Human Rights & Human Welfare

World Bank
by Adrienne Stohr

The mission of the World Bank is to aid developing countries stabilize their economies through financial and technical assistance. The five dominant themes that emerge in a review of the World Bank literature are: health, gender, environment, globalization, and global governance. Each of these themes is broadly related to issues that consistently influence the larger issue of how the World Bank incorporates, rejects, or impacts human rights.

In the context of the World Bank’s relationship to human rights, health is usually related to poverty reduction, or the enhancement of capabilities to prevent perpetuation of cyclical poverty. The concern over access and rights for those with disabilities is a dominant subcategory within health literature. Similarly, many analyses center on individual claims to rights in health care. Policies and efforts to improve nutrition for people in developing and impoverished countries and the legal obligations of the international community are also represented.

Gender issues emerge in discussions of women’s rights and access to education. The improvement of women’s conditions within a society is a determinant of development more broadly, and especially in their experience with family and community living conditions. Legal equality for women is also important to achieving sustainable and developing societies.

The World Bank’s environmental pursuits constitute a complex issue, involving varied interests and needs. Resettlement concerns, specifically land redistribution in developing and conflicted regions is a significant area of concern for both human rights and the World Bank, as are the rights of indigenous communities in environmental development. Lastly, sustainability and responsible use of resources, such as energy and water, depend on conservation and the role of renewable resources for their realization.

Globalization and Global Governance are reflected in the regulatory and development policies of the various international organizations such as the U.N., WTO, and the IMF. The awareness and recent incorporation of a rights-based approach to development by such organizations suggests not only the ability of international organizations to incorporate a rights-based approach into their policies, but also a general recognition of the importance to do so. Resource distribution, access to markets, and legal rights—in terms of representation and access to education or property rights are important in the interpretations of measurement and dedication in the World Bank’s human rights contributions. As in the discourse on disabilities, children’s rights and the communities’ inclusion in development processes is uniquely represented by policies intended to improve the rights and participation of developing peoples in the international system.

Globalization and the World Bank


Abstract: Details the broader role of the World Bank in managing globalization. States the roles of different member states and presents a vision for the future.

Abstract: Reports on the Bank’s progress on working toward MDGs.


Abstract: Sets forth a development plan that incorporates respect of human rights and the rule of law.

‘Rightsizing’ the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO. http://www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/bwi-wto/wto/ritesize.htm

Abstract: Discusses reform of international financial organization in light of popular mobilizations like the Seattle protests. Principally concerned with labor and environmental rights.


Abstract: Summary of inter-agency meeting that reveals the politics of international organization cooperation.


Abstract: World Development Report 2006 analyzes the relationship between equity and development. The report documents the persistence of inequality traps by highlighting the interaction between different forms of inequality. It presents evidence that the inequality of opportunity that arises is wasteful and inimical to sustainable development and poverty reduction. It also derives policy implications that center on the broad concept of leveling the playing field—both politically and economically and in the domestic and the global arenas. The report recognizes the intrinsic value of equity but aims primarily to document how a focus on equity matters for long-run development. It has three parts: Part I considers the evidence on inequality of opportunity, within and across countries. Part II asks why equity matters, discussing the two channels of impact (the effects of unequal opportunities when markets are imperfect, and the consequences of inequity for the quality of institutions a society develops) as well as intrinsic motives. Part III asks how public action can level the political and economic playing fields. In the domestic arena, it makes the case for investing in people, expanding access to justice, land, and infrastructure, and promoting fairness in markets. In the international arena, it considers leveling the playing field in the functioning of global markets and the rules that govern them—and the complementary provision of aid to help poor countries and poor people build greater endowments.


