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What can we do?



ARE THERE EXIT STRATEGIES?

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What can we do?

According to important sectors of ergonomics, anthropology, economic and philosophical sciences and to sectors that engage in work issues and workers' rights, it looks as though *we still have time.....*



... but we must hurry!



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Development

Development, even the strictly economic development, does not coincide with the mere increase of the average income of people and of nations.

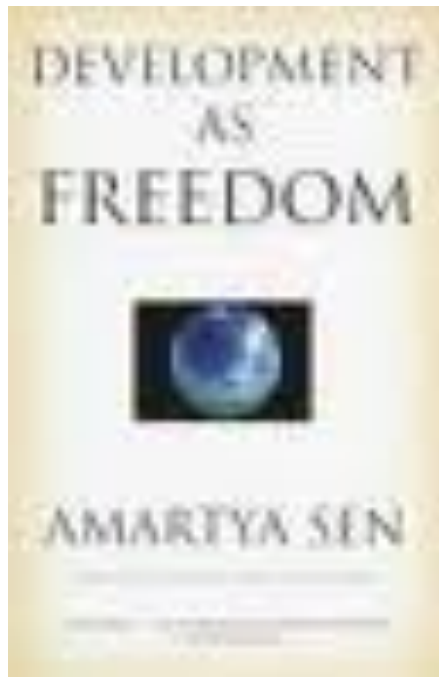


It requires at the same time increased well-being and quality of life of people and nations.



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Happiness



Objective happiness consists in health and education services, freedom and inclusion, rights and participation ...

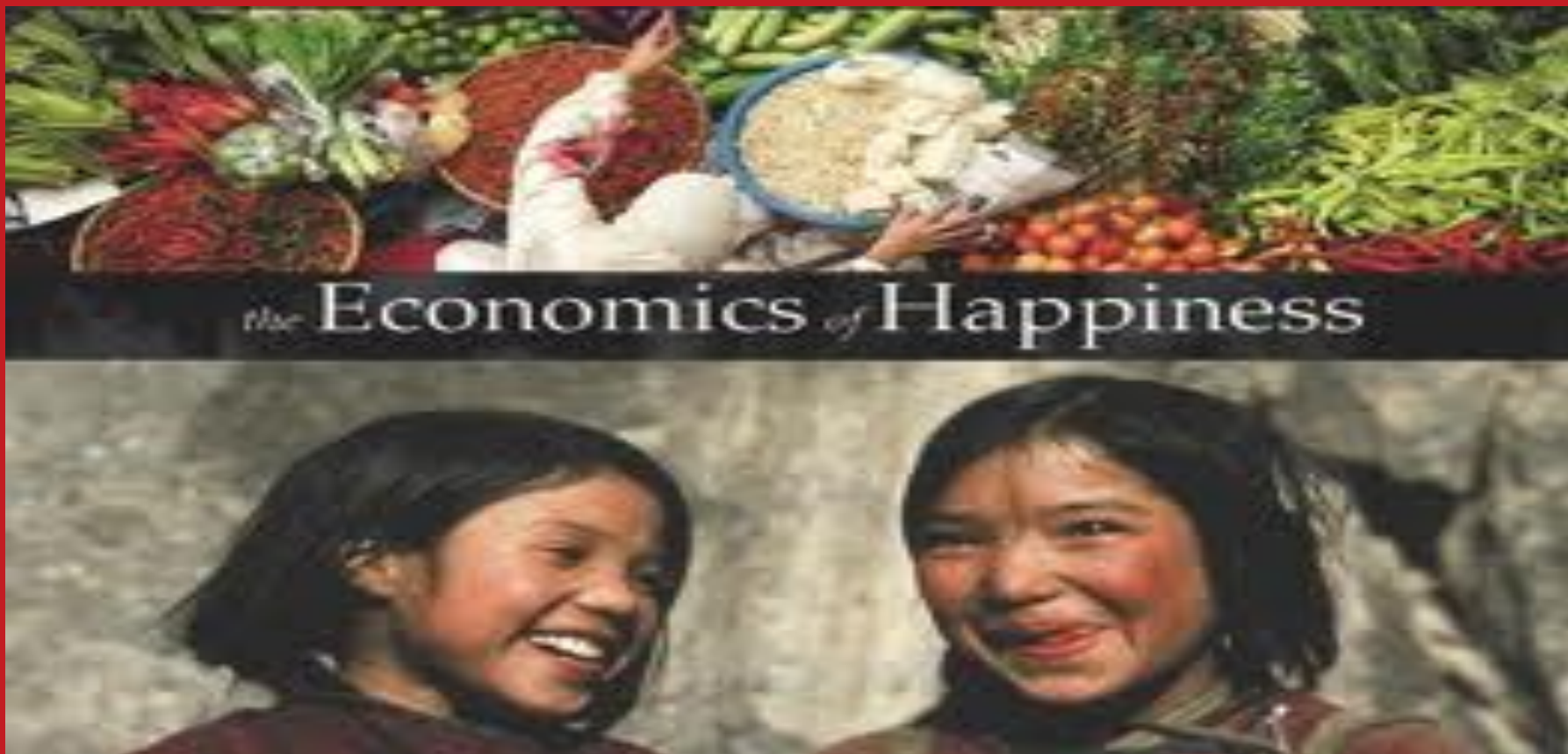
“The purely economic man is indeed close to being a social moron”.

