

UNRISD



UNESCO

**o c c a s i o n a l
p a p e r s e r i e s
o n c u l t u r e a n d
d e v e l o p m e n t**

CULTURAL INDICATORS OF DEVELOPMENT

**by
Terry McKinley**

united nations research institute for social development

united nations educational, scientific and cultural organization

4

CULTURAL INDICATORS OF DEVELOPMENT

by Terry McKinley



United Nations Research Institute
for Social Development (UNRISD)
Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

☎ (41 22) 798 84 00/798 58 50
Fax (41 22) 740 07 91
Telex 41.29.62 UNO CH
E-mail: info@unrisd.org
World Wide Web Site: <http://www.unrisd.org>



United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
7, place de Fontenoy
F - 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

☎ (33 1) 45 68 10 00
Fax (33 1) 45 67 16 90
E-mail: clt.wcr@unesco.org
World Wide Web Site: <http://www.unesco.org>

ISSN: 1020-5381

Copyright © UNRISD and UNESCO, 1997

Short extracts from this publication may be reproduced unaltered without authorization on condition that the source is indicated. For rights of reproduction or translation, application should be made to UNRISD, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland and UNESCO, 7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France. UNRISD and UNESCO welcome such applications.

The designations employed in this publication, which are in conformity with United Nations practice, and the presentation of material herein do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNRISD or UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The responsibility for opinions expressed in signed articles, studies and other contributions rests solely with their authors, and publication does not constitute an endorsement by UNRISD or UNESCO of the opinions expressed in them.

Foreword on Culture and Development

Culture is both the context for development as well as the missing factor in policies for development. Although such interactions have long been recognized as essential, there has been no worldwide analysis in this field on which new policies could be based. The independent World Commission on Culture and Development (WCCD) was therefore established jointly by UNESCO and the United Nations in December 1992 to prepare a policy-oriented report on the interactions of culture and development.

The Commission, composed of distinguished specialists from all regions of the world and presided by Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, held a series of consultations with scholars, policy makers, artists and NGO activists on specific regional perspectives and concerns. The ideas and data gathered during this process have provided new and powerful insights into the relationship between culture and development worldwide. **Our Creative Diversity**, the report of the Commission presented to the General Conference of UNESCO and the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1995, recommended that an "annual Report on Culture and Development be published as an independent statement addressed to policy makers and other interested parties".

As highlighted in **Our Creative Diversity**, economic, governance and social activities are deeply embedded in the value systems and practices of societies. Their impact on the form and content of development is pervasive and profound. There is an urgent need to analyse and monitor the evolution of interactions such as: economic growth, culture and globalization; ethics, democracy and development objectives; ethnic conflicts, indigenous peoples and the rights of minorities; environment and inter-generational ethics; values, customs and gender; culture and the growth of cities; and culture and the information highway.

The preparation of a World Culture Report will open up a new field in analytical and quantitative thinking on the relationship between culture and development while providing scientific and creative inputs that will inform policy makers. This requires that tasks of an exploratory nature, both conceptually and in terms of creating quantitative indicators on culture and development, be combined with the wide-ranging collection of existing data and statistics on this theme.

For this reason, the close collaboration of multi-disciplinary agencies, such as UNESCO and UNRISD, is crucial. The joint UNRISD-UNESCO series of Occasional Papers on Culture and Development is a first step in facilitating and catalyzing an international debate on culture and development based on high-quality research. In the fourth paper in the series, Terry McKinley examines human development from a cultural perspective, focusing on how people's quality of life is determined by how they are able to live together. The paper describes three indices that could be combined into a composite Cultural Index of Development. First, a Cultural Freedom

Index could indicate whether a society respects and allows basic human freedoms of belief, thought and expression. Second, a Creative Empowerment Index could indicate whether a society encourages people to express themselves in innovative ways. Third, a Cultural Dialogue Index could register the basic opportunities and means for mutually beneficial communication among people of different cultures. Terry McKinley works with the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme.

A World Culture Report that takes an attractive and innovative approach to the quantification of crucial cultural phenomena can have profound implications for global development and international peace, security and well-being. Quantitative indicators in this area deserve greater attention at all levels of development action, for they can contribute to the dissemination throughout the world of a message of respect for creative diversity, equity and peace.

