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- ❖ **Life Skills Development in the context of NEP 2020**
- ❖ **Critical Evaluation of Dependency Theory**
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Davos Summit amidst Global Turbulence

We are living in a world where dialogue is necessary and not luxury. Dialogue alone is the instrument to resolve the issues which global communities are faced with. World Economic Forum (WEF) is the most significant forum from that perspective. Even the most powerful state on earth like US could not solve it alone. Dialogue is thus essential. Leaders need to listen to each other, whether they agree or disagree. Dialogue alone would deepen their understanding and concern about issues of scale. Davos Summit 2026 with its theme, “A Spirit of Dialogue” did facilitate to discuss global issues and the probable way out.

Davos in Switzerland organized the 56th Annual Meeting of the WEF during January 19-23, 2026. It is an international think tank established on 24 January 1971 as European Management Forum (EMF) and categorized as non-governmental organization based in Cologny, canton of Geneva, Switzerland. EMF became WEF in 1987. The foundation is funded by nearly 1000 of its members which are multinational companies.

World today is highly fragmented. Europe is at loggerheads with USA. Israel is fighting wars with Gaza and rest of the middle-east. Russia is in deep and protracted confrontation with Ukraine and Europe. Iran is rubbing its shoulders with USA. USA is practicing expansionism with Venezuela and Greenland. Greenland Crisis has almost redefined US foreign policy as ‘Trump’s Turbulence’. These are crisis to name a few of the important ones with tremendous bearing upon the world order, bilateral and multilateral relations. These conflicts have also led to systemic fault lines and geopolitical noise giving rise to number of questions before global leadership. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney was right when he said in Davos, “We actively take on the world as it is, not wait around for the world we wish to be.” 2026 Summit has been held amidst global turbulence.

Contemporary World is marked by: tech-fueled quest for growth and productivity; societies are turbulent owing to lack of social cohesion; business leaders are in full knowledge of planet’s limit but elected to cross them with their vested greed for wealth, brining untold damage to nature; health is business now involving several trillion dollars of transactions; energy security needs to be transformed into national security; many countries of the global south are spending more on debt repayments than on health care and education. These were few of the significant conversations on Forum.

AI is now looming large all over the global technological prowess. It has devastated cognitive and emotional results, proving catastrophic for humanity. 40% jobs are going to be impacted by AI, which could be to the extent of 60% in advanced economy. Challenge amidst AI boom is the growing risk of children that they would never learn the skills to thrive.

Trump at Davos 2026, tried damage control exercise with Europe asserting, “We believe deeply in the bonds we share with Europe as a civilization. I want to see it do great. That’s why issues like energy, trade, immigration and economic growth must be central concerns to anyone who want to see a strong and united West.” Alas! This change of American heart is permanent, and the optimism is not for mere global consumptions. Transatlantic relations are supposedly not dead.

2026 WEF have been projected in international media as success enumerating some concrete takeaways, whereas the real story could be different for different stakeholders. Middle power found their voice as dialogue reasserted itself as necessity, owing to emerging geostrategic dynamics on the globe, widely observed in terms of more turbulence and less of peace.

Most important highlight of the Summit must be the Global Risks Report 2026 published on the eve of WEF 2026. The report includes environmental, geopolitical, societal and technological risks that the global community has to face in coming future, as the severity of the risks are on rise.

Summing up one may continue to observe in years to come: it is not naïve multilateralism; coalitions are happening across globe to work; middle powers are more on the table, and less on the menu; US would gradually understand that tariffs and trade wars have no winners; global leadership would have to pay attention to the distribution of wealth and disparity which is getting deeper and bigger. Global leadership need to brainstorm the ways to cooperate in a highly contested world, explore new sources of growth, invest more in people than in innovation, build prosperity with planetary boundaries. Davos 2026 just tried to express some of these concerns.

—BK