

QUESTION 1 (cont'd)

Coping with Change

People have always had to cope with change, it is a necessary condition of human development. But today, many must face certain kinds of changes, and a rate of change, that is taxing their capability to deal with them. Some of these changes are:

the technological revolution resulting from imported techniques, new and bewildering systems of transportation, communications, and production; the machines, methods, and mentalities, that threaten people's culture and equilibrium.

the communications revolution that is dramatically altering existing and established patterns of communication with other people and other groups and raising doubts about the capacity of each country to place communication in the service of human development.

growing interdependence among individuals and nations which brings other cultures and perspectives closer to the daily life of individuals, at times threatening their beliefs and making them intolerant rather than enriched.

growing regionalization and group identity, sometimes seen as counterbalance to impersonal interdependence, a home in which one may develop as a full person.

transcultural communication which has dramatically improved society's technological capacity but not to a comparable degree its potential to replace conflict with positive and supportive intercultural relationships.

cultural stress which, like personal stress, is on the increase as the transfer of other people's science, technology, and development plans imprints new cultural values, threatens familiar values, and alienates many who find themselves excluded from the process of human development.

Quality of life and change: these are the challenges of human development, and the agenda for Unesco.