

VERTICAL INTEGRATION AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF  
RURAL COMMUNITIES: A FRAMEWORK FOR THE  
EMPIRICAL ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

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This paper reviews two dominant paradigms in development and attempts to synthesize them to form a coherent framework to develop an empirical model to study community well-being. Community well-being is conceptualized using the basic needs approach.

Modernization theory has been a dominant paradigm which has guided development activities for decades. However, in the past several limitations of the modernization approach to social change have discredited the theory and practices based on it. The dependency/underdevelopment perspective of the critical tradition of social thinking have been proposed as an alternative approach to examine socio-economic change.

This paper attempts to show that both modernization and the dependency/underdevelopment theories are individually limited in scope and that taken together form a more meaningful framework to understand social change. These two traditions are combined to form a theoretical frame to study community well-being. The vertical dimension and the horizontal dimension form the basic concepts that are operationalized in measurable terms to examine community well-being.