Abstract: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the most prominent initiative on the global development agenda and have a great deal in common with human rights commitments. But neither the human rights nor development communities has embraced this linkage with enthusiasm or conviction. This article explores the reasons why the two agendas resemble ships passing in the night, even though they are both headed for very similar destinations. The empirical evidence examined includes analyses prepared by a range of human rights NGOs, the MDG National Plans adopted by many developing countries, and the relevant analyses undertaken by U.N. human rights treaty bodies and special rapporteurs. The author calls upon the human rights community
to engage more effectively with the development agenda, to prioritize its concerns rather than assuming that every issue needs to be tackled simultaneously, and to avoid being overly prescriptive.


Abstract: *A major feature of government public and social policy over the past 25 years has been a shift in emphasis from state to market. With little supporting evidence, the positives of the market have been contrasted with the negatives of state intervention. This article explores the background to this development and suggests that under ‘globalization’ the trend has been for the market increasingly to be freed to be profitable and for the state to bear consequent costs. It argues for the market to be subjected to systematic cost-benefit analysis to see whether a pattern of redistribution of profit (gains) to the market has been accompanied by losses (costs) being laid at the door of the state/public sector. It also considers the additional impact on this of the privatization of welfare. It ends by suggesting that an alternative, rights-based approach to welfare highlighted by new social movements of disabled people and welfare service users based on anti-discrimination, inclusion, participation and accountability may offer a more positive basis for future social policy.*


Abstract: *The article examines the problems that the performance standard of progressive realization entails for monitoring the International Covenant on economic, social, and cultural rights and proposes a violations approach as a more feasible and effective alternative. The violations approach advocated here focuses on three types of violations: first, violations resulting from actions and policies on the part of governments, second, violations related to patterns of discrimination and third, violations taking place due to a state’s failure to fulfill the minimum core obligations contained in the Covenant. In order to illustrate examples of violations of the rights enumerated in the Covenant, this article analyzes several years of reports by the U.N. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. At first glance, the assertion that little effective or systematic monitoring of the Covenant is taking place seems to be at variance with the current international human rights system. The principle that the two major categories of rights, civil and political rights on the one hand and economic, social, and cultural rights on the other, are interrelated, interdependent, and indivisible constitutes one of the fundamental underpinnings of the international consensus on human rights norms.*


Abstract: *This paper seeks to unravel some of the tangled threads of contemporary rights talk. For some, the grounding of rights-based approaches in human rights legislation makes them distinctively different to others,
lending the promise of re-politicizing areas of development work—particularly, perhaps, efforts to enhance participation in development, that have become domesticated as they have been ‘mainstreamed’ by powerful institutions like the World Bank. Others complain that like other fashions, the label ‘rights-based approach’ has become the latest designer item to be seen to be wearing, and has been used to dress up the same old development. We pose a series of questions about why rights have come to be of interest to international development actors, and explore the implications of different versions and emphases, looking at what their strengths and shortcomings may come to mean for the politics and practice of development.


Abstract: This focuses on the views on human rights approach to development as a stream of thinking within the development and human rights context. Economic, social, and cultural rights are often classified as second-generation rights, while political rights and civil liberties are considered as rights of the first generation. Many have understood this not as a mere categorization but as a ranking which puts economic, social, and cultural rights after political rights. Thus, the so-called second-generation rights have led a kind of shadow life until the late 1980s. A precondition of the success of a human rights approach to development is its integration into the monitoring mechanism of human rights committees and human rights non-governmental organizations. In addition to this institutional level, the dialogue between human rights and development activists should follow the demands of such an approach and thus mutually strengthen their lobbying activities. The realization of human rights becomes the aim of development policy and thus human rights are the benchmark by which to evaluate the outcome of such policies. Based on human rights, all duty-bearers become legally accountable for their development efforts.


Abstract: The mainstreaming of human rights into all political, development, and other initiatives by the United Nations has led to a welcome attempt to coordinate related U.N. activities. However, there remains a degree of mistrust or misunderstanding that negatively affects the prospects for a more effective working relationship between those U.N. officials whose primary focus is politics and diplomacy and those whose primary concern is human rights. To successfully integrate human rights into their work, political and human rights officials must become more aware and respectful of the other’s perspectives and values. In addition, as holistic approaches to peacemaking, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping become more common, it is important to achieve a better division of
labor between negotiators and human rights advocates, so that each can contribute meaningfully to the work of the other.