Improving the social well-being of the disadvantaged is the most valid and reliable indicator of growth and development in a nation
(Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Oxford University Press)



Individuals that adopt consumerist values are less satisfied, have fewer positive emotions, more mental illnesses, more negative emotions, watch more TV, drink more alcohol and use more drugs, and have poorer health...

Not really such a good bargain! (Bartolini, 2010)





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Gross National Happiness

Since 1972, instead of GNP (Gross National Product) Bhutan has been using the index of Gross National Happiness (GNH), which puts together:

- **fair and sustainable economic development where growth means social benefits for all citizens**
- **conservation of the natural environment**
- **defense and promotion of national cultural identity**
- **good administration that can guarantee harmony in everyday life**





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Happiness and future generation

Jeffrey Sachs, a prestigious economist and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General, albeit saying that considerable problems can be met in happiness measurement, also maintains that in any case it is worth trying because what is at stake is our happiness and the happiness of the future generations.

Jeffrey Sachs



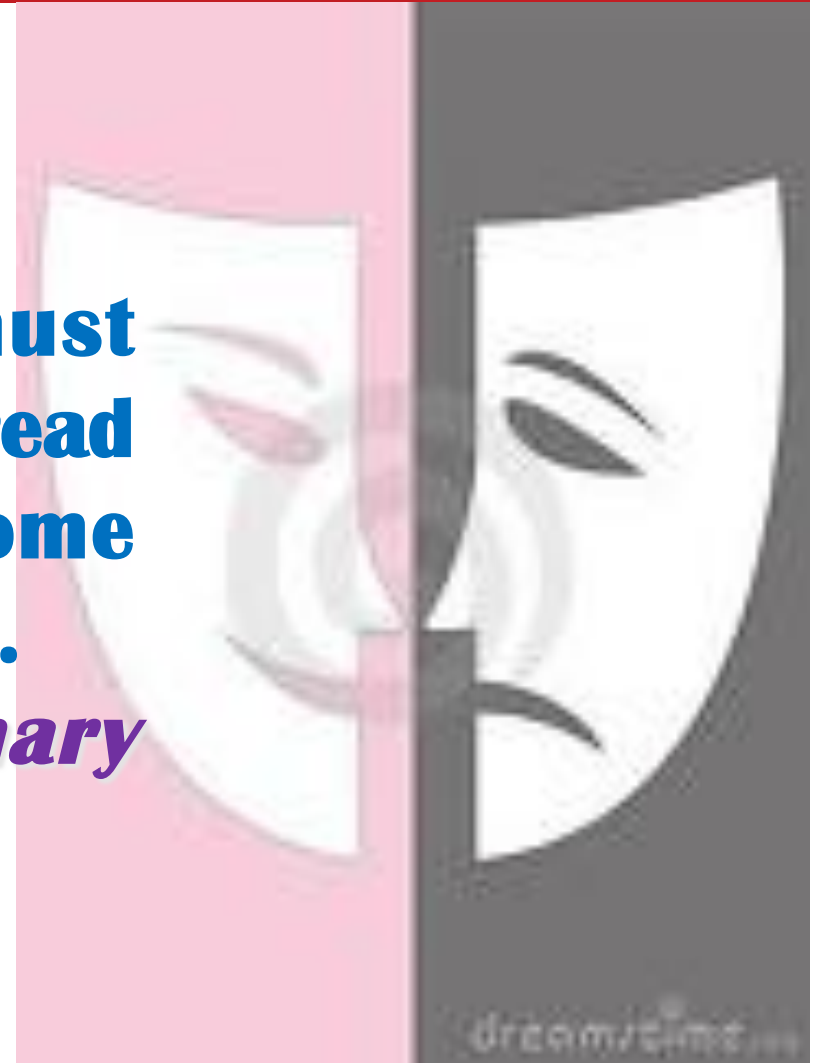


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flexibility and crisis of work

Vocational guidance must come out of its widespread psychologism and become markedly multidisciplinary.

We need multidisciplinary collaboration





There is the need to *federate* the numerous sciences that, everywhere, already tend to overrun their traditional limits (Ricoeur, 1998).

As they are dealing with the well-being of individuals, vocational guidance and career counseling could perhaps take on the role of ‘hub discipline’, to which many others could look to with interest and attention

... and this would surely be a wonderful exit strategy for our future!



- ➡ **Between education and economics there is vocational guidance, which can and must strongly indicate **our need for participation, active citizenship, inclusion**, and giving a meaning to what we do.**
