- Technology (e.g., assuring access on the part of historically disadvantaged population group to information and technical innovations of value to them)
- Transportation
- Urban Development



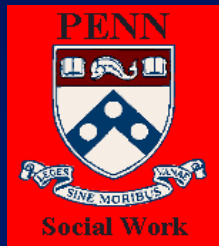
Major Actors in Social and Economic Development



Major Public Sector Actors

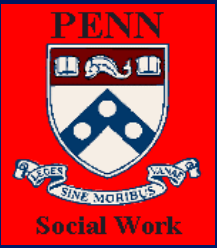
Governments at all levels of political organization

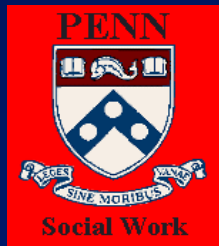
- districts/township/borough**
- municipality/city**
- county**
- province/state**
- national**
- regional governmental and quasi-governmental organizations (NAFTA, Asean)**
- international quasi-governmental organizations (United Nations)**



Major Private Sector Actors

- individuals and families
- extended kinship systems
- communities
- temples and churches
- employers/businesses (micro-entrprises>TNCs)
- workers collectives, unions
- non-governmental organizations
 - local, national, regional, international





Toward Sustainable Development: An Evolving Agenda

POPULATION AND POVERTY

in the Developing World, 1985

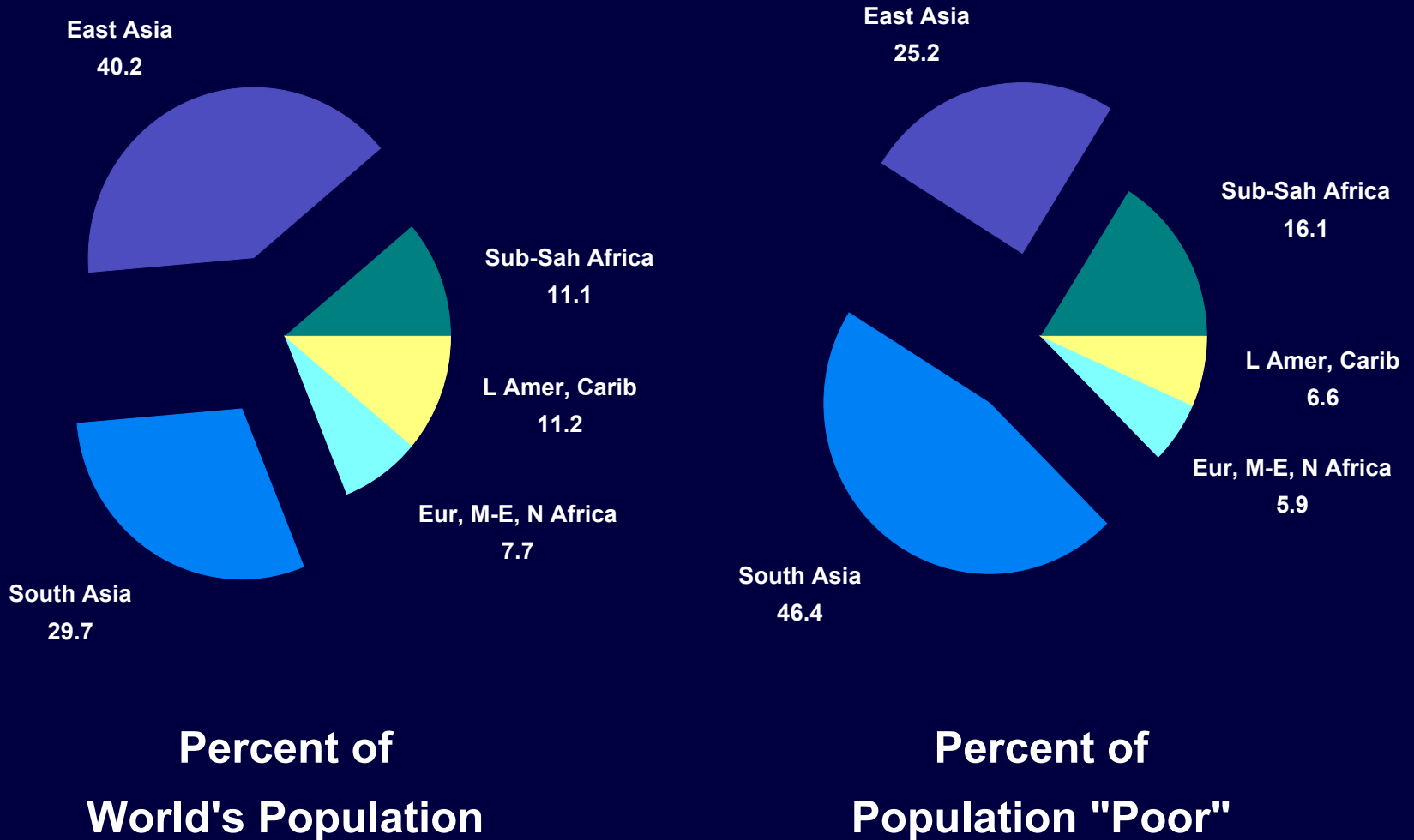
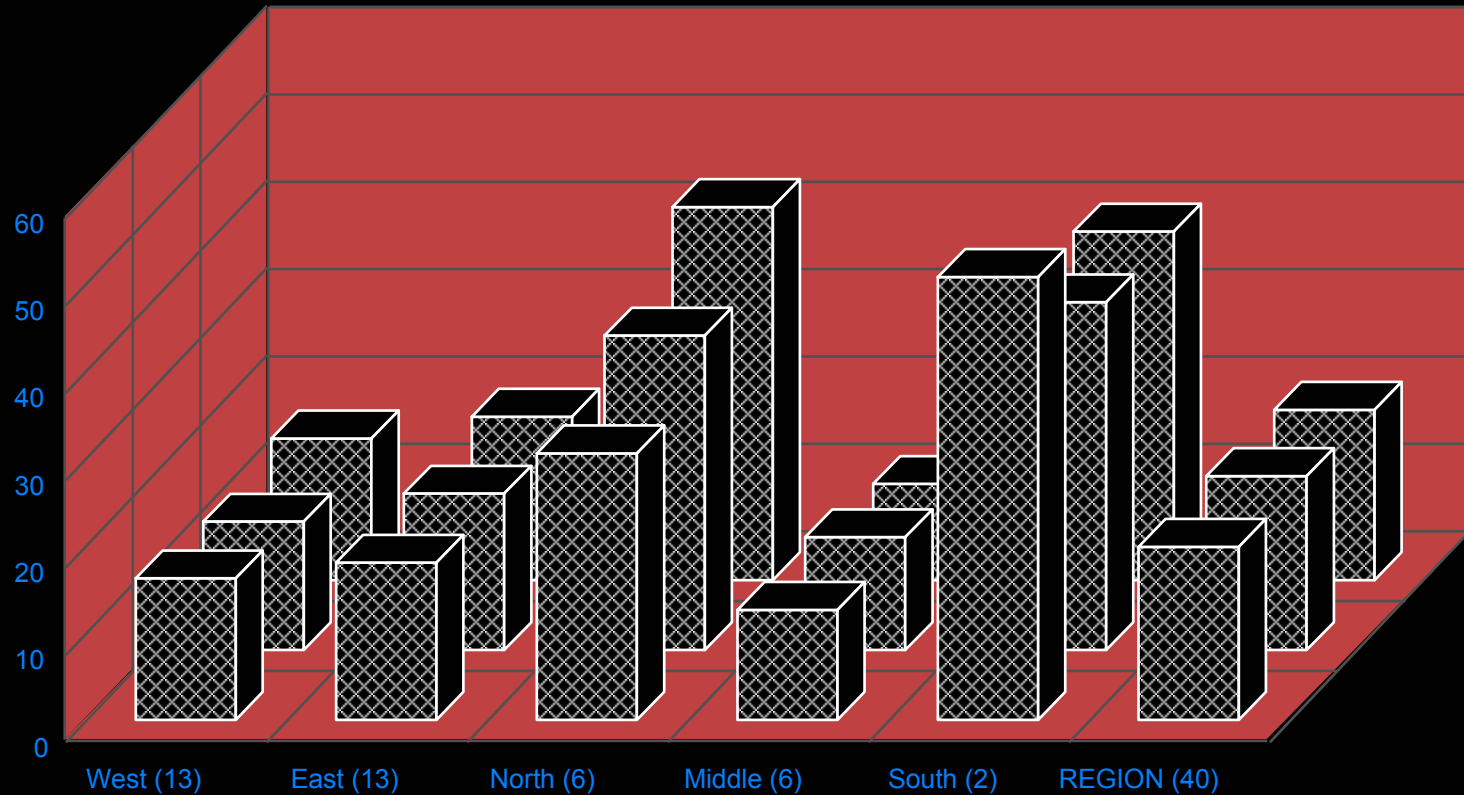


