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Blow Hall - Board of Visitor's Room

Infrastructure, Social Services, and the Environment: How Policy and Human Impact on the Environment Affect Development

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Human development is an issue that transcends political, social, and physical barriers, especially as it pertains to large-scale social projects such as environmental protection, social services, and infrastructure. Many of these issues are complexly intertwined, particularly when addressing issues of environmental degradation and the impacts it has on human health. A more specific subset of this is the growing issue of water scarcity and the vast deficit between water demands and water supply. This frequently occurs in conjunction with other environmental impacts such as air pollution. A major contributing source of environmental pollution is attributed to the transportation sector due to a lack of government regulation. Developing countries are especially vulnerable in this regard, and thus are unable to maintain ethical human health standards. This issue is exemplified in the loose, decentralized structure of health insurance in developing countries, resulting in inadequate access to medical care. With all of these broad and globally encompassing issues, it begs the question: where does the responsibility lie when producing possible solutions? Governments of both developed and developing nations as well as private businesses have differing abilities in addressing the aforementioned issues. On the whole, all parties involved need to increase funding and regulation for these services. Policy and sources for funding for environmental protection, social services, and infrastructure are therefore essential to increasing development and protecting the most vulnerable peoples.