Lourdes Arizpe
Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO
Member of the World Commission on Culture and Development

Dharam Ghai
Director, UNRISD

June 1997

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| I. The Evaluation of Culture..... | 1 |
| II. Availability of Data..... | 2 |
| III. The Cultural Freedom Index..... | 3 |
| IV. The Creative Empowerment Index..... | 7 |
| V. The Cultural Dialogue Index..... | 11 |
| VI. The Cultural Index of Development and Life Expectancy..... | 15 |
| VII. The Question of Aggregation and Weighting..... | 17 |
| References..... | 19 |

I. The Evaluation of Culture *

Culture is the way that people live together, interact and co-operate – together with how they justify such interaction through beliefs, values and norms. This implies that culture does not define a separate category of human activities but covers a whole range of activities. Furthermore, it is not a normative term, but a descriptive one. These considerations raise a number of problems that must be resolved in order to devise “cultural indicators of development”.

The title of this paper has been carefully chosen. We are not attempting to identify indicators of “cultural development” – which would follow logically from regarding culture as a separate category of human activities. We are attempting to examine human development from a “cultural perspective”, i.e., with particular focus on how people's quality of life is determined by how they are able to live together and the value systems that animate their interactions.

If culture is an all-encompassing term, then all indicators reflect, to one degree or another, a cultural content. How do we decide which ones to use? Moreover, since culture defines people's value systems, how can we evaluate different cultures or cultural practices from a trans-cultural perspective?

We must take an explicitly ethical position with which people of different cultures can readily agree. Our concern is not only that a people's culture enable them to live together, but also that it enables them to live together well. As much as possible, the universal ethical standards should be simple, transparent and non-controversial. But they should also be compelling and have the cutting power necessary to distinguish cultures that hamper human development from those that foster it. Satisfying both of these criteria simultaneously is obviously not easy.

This paper takes the position that the ultimate test of a particular culture is whether it fosters an expansion of human capabilities and choice – whether it enables people to live well. Part of people's quality of life is being able to live together well, and it is in this latter aspect that culture becomes crucial. The central question is: does the way that people live together enable them to pursue the kind of life that they have reason to value? Whether people are able to live together well can be evaluated according to a number of important dimensions. Based on the work of the World Commission on Culture and Development, this paper proposes that three be highlighted: cultural freedom, creativity and cultural dialogue.

* This is a revised version of a paper prepared for the workshop on Cultural Statistics and Indicators: Towards a World Culture Report, Royaumont Foundation, France, 10-12 May 1996.

II. Availability of Data

The above considerations can help us choose appropriate indicators. But beyond the desirability of certain indicators, there are also questions of feasibility. Data are not extensive for many “social” indicators. Data are particularly sparse on social indicators with a significant cultural content. Many “cultural indicators” currently being collected are based on a restricted definition of culture and are thus unnecessarily narrow.

There is also the overriding problem that quantitative variables – even if they were available – are inadequate to the task of determining the qualitative conditions we seek to identify and evaluate. An example is how to gauge “creativity”. Surely, this is an activity that cannot be reduced to a cardinal measure. There may be a number of quantitative measures – such as number of novels written or movies produced – that could be marshalled as circumstantial evidence of a higher or lower level of creative activity. But even with such supporting evidence, it is inadvisable to construct a composite index of cardinally-calibrated variables as a “measure” of creativity.

It would be preferable, on the basis of all available evidence, to make an explicit judgment on the qualitative level of creative activity. This could involve using a simple numbered scale, such as 1 to 4, with the number 1 being assigned to what is considered a low level of creativity and 4 to a high level, with 2 and 3 denoting intermediate levels. Since much information is reduced to simple scalar values, we cannot expect (and should not expect) to achieve a “complete ordering” of countries. But for the kind of dimensions of human activity that we hope to evaluate, it is better not to succumb to a false sense of rigor and precision.

If any index is going to have an impact on discussions of culture and development, it should cover a broad range of countries – say, at least 100 – both developing and industrial. In the 1996 **Human Development Report**, for example, the number of countries covered by the new Capability Poverty Measure is 101; 104 are covered by the Gender Empowerment Measure; over 130 by the Gender-related Development Index; and more than 170 by the Human Development Index. Some data are available for industrial countries but not for developing, and vice versa. As a result, the set of variables that can be used as indicators for all countries is relatively small.

... we should not strive to present an encyclopedia of indicators covering

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_21625