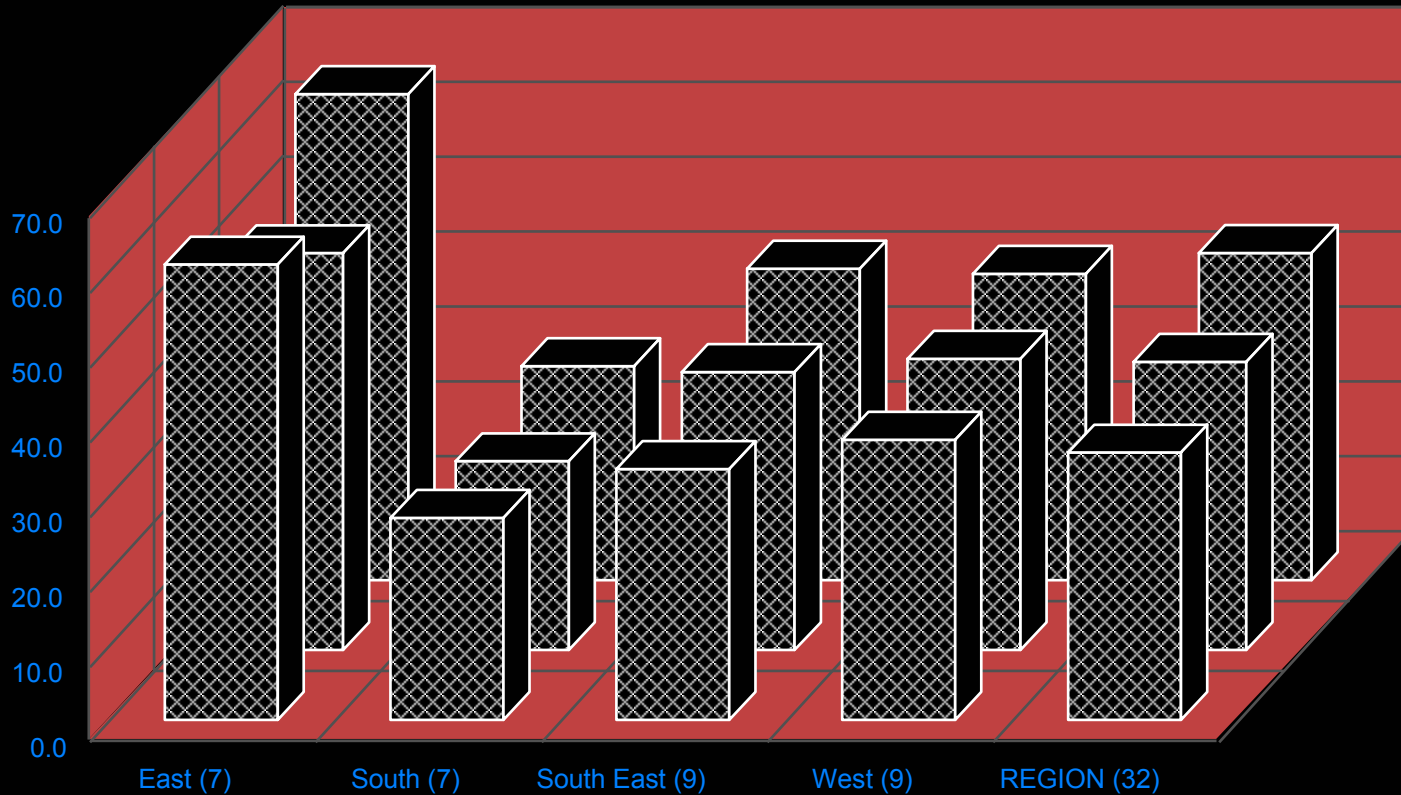
Chart 2. WISP Scores For Africa by Subregion, 1970-90 (N=40)



1990	16.2	18.7	42.7	11	39.9	19.5
1980	14.7	17.9	36	12.9	39.8	19.9
1970	16.2	18	30.5	12.6	50.7	19.8

