

Table 1 The human development approach, the neoliberal alternative, and the basic needs antecedent: comparing key features

	<i>Human development</i>	<i>Neoliberalism</i>	<i>Basic needs</i>
Philosophical underpinnings			
Normative assumptions	Explicit	Implicit	Not fully specified
Concept of well-being	Functionings and capabilities	Utility	Meeting basic needs
Evaluative aspect			
Leading criterion for evaluating development progress	Human capabilities, equality of outcomes, fairness and justice in institutional arrangements	Economic well-being, economic growth, efficiency	Poverty reduction in terms of income, access to basic social services
Measurement tools favored	Human outcomes, deprivational and distributional measures	Economic activity and condition, averages and aggregate measures	Access to material means, derivational measures
Agency aspect			
People in development as ends and/or means	Ends: beneficiaries; means: agents	Means: human resources for economic activity	Ends: beneficiaries
Mobilizing agency	Individual action and collective action	Individual action	Concern with political will and political base
"Development strategy"			
Key operational goals	Expanding people's choices (social, economic, political)	Economic growth	Expanding basic social services
Distribution of benefits and costs	Emphasis on equality and on the human rights of all individuals	Concern with poverty	Concern with poverty
Links between development and human rights and freedoms	Human rights and freedoms have intrinsic value and are development objectives. Current research on their instrumental role through links to economic and social progress	No explicit connection. Current search for a link between political and civil freedoms and economic growth	No explicit connection