Abstract: The recent increase in the number of publications, training courses, NGO policy statements on mainstreaming rights, as well as workshops and conference papers from International Financial Institutions on rights-based approaches is testimony to the importance that development professionals attach to the concept. This article seeks to explore some of the key issues associated with the adoption of a rights-based approach that are relevant to NGOs. The most important issue facing NGOs today is to question rights-based approaches in a constructive fashion, because so many development actors are adopting such approaches in their own policies and programming.


Abstract: Two practitioners/thinkers take old ideas about human rights and make a new case for an economic and social rights-based approach to development. Our mid-20th century predecessors recognized—in Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—that a secure world requires a social contract that assures everyone access to basic economic and social rights. In today’s globalized world, the private sector and civil society join the state in influencing the ability of the marginalized to enjoy basic rights. Pursuing a rights-based approach is an end to business as usual for international development nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs will need to move beyond supporting delivery of services to building the capacity of civil society to be an organized and effective balance to the power of governments and of the private sector. This transformation will have profound effects on the basic business plans, evaluation systems, and staff competencies of international development NGOs.


Abstract: Recent debates about governance, poverty and environmental sustainability have emphasized a “rights-based” approach, in which equitable development is strongly associated with individual and communal rights. This paper reviews this approach and explores its practical application to Thailand’s “Community Forestry Bill,” which seeks to establish communal rights of access and conservation in forest reserve areas. The paper examines conflicts concerning watershed forests and mangroves in Thailand, and argues that efforts to support rural livelihoods through community rights have been undermined by a state that has frequently supported commercial interests or opposed decentralization to minority groups. The paper documents how civil society organizations may negotiate rights within the wider public spheres in which rules, rights, and “community” are established, and defended.


Abstract: Debates concerning democratization and development increasingly engage with what are termed as “human rights-based approaches.” As such, whilst critical accounts are correct in cautioning against Rights-Based Development (RBD) in an era of rampant neo-liberalism and donor-driven agendas, the paper proposes that not only are more progressive and political readings of RBD necessary, they already exist “on the ground.”
dramatic u-turn in the South African government’s policy concerning HIV/AIDS treatment, for example, is, arguably, situated at the confluence of rights-inspired struggles and the politics of governance. The policy shift therefore provides an opportunity to assess how rights-based approaches to development (RBD) can, under specific conditions, widen critical “political space” and enable more inclusive governance. The key issues posed in the paper are, first, how the South African government’s HIV/AIDS policy can only be properly understood when placed in the context of the broader rhythms of post-apartheid transition and discursive fault-lines underpinning understandings of the epidemic. Second, as embodied through the Treatment Action Campaign—a social movement in South Africa—the paper seeks to explore how human rights principles deployed in a context of social mobilization and people-driven access to institutional channels, have the potential to impact upon policy-making. Third, setting out the guiding principles of one particular right, the right to health, allows better understanding of RBD more generally. Finally, and by way of conclusion, RBD’s contribution to widening inclusive political space does not have to end at policy-making but can also impact upon rights-based approaches to service delivery. Above all, this case study offers more general theoretical and practical lessons for conceptualizing both RBD and the role of alternative social actors and movements in this.


Abstract: Addresses policy innovation in international organizations. Independence of the international organizations (IOs); External pressure; Consistency of new issues with organizational goals and procedures; Internal policy advocacy; Case of the World Bank.


Abstract: The article investigates the relationship between social exclusion, children and education in Europe. Social exclusion has become one of the most important themes in contemporary social policy debates in Europe. While the term originated in France in the 1970s and was originally concerned with the exclusion of the disabled from equal participation in society, it has recently received renewed attention. Despite the proliferation of studies and papers on the topic, there are few precise definitions and clearly defined foundations of the term and its implication for social policy. While income poverty is only one possible factor causing social exclusion, persistent or recurrent unemployment can generate social exclusion directly, since as the involuntarily unemployed are excluded from the world of work, an important aspect of citizenship and participation. In this way, unemployment is seen as an intrinsic problem, even if there are appropriate systems in place to ensure that unemployment does not lead to poverty.


