

ECO-SPIRITUAL SOCIAL WORK AS PREMISE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



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- Present definition and understanding of social *development* need to be revisited.
- What is social development? (Service Delivery Model 2006)
 - social change
 - promote well-being
 - in conjunction with a dynamic process of *economic development*

Impact of modernity as world- view

- Economical development - *growth*-oriented ideology – worldview of modernity
- Characteristics:
 - human beings are superior
 - human beings as masters of their fate
 - world is an exhaustible resource
 - human ingenuity can solve all problems

**Modernity
contributes
to
(Chossudovsky
1998)**

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graph TD; A["Modernity contributes to (Chossudovsky 1998)"] --- B["Increasing gap between rich and poor"]; A --- C["Increase in low-income work opportunities"]; A --- D["Reduction in state's compassion with those less privileged"];
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**Increasing gap
between rich
and
poor**

**Increase in
low-
income work
opportunities**

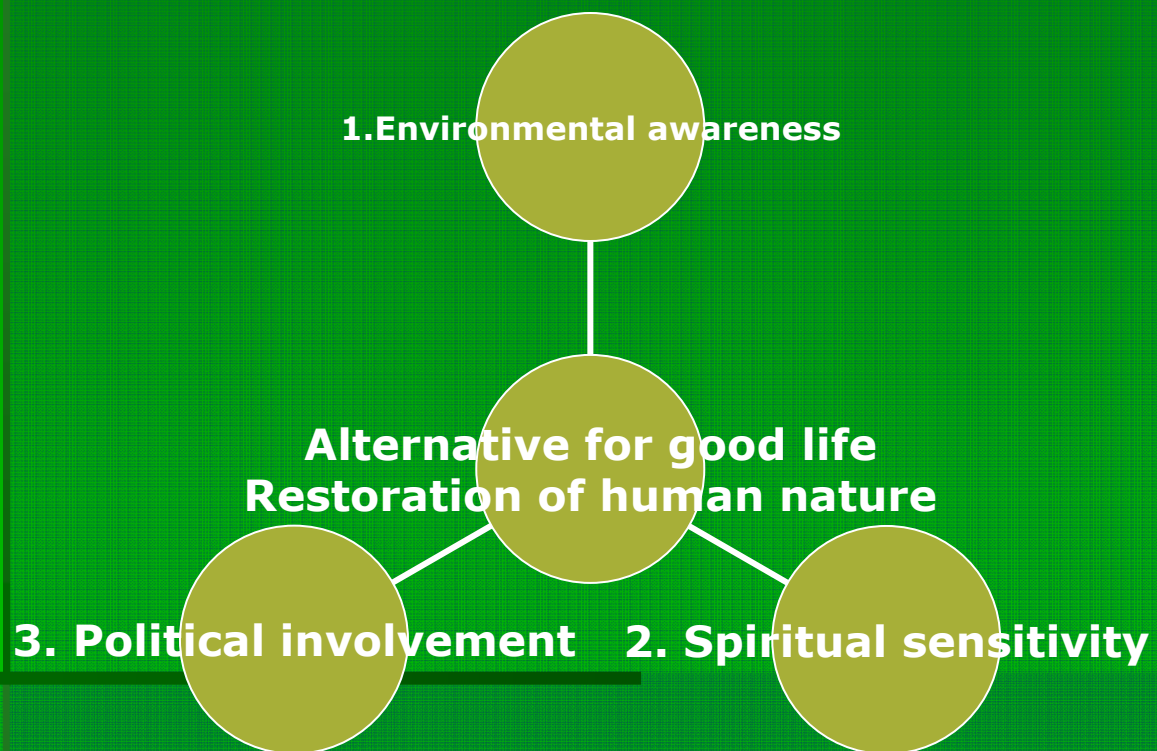
**Reduction in
state's
compassion
with
those less
privileged**

Environmental and spiritual crisis in social work

- Environmental crisis is unfolding.
- Gore (1992:98) states: “the more deeply I search for the roots of the global environmental crisis, the more I’m convinced that it is the outer manifestation of an inner crisis that is, for the lack of a better word, spiritual.”
- Eco-spiritual crisis as a possible consequence of a worldview?

Paradigm transformation: Eco-spiritual social work

- Profession absent from discourse on the environment
- Can't change worldviews
- Connection between ecology and spirituality
- Ecological spirituality
- Eco-spiritual social work
- Paradigm transformation – environment and spiritual dimension



Conclusion

- Social work must adapt
- Developmental models are insufficient
- Environmental awareness is more than conservation and protection
- Earth ecology is **not** misanthropic and definitely not anthropocentric

- Concern about nature and man
- Interventions- environmental restoration and preservation; holistic science, social upliftment and solidarity; the pursuit of beauty and the transcendental

*Treat the earth well.
we borrow it from our Children.*

Ancient Indian Proverb