■ 1970
 ■ 1980
 ■ 1990

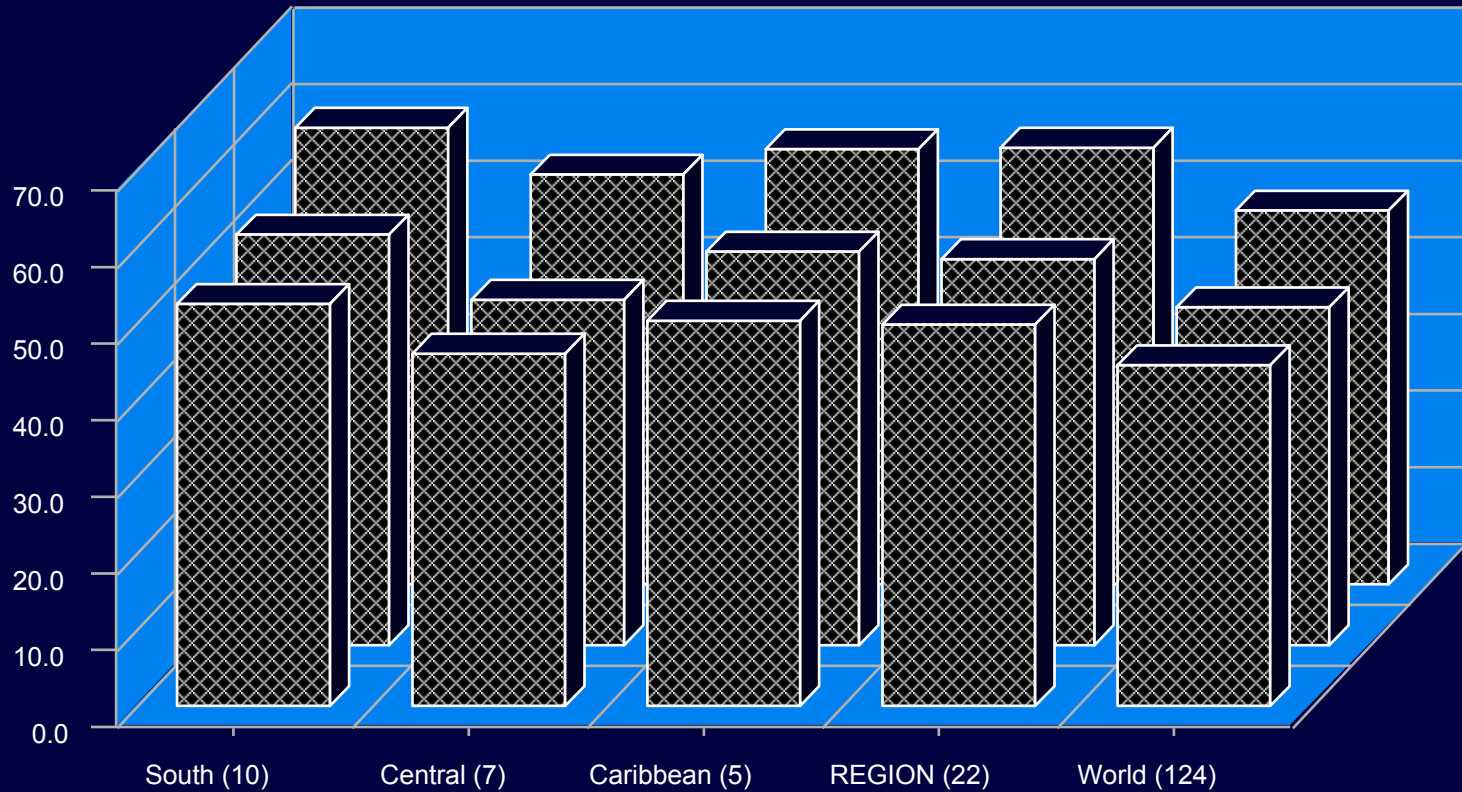
Chart 2. WISP Scores For Asia by Subregion, 1970-90 (N=32)



1990	64.9	28.6	41.6	40.9	43.7
1980	53.0	25.2	37.1	38.9	38.5
1970	60.8	27.0	33.5	37.4	35.7

1970
 1980
 1990

Chart 2. WISP Scores for Latin America by Subregion, (N=22)



Year	South (10)	Central (7)	Caribbean (5)	REGION (22)	World (124)
1990	59.6	53.5	56.8	57.0	48.8
1980	53.6	45.1	51.4	50.4	44.1
1970	52.5	46.0	50.3	49.8	44.5

1970
 1980
 1990