Abstract: The article presents a framework for principles that relate an enterprise to a democratic political order. The power of civil society is such that those in charge of protecting democratic rights against the pressures of a globalizing economy will lapse into shrinking control over less and less, and will mouth pious declarations about the rest. There is in many parts of the world a double movement in policy. On the one hand, states are divesting themselves of many services and functions, often in response to the demands of global enterprise for a chance to offer these same services on what they claim is a more efficient basis. The solution is either sought in some form of partnership between public and private resources and control, or else states are happy to see the whole of the provision pass into private hands. These results are often imposed by the pressures for free movement of goods and
services coming from the World Trade Organization or from regional orders such as the European Union; and they form part of the structural adjustment programs of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.


Abstract: The idea of a politically engaged or activist ethnography has received increased attention in recent years. Yet, such social and economic processes as globalization and neoliberalism would seem to militate against the efficacy of an engaged anthropology. In this article, we argue that, although systemic restructuring and related discursive conditions have fundamentally altered the social and political landscape of cities in the United States and around the world, there still remains much potential for carrying out locally based activist ethnographic work. In fact, we argue for a particular type of ethno-graphic encounter we refer to as an “ethnography from below” which is built on the notion that studying localities means simultaneously “ethnographazing” and thereby demystifying the nature of the neoliberal state. Using examples from our own involvement in activism and in ethnography, we suggest that through long-term collaborations with community-based activists, engaged ethnographers can contribute to creating a space for the realization of new policies, new subject positions, and the emergence of new political possibilities beyond what the global economy and its neoliberal rationalizations have set for us.


Abstract: Most studies explain the rise of NGOs as actors on the international stage by emphasizing political developments or technical achievements as factors which have fostered their success. The focus in this paper, instead, will be on how NGOs themselves have transformed and how such change has affected the way in which they have become significant players in international relations. Drawing upon the notion of professionalization as deriving from theoretical approaches of societal activism, I argue that NGOs increasingly invested in their international presence and gradually professionalized. In order to illustrate the argument, professionalization of NGO representation to the U.N. will be examined with respect to four case studies of international human rights organizations: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the International Federation of Human Rights and the International League for Human Rights.


Abstract: The article reports on the release of a consensus report of the Global Commission on International Migration calling all countries to respect the human rights of migrants. It recommends a new Interagency Global Migration Facility to help coordinate migration policies at the regional and global levels. It consists of recommendations aimed at making a comprehensive framework for migrants in a globalizing labor market, migration and development, migrants in society, and the governance of migration.

Abstract: While development and human rights have long been pursued in isolation from one another, the two concepts are now being reintegrated. For the UN, the question of indicators arose in the context of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) process, into which a rights-based approach to development was to be integrated. A rights-based approach is based on international human rights standards and directed to protecting human rights. Its elements include participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and linkage to the international standards. This creates demands for data that are not satisfied by traditional indicators. There is a need to base indicators on international standards; to use a comprehensive human rights framework; to integrate the “rights element” into existing indicators; to measure the subjective, status, capacity, official response, and accessibility. Data must be disaggregated further, to test equality and non-discrimination, and must be read in context. Indicators themselves must be designed as tools of development, not weapons of critique. The next stage of rights-based development will require the compilation of an agreed list of core development indicators for civil and political rights, to measure the administration of justice, political participation, and personal security. It will also require indicators for the measurement of cultural rights in development, and integrating the “rights element” into socio-economic indicators.


