
EDITORIAL

THIS ISSUE CONTAINS three articles dealing with globalization. Augustus Nuwagaba offers a detailed account of the consequences of globalization in Uganda, particularly in relation to poverty. He shows how there cannot be equality of trade between unequal partners, one poor and weak, the other rich and powerful. Globalization, he believes, is an unstoppable force but governments can put in place mechanisms to soften some of the worst effects of this process. John Akokpari shows that the biggest problem facing Africa is indebtedness to international money-lending institutions. The debt crisis is the result factors that are both internal and external to African countries. Sceptical of the good faith underlying the various external initiatives to provide debt relief to poor countries, he believes nevertheless, that African governments have to play their part in poverty alleviation.

Kolawole Owolabi examines the conceptual foundations of liberalism, which is, he says, the political philosophy underpinning globalization. Liberalism consists of a set of misleading ideas. These are on the face of it so attractive, both as moral philosophy and as practical prescription, that countries all over the world have seduced by them. Yet the attractiveness of liberalism is misleading. It conceals the will to world-domination by western powers. The fault lies in the naked egoism embedded in liberalism which has led to the catastrophic consequences of globalization for the developing world. Owolabi believes that liberalism can be reformed if this egotism is replaced with a form of communitarianism based on a recognition of the common good. It is only when virtue replaces self-interest that liberalism will become what it seems.

Edlyne Anugwom continues with his exploration of the military in Nigeria, arguing that ethnicity and the power of the military has threatened nascent democracy and civilian rule. Institutionalized structures in Nigeria reinforce ethnic divisions within the army and civil society, thus enabling the army to play on those very same ethnic

divisions to keep in power. Mechanisms must be adopted to reduce the emphasis on ethnicity and the power of the military.

Two articles deal with education. One by Aaron Sigauke describes the work of the Adult Literacy organization of Zimbabwe and the successes and obstacles towards increasing adult literacy. The other, by Peter Ateykerenza, analyses the multiple sociocultural obstacles to the education of girls and women in Uganda. A combination of traditional cultural practices and the exigencies of contemporary life militate against the education of women.

Tirelo Modie-Moroka and Marie-Antoinette Sossou present an article on the treatment of women prisoners in Botswana. They describe some of the psychological, physical and economic hardships women suffer both inside and outside prison. The situation of poor women, they argue, is compounded by their traditionally low status in the patriarchy combined with their economic circumstances in the modern world and a failure to recognize the specific problems they face as women. The authors offer a wealth of ways in which women could be rehabilitated while in prison, on order to resume a law-abiding life on release.

This sensitive critique of patriarchal thinking and practice may prove a keystone for further reflection on the many ways in which African women suffer discrimination, and the social ills that this breeds, not just among women and their children, but among men as well. Improving the situation of women is not merely a moral aim but one of the few that may improve the well-being of African societies as a whole.

The editor would like to point out that this issue includes a table of contents of all articles published in this Journal the last two years. A cumulative table of contents for the whole 16 years of publication is available.