- ➡ **It is worrying to realize that the percentage of US university students who believe that an excellent financial condition is an essential goal in life is considerably increased: it was 39% in 1970, **it had gone up to 74% in 1995**, and it has now become the **main objective in life**, to the detriment of all other goals and**



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Research



Expand knowledge on cultural aspects and diversity

Devise more effective methods to help clients we find hard to contact and assist

Study occupational pleasure, health, well-being, justice and family/work issues, burnout, violence, sexual harassment



Translate career theories and research into practice in the shape of developmental, preventive, and remedial services (Lent, 2001)



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Alliances with



**promote decent work
for everyone and the
decrease of insecure work
(travail décent; decent
work; meaningful work,
trabajo decente)**

**talk of sustainable development;
of a decent society; of *decent economy*;
of theories and practices based on the
dignity of individuals, on the importance of
relationships,
of reciprocity and social participation;**





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Answers?

**CAN WE RESPOND TO THE STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS
OF LABOR ONLY BY TALKING OF
of flexibility, self-management and creativity,
individual agency...?**



**Can we still utter arrogant sentences like
“I am the author of my own story”?
(de Botton, 2009 p. 120)**



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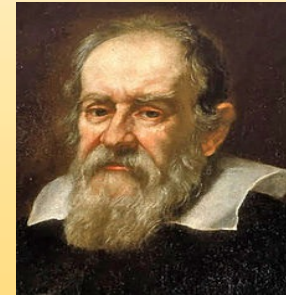
...there is no individual self-determination
without social solidarity...

and if the individual is asked to walk a tightrope, then there must be at least some sort of protection, some **'emergency lanes'**, some safety nets **career guidance can be part of that safety net** (Sultana, 2011)

Vocational Designing and Career Counseling

Challenges and New Horizons

12, 13 and 14 September 2011 - Padova, Italy



**THANKS FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

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