Abstract: This paper summarizes the main outcomes of the international Conference on “Statistics, Development and Human Rights” (Montreux, 4-8 September 2000), which revealed the enormous potential that statistical methods offer for improving monitoring of human development and reporting on human rights issues. The Montreux Conference was characterized by a multidisciplinary and cross-institutional approach, bringing together statisticians, development experts and human rights practitioners. Its conclusions translated the “spirit of Montreux” into a concrete program of action. Thus in the course of the last months a network of more that 50 academic institutions, international organizations, national statistical institutes and NGOs agreed to launch an independent international project: the “Development and Human Rights Observatory” (DHR-O). The objective of this project is to strengthen mechanisms and methods for monitoring development and human rights. It intends to facilitate, organize and implement interdisciplinary policy-oriented research, training programs and technical assistance to institutional building. In its present stage of development, DHR-O is focusing on three core areas: i) use of statistical methods, indicators and qualitative analysis for human rights reporting; ii) design, testing and pilot application of rights-based development indicators; and iii) design and evaluation of statistical tools for monitoring democracy and governance.


Abstract: Focuses on the role of International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO) on global economy reformation. Consideration of labor and environmental standards in international trade agreements; Implications for the creation of WTO; Skepticism about the authority of WTO to adjudicate violations of labor rights.

Abstract: This article focuses on the correlation between immigration, asylum and the European Union Charter of fundamental rights, as of 2001. The tension between a rights-based approach to migration and asylum policy and states’ desire to control their borders and populations as an essential aspect of their sovereignty is well-known. Inevitably, when the European Union institutions decided to draw up a European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights, migration and asylum matters proved to be controversial issues. Any prospect of change resulting from the new Charter is limited, because the Charter is not legally binding. Nevertheless, the Charter is at least a modest further step toward a rights-based approach to migration and asylum law. As is well known, the three founding treaties of the European Communities initially made no reference to human rights. The European Court of Justice therefore at first rejected arguments that Community legislation could be invalid for breach of human rights. When the German and Italian courts in particular faced such allegations, they felt obliged to apply the human rights protections in their national constitutions, threatening the supremacy of Community law.


Abstract: Dworkin’s equality of resources can be interpreted as a proposal that integrates distributive criteria taken from both equality of means and equality of capabilities, and overcomes the risks of subjectivism, over-rigidity and perfectionism inherent in theories of welfare, means and capabilities respectively. This can be achieved by concentrating on arrangements of justice working within the parameter of equality of resources that equalize capabilities at a level of minima, thus avoiding the perfectionist risk and, once the threshold that ensures autonomous subjects is passed, ruled by criteria taken from theories of means. In such a task, the concept of moral person will be used as the criterion for determining the threshold of autonomy, and not only will it allow for the discrimination between the different circumstances that make the application of distributive criteria possible, but it will also specify the circumstances in which it is possible to attribute responsibility to an agent.


Abstract: Two practitioners/thinkers take old ideas about human rights and make a new case for an economic and social rights-based approach to development. Our mid-20th century predecessors recognized—in Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—that a secure world requires a social contract that assures everyone access to basic economic and social rights. In today’s globalized world, the private sector and civil society join the state in influencing the ability of the marginalized to enjoy basic rights. Pursuing a rights-based approach is an end to business as usual for international development nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs will need to move beyond supporting delivery of services to building the capacity of civil society to be an organized and effective balance to the power of governments and of the private sector. This transformation will have profound effects on the basic business plans, evaluation systems, and staff competencies of international development NGOs.


Abstract: This article identifies the effect of structural adjustment and stabilization policies (SAPs) on women, while focusing on poverty in several countries. It is now well-established that structural adjustment and stabilization policies (SAPs) undertaken in developing countries to receive condition-based loans from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have exacerbated conditions of poverty and deprivation for large sections of the population. Several commentators have also shown that these macroeconomic policies are not class-neutral or gender-neutral. The World Bank’s emphasis on “safety nets” to cushion the poor from the impact of orthodox stabilization and adjustment policies is an admission that these policies do not affect all sections of the population equally. These criticisms and the deterioration in economic and social conditions in the majority of adjusting countries during the “lost decade” of the 1980s have occasioned much introspection at the international financial institutions. In fact, recent World Bank evaluations of the results of SAPs acknowledge that while macroeconomic stabilization policies are necessary for growth, they are not sufficient in reducing poverty or income inequality in all countries.


