PITT SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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SUMBER: TEEAL

1. There's more to the picture than meets the eye: measuring tangible and intangible capital in two marginal communities in rural Denmark

Source: Journal of Rural Studies. 2007. 23 (4). 453-471

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Abstract: A missing link in economics has been what Veblen in 1908 termed intangible capital. This includes common norms, trust and high levels of cooperative performance. Intangibles are invisible to the eye and not easily measured in quantitative terms. They nevertheless involve visible, socioeconomic outcomes and should therefore rightly be seen as productive, like tangibles. Thus, uneven levels of intangible capital would explain Differential Economic Performance (DEP) between, say, two firms containing exactly the same stock of physical, economic and human capital. Despite this common sense observation, most economists have failed to see that 'there's more to the picture than meets the eye', as Neil Young once sang. We use statistical, historical and fieldwork data from two Danish, marginal rural communities both rich on intangible capital. This to show how intangible capital in the form of social, organizational and cultural capital is accumulated and utilised in situ, at the microlevel. We suggest that the difference between these two, very similar communities should be explained in their varying ability to utilise local stocks of tangible and intangible capital. Drawing on seminal ideas from Bourdieu [The forms of capital. In: Richardson, J.G. (Ed.) Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education. Greenwood Press, New York, Westport, CT and London, 1986, pp. 241-58] and the DORA project [Bryden, Differential economic performance in rural areas. In: International Conference on Rural Communities and Identities in the Global Millennium. Malpasino University College, Nainamo, BC, Canada, 2000], we want to develop a 'total capital' assessment tool for mapping and measuring socioeconomic development in marginal rural communities. In this way, we hope to count in 'all' capital as Schultz [Investment in human capital. In: Kiker, B.F. (Ed.) Investment in Human Capital. Columbia, 1971, pp. 3-21] prophesised. This in order to explain what we term Differential Local Development (DLD), where 'good', sustainable development is associated with high economic performance and increase in population

Descriptors: capital. less-favoured-areas. rural-communities. ruraldevelopment. Socioeconomics

2. Impact of dairy farming on livelihood of participating women under Grameen Bank in a selected area of Rangpur District in Bangladesh

Source: Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics. 2007. 62 (2). 259-271

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Abstract: This study (i) estimates the costs, returns and profitability of dairy rearing by Grameen Bank women members (n=60) in Rangpur District, Bangladesh; and (ii) assesses the impact of dairy rearing on the livelihoods and socioeconomic status of the participating women and their families. It is argued that the findings of this study are consistent with the notion that a holistic approach of socioeconomic development resulting from participation of households in Grameen Bank leads to increased income, level of employment socioeconomic status and decision-making activities. Thus Grameen Bank is helping the poor rural women to lift themselves above the poverty line

Descriptors: agricultural-credit. banks. costs. dairy-farming. economic-impact. profitability. returns. rural-development. rural-women. socioeconomicstatus. Women

3. Theories of fertility decline and the evidence from development indicators

Source: Population and Development Review. 2007. 33 (1). 101-127

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Abstract: This article discusses the 3 propositions about the relationship between human fertility and socioeconomic development indicators: (1) fertility declines in countries with low scores on development indicators cannot be explained by socioeconomic theories; (2) the relationship between fertility and development indicators is weaker than predicted by socioeconomic theories; and (3) the relationship between fertility and development indicators has shifted because of the diffusion of new ideas. The doubts about the accuracy of the 3 propositions and their implications are raised

Descriptors: economic-development. economic-indicators. human-fertility. social-development. social-indicators. socioeconomic-status. Socioeconomics

4. Strategic developments in natural forest conservation in South Africa

Source: Journal of Sustainable Forestry. 2006. 22 (3-4). 77-109

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Abstract: South Africa has limited indigenous forest resources. These indigenous forests play a significant role in biodiversity conservation and socioeconomic development, although these values have never been fully accounted for. The general scarcity of natural forest cover defines the long history of forest biodiversity conservation that commenced as a proclamation in 1658. Subsequent proclamations and laws addressed the same issue until it was obvious that natural forests could not be managed sustainably to meet environmental, timber, and fuelwood needs that laws favoring the establishment of plantations were passed. Today, more sophisticated policies and laws which are anchored in South Africa's constitution and the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) have evolved to conserve the same resources. However, successful implementation of these natural resource conservation laws is weakened by the lack of institutional capacity within the Forestry Function in the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF). Furthermore, lack of capacity limits intersectoral and intergovernmental coordination which is essential for optimizing strategic synergies for natural resource conservation. Opportunities for overturning these constraints on indigenous forest conservation are provided

Descriptors: biodiversity. forest-management. forest-policy. forest-resources. forests. natural-resources. resource-conservation. Sustainability

5. Income inequality, unequal health care access, and mortality in China

Source: Population and Development Review. 2006. 32 (3). 461-483

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Abstract: This article describes the health and mortality consequences of the collapse of the former Cooperative Medical System and Labor Insurance Scheme, and the increasing disparity in the distribution of income and wealth in China. The mortality differentials among regions at different levels of socioeconomic development, and their relationship with the increasing inequality in income distribution and access to health services are discussed

Descriptors: access. disparity. health. health-care. health-insurance. healthservices. income. income-distribution. mortality. poverty. socioeconomic-status

6. Corporations and the state in the global era: the case of Seaboard Farms and Texas

Source: Rural Sociology. 2006. 71 (1). 59-84

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Abstract: Employing the case of the expansion and regulation of pig confined animal feeding operations (CAFO) in Texas (USA) combined with the actions of the transnational agri-food corporation Seaboard Farms, Inc., this paper probes the relationship between the state and corporations in the global era. It specifically investigates the ability of the state to control agri-food corporations in a context in which the hyper-mobility of capital has increasingly allowed corporations to by-pass state regulations and requirements. Salient literature is reviewed by grouping it into three camps: the first views the state as largely controlled by corporations; the second stresses the powers left to the state and the fact that corporations need state assistance to successfully operate in the current global economy; and the third acknowledges the crisis of the nation-state under globalization but maintains that the state has retained some ability to resist globalization forces. The case study documents the expansion of Seaboard Farms' pig operations in the Panhandle Region of Texas and nearby states and its interaction with local and state governments and agencies. The article indicates that the relationship between transnational corporations and the state is contradictory. Its source rests on the fracture between varying postures maintained by the state and the relatively homogeneous behaviour of the CAFO corporations. The case also reveals that the state's limited control of corporate actions is facilitated by state strategies; that corporate actions are successful if corporations enlist the cooperation of the state; and that the state is able to control resistance and legitimize its actions to its constituencies. These conditions, however, do not prevent the emergence of anticorporate resistance at local and state levels. In the search for new forms of socioeconomic development, it is argued that local residents and their leaders should be aware of corporations' ability to affect state action, state postures that favour corporate designs, and the fact that successful opposition to corporate designs can be, and is, carried out

Descriptors: case-studies. globalization. government. multinationalcorporations. pig-farming. political-power. regulations. Reviews