

The Importance of the People over Profits in Development among Breton Artisanal Fishers

Name

Course

Date

Over the past 50 years there has been a concerted effort on the part of dedicated organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to bring about “development” in countries of the Global South. What is meant by “development” varies widely, from large scale economic views that promote capitalist production and trade, to small scale projects that focus on the welfare of people. Each view lays claim to being the best. In this paper, I argue that development must take the actual welfare of people as the primary goal, in opposition to large scale capitalist growth, since the goals of citizens may incorporate many more dimensions than can be addressed through economic endeavours, and, further, it is the welfare of people that is the only legitimate goal of development.

It is important to begin by presenting the contrasting definitions of development that will be used in this paper. The definition of large scale development comes from the closely related perspectives of modernization and growth-oriented development (Miller2010: 281). These understand progress to be based on industrialization and incorporation into capitalist markets as ways to increase a country’s gross domestic product. The benefits are assumed to begin with industrial businesses and expand from there to the poor. The other definition derives from the idea that national wealth should be distributed to all citizens and that “human development” should be supported across a broad range of areas, including education, nutrition, safety and so on (Miller 2010: 282). To decide between these two definitions, I will focus on whether concentrating on the economy does, in fact, ensure that the benefits also accrue to the poor, as well as on whether capitalist economic growth addresses all of the issues that pertain to citizen welfare.

I will pursue this discussion in terms of the specific ethnographic context outlined in Menzies’ (2011) ethnography **Red Flags and Lace Coiffes: Identity and Survival in a Breton Village**. [describe the ethnographic context]

[paragraph one: dealing with idea from modernization definition that benefits will trickle down; provide evidence from Menzies to show this is false]

[paragraph two: dealing with idea from distribution/human growth definition that this approach does distribute resources to the poor; provide evidence from Menzies to show this is true]

[paragraph three: dealing with idea from modernization definition that helping the economy is too narrow; provide evidence from Menzies, probably on the danger to fish reserves, etc. of the costs of this definition; also of loss of cultural identity, etc.]

[paragraph four: dealing with idea from distribution/human growth definition that a focus on a broad range of elements, such as education, health, culture, addresses people's goals better than a single focus on the economy; provide evidence from Menzies to support this.]

[concluding paragraph to sum up and discuss implications of my position]

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED

Menzies, Charles

2011 *Red Flags and Lace Coiffes: Identity and Survival in a Breton Village*. Toronto:

University of Toronto Press.