Abstract: This paper examines the content of the right to development in the light of human rights as recognized in international law and interprets it in an operational manner. The right to development is the right to a development where all rights can be progressively realized. Both the process of development and the outcomes of the process can be regarded as human rights claimed by the people of a country for the benefit of all individuals. The right is exercised collectively but enjoyed individually. The related obligation is appropriate development policy by the state (the primary duty-bearer) and co-operation by other states and international institutions. The international community that recognizes this right has to support its implementation by co-operating in trade, debt, finance, technology transfer and development assistance. This paper provides illustrative mechanisms for implementing the right, complemented by programs of international co-operation.


Abstract: Comments on the power of the World Trade Organization to control the economy of its member countries. Purpose of the organization; Views on the globalization issues; Protection of multinational corporations despite activities which violate human rights and abuse the environment; Relations with International Monetary Fund and World Bank.


Abstract: This article presents the author’s thoughts about free trade within the export apparel industry in regards to a collaborative case study on the topic. Details are presented from discussions at a conference that took place in Managua, Nicaragua, which centered around the end of apparel quotas and its impact on those in the Caribbean Basin. The author, who is the recipient of the “Antipode” graduate student scholarship, will explore how global connections articulate various actors on an imagined frontier of post-quota apparel production in the study. It is hoped that the study will elucidate the historical and current work done to link the apparel trade with development.
Involvement on the Health Sector


Abstract: Interviews Doctor Vineeta Gupta, the general secretary of Insaaf International, a Punjab, India-based organization working for economic, social and political rights. Her views on the World Bank’s involvement in India and the health sector; Reason for the need of India for a World Bank loan to privatize the health care system; Kind of corruption she has found related to the Bank’s involvement in the health sector.


Abstract: From a rights perspective, disability has come increasingly to be seen as less a matter of personal misfortune than of societal neglect and obstruction, and as much warranting claims on the state to ensure inclusion and equality as to prosecute a duty of care. This shift resonates with other transitions within international discourse, most notably the increasing prominence of the notion of human development, which emphasizes the importance of equity, freedom, and full realization of human rights and capabilities as central to societal developmental objectives. After briefly examining apparent parallels in discourses relating to disability and to human development, the capabilities approach, upon which the concept of human development is grounded, is examined more closely and its implications for disability considered. It is argued that a capabilities approach may serve alternatively to keep disability partially hidden from view or become a powerful means for identifying the responsibilities of governments and external agencies in genuinely equalizing opportunities.


Abstract: Focus on the importance of social factors in population health. Influence of law and human rights on health; Social determinants of health; Details on an international conference on the social aspect of health.


Abstract: With the focus on Indian experience, Indu Capoor looks at the impact of private-public partnerships on women’s reproductive health and rights. She underlines how NGOs deliver many of the services once provided by the State and argues that public-private partnerships must take care to secure the rights of poor women’s access to quality reproductive healthcare.


Abstract: The article investigates the relationship between social exclusion, children and education in Europe. Social exclusion has become one of the most important themes in contemporary social policy debates in Europe. While the term originated in France in the 1970s and was originally concerned with the exclusion of the disabled from equal participation in society, it has recently received renewed attention. Despite the proliferation of studies and papers on the topic, there are few precise definitions and clearly defined foundations of the term and its implication for social policy. While income poverty is only one possible factor causing social exclusion, persistent or recurrent unemployment can generate social exclusion directly, since as the involuntarily unemployed are excluded from the world of work, an important aspect of citizenship and participation. In this way, unemployment is seen as an intrinsic problem, even if there are appropriate systems in place to ensure that unemployment does not lead to poverty.


Abstract: Focuses on issues concerning human rights to food, health and education. Notion of capability rights as goal rights; Implication of scarcity of resources for viewing economic rights as capability rights; Problem in operationalizing the rights-based approach to human development.


Abstract: This paper explores the conceptual connections between poverty and human rights through the lens of the capability approach. The concept of capability can be seen as the bridge that links poverty with human rights because it plays a foundational role in the characterization of both poverty and human rights. Once this common foundation is noted, poverty can be defined as denial of human rights. Furthermore, the capability approach also helps us to address the question of whether just any denial of human right should count as poverty or whether there should be some restriction in this regard admitting only certain cases of denial of human of rights into the domain but not others. The capability perspective suggests that the domain should indeed be restricted in some well-defined
ways. Finally, the paper argues that such restriction of domain need not be inconsistent with the principle of indivisibility of human rights.


Abstract: Dworkin’s equality of resources can be interpreted as a proposal that integrates distributive criteria taken from both equality of means and equality of capabilities, and overcomes the risks of subjectivism, over-rigidity and perfectionism inherent in theories of welfare, means and capabilities respectively. This can be achieved by concentrating on arrangements of justice working within the parameter of equality of resources that equalize capabilities at a level of minima, thus avoiding the perfectionist risk and, once the threshold that ensures autonomous subjects is passed, ruled by criteria taken from theories of means. In such a task, the concept of moral person will be used as the criterion for determining the threshold of autonomy, and not only will it allow for the discrimination between the different circumstances that make the application of distributive criteria possible, but it will also specify the circumstances in which it is possible to attribute responsibility to an agent.


Abstract: This study of the relation of social problems to mortality in the context of growth and decline in 50 New York counties is guided by an ecological framework that sees communities depending on their many agencies and services for maintaining and improving the well-being of residents despite external problems/threats. Two all-purpose measures of threats are community growth and decline, especially the latter. If the specialized agencies typical of more urbanized places are weak, threats generate internal social problems like crime and unemployment and these problems lower population health. Findings: when urbanization is held constant, growth is negatively associated with poverty-related problems while decline predicts deviance. Both poverty and deviance problems, in turn, predict mortality. The applied implications of this model are discussed.

Effects of World Bank Policies on the Environment


Abstract: Institutional analysis is a key building block of Country Environmental Analysis (CEA), an upstream analytic tool that aims to integrate environmental considerations into Country Assistance Strategies (CASs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), Development Policy Lending operations (DPLs), and country level development assistance strategies. In order to develop a systematic approach to undertaking institutional analysis in CEA, a review of available governance tools and instruments used both within and outside the Bank was undertaken. This paper is an outcome of this exercise. Its objective is to learn from available tools, and identify key elements of institutional analysis within CEA. The review shows that there are a wide range of tools used both within and outside the Bank that vary in terms of their objective, scope, type of governance issue addressed, data used, and the context in which they can be used. The paper argues that even though many available tools cannot be used in their present form, they have important lessons to offer for institutional analysis within CEA. In particular, they highlight (i) the complexity of addressing governance issues, requiring analysis of both formal and informal rules and political dynamics underlying management of environmental concerns, (ii) difficulty of developing a standard template for institutional assessments, and (iii) importance of assessing public sector capacity, but also assessing links with private sector and civil society. The review also highlights the
importance of assessing both environmental management capacity at a broad level, and also linked with priority environmental concerns. Finally it emphasizes the importance of assessing capacity for environmental assessments as part of broader institutional assessments. Based on some of these lessons, and drawing upon the World Development Report (WDR) 2003 framework, the paper concludes with an outline of what the key elements for institutional analysis within CEAs should be.


Abstract: This is an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Market-Led Smallholder Development in the Zambezi Valley Project, which increases the income of smallholder farmers in selected districts of the region in central Mozambique. The Global Environment Objective is to limit land degradation and improve the ecosystem’s resilience towards climate change. However, it is expected that some subprojects may result in potential adverse impacts on the biophysical and socioeconomic environments. This framework sets the guidelines to protect the environment in accordance with the country’s regulations and the Bank’s operational directive on the environment. The least productive or degraded uninhabited land will be selected, so as to protect inhabited productive land and assets, while loss of indigenous vegetation and of sensitive habitats will be avoided as much as possible. Moreover, project sites will be selected preferably on level ground to avoid potential soil erosion from steep areas, its lack of vegetation cover, and the adverse impacts from high rainfall. If possible, removal of trees and stream bank vegetation, etc., will be avoided, to be replanted with native species once construction works are ended. Storage areas will be installed for diesel and other fuels, selected in compliance with standard regulations to prevent soil and water pollution. The cumulative solid wastes will be removed, disposed of at selected sites, and covered with topsoil to minimize health risks and air pollution. Regular maintenance and cleaning services will be set regarding sewage removal and latrines, and drainage flows through community action, and health education campaigns will raise awareness about those risks.


Abstract: Renewable energy usage in Africa has been reviewed using South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, and Mali as case studies. The various national energy policies of these countries were analyzed and areas that require attention to achieve sustainability were highlighted. Overall, the success of sustainable development in Africa lies in addressing the imminent energy crisis in the continent. Excessive usage of fuel wood is already creating considerable environmental problems especially in the Sahel. Africa has all the potentials to solve its energy problems if appropriate infrastructural support can be provided for harnessing the abundant renewable resources in the continent, and if skills are pooled together and experiences shared in addressing the key issues.


Abstract: Criticizes World Bank policies which adversely affect people and the environment in developing countries. Human rights abuses, destruction and economic stagnation that resulted from World Bank president Robert S. McNamara’s humanitarian service; Stated goal of the World Bank; Attempts at reform.

Abstract: Discourses surrounding the right to development have paid scant attention to its application to indigenous peoples, particularly in developed countries. This paper argues that the emerging recognition of a right to development for New Zealand’s indigenous people, the Maori, provides lessons of international significance. The New Zealand jurisprudence suggests that the right to development may apply to a wide range of resources, including both resources used traditionally by indigenous peoples and resources not known or used by indigenous peoples in traditional times. If other countries follow this interpretation, rights-based development in both developed and developing countries will be enhanced.


Abstract: This review catalogs approaches to involving children in local agency land use planning processes. Four approaches are defined: scholarly, practice, educational, and rights-based. There is only a weak link between any of these approaches and actual local agency land use planning. However, the rights-based approach is the most holistic of the four. Examining these approaches raised questions. These questions are discussed and lead into the formulation of a new approach that synthesizes components from all of the studied approaches.


Abstract: A cursory attempt to measure the extent of displacement over the past two decades indicates significant increases in conflict-induced displacement and displacement resulting from development projects. At the same time a growing opposition to the latter form of displacement has raised questions over its legitimacy through a variety of media, including public campaigns and protests. This article focuses on some of the challenges that this presents to the displacement and resettlement discourse. In particular it considers the influences of the rights to development agenda on the spatial context of displacement and its associated economic and political changes. There appears to be a disjuncture between the practices of mainstream development, which tend to interpret development policy as it is defined and applied by a nation state and to assess inequalities within clear geographical definitions, and the universality of a rights based approach to development. This article examines these tensions in the context of displacement and resettlement management, drawing on evidence from a case study of the Ilisu dam in South East Anatolia, Turkey.


Abstract: Dworkin’s equality of resources can be interpreted as a proposal that integrates distributive criteria taken from both equality of means and equality of capabilities, and overcomes the risks of subjectivism, over-rigidity and perfectionism inherent in theories of welfare, means and capabilities respectively. This can be achieved by concentrating on arrangements of justice working within the parameter of equality of resources that equalize capabilities at a level of minima, thus avoiding the perfectionist risk, and, once the threshold that ensures autonomous subjects is passed, ruled by criteria taken from theories of means. In such a task, the concept of moral person will be used as the criterion for determining the threshold of autonomy, and not only will it allow for the discrimination between the different circumstances that make the application of distributive criteria possible, but it will also specify the circumstances in which it is possible to attribute responsibility to an agent.