
EDITORIAL

The articles in this issue represent a spread of topics from four countries. The topics cover health, health education in schools, work, orphans and community participation, as well as the effects of globalization and the role of civil society in the democratization process.

The article on health by Nyamukapa et al. is based on a household survey in a largely rural district of Zimbabwe, Manicaland. The study attempts to map the developmental impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the domestic circumstances of orphans, including the demographic characteristics of their residence and their access to education. Policymakers and community workers need to know precisely how AIDS orphans are affected so that suitable and sustainable interventionist strategies can be put in place. The authors point to the analytical importance of factors such as the age of the child when a parent becomes ill or dies, the duration of the parent(s) illness and the order in which father and mother may die. All these features have a different impact on the care and educational opportunities subsequently available to the child.

The analysis found, among other things, that as far as education is concerned, there appears to be no gender difference in the access to primary school of boys and girls, orphaned or not, of children aged 5 to 7. In the older age groups, however, girls are more likely to have completed primary school than boys. It is a surprise to find that maternal death has a stronger effect on an older child's chances of completing primary school than paternal death. However, the greater the number of years it is since the mother died, say the authors, the smaller is the chance that the young man or woman will have completed school. In their conclusion the authors make the methodological point that the effects on a child of losing one or both parents are progressive and intensify over time. To isolate the progressive impact of orphanhood, therefore, data must be stratified on different aspects of the child's well-being and the length of time since the parent(s) died.

A short article by Kiboss and Kibitok examines the re-emergence of TB in Mombasa District, Kenya, especially among economically-

productive men. They surmise that men are affected because they live and work in crowded, unsanitary conditions characterized by poverty. The authors find that 70% of their sample knew that TB is caused by "germs"; that over 60% sought help in private medical institutions and that nearly half had been directed to these facilities by a private practitioner. They end by pointing out that more work needs to be done in educating the public on this important health issue.

Samuel Adu-Mireku analyses the application of a school health education programme in Ghana. This far-reaching programme was established in Ghana in 1992 to promote health education of children and adolescents as a way not only of educating the target audience itself, for their own current and future needs, but as a way of educating parents and other family members and the community at large through the children.

Although the programme has been in existence for a decade evaluation studies to show the effectiveness of this programme have not been done in Ghana or elsewhere in sub Saharan Africa. The author used a questionnaire to obtain data concerning the implementation of the programme by district co-ordinators at district level. He found that most co-ordinators reported that most schools covered most topics, particularly the key topics of HIV prevention, personal hygiene, substance abuse and pregnancy prevention. The personal hygiene component was best covered and the consumer health topic least well, although more than 50% of schools covered this topic. When it came to establishing the extent of feed-back and evaluation of the programmes from students and families concerned, however, a less satisfactory situation emerges. Only a small percentage of the co-ordinators have conducted either a formal or an informal evaluation of the programme in their district. As a result, little is known about the effectiveness of the programme or the extent to which it meet the needs of the target audience. The author recommends a number of strategies for improving programme performance and establishing feedback and evaluation loops from the target audience back to the policymakers.

Another article from Ghana uses a participant observation approach to examine the job-seeking activities of young women who leave their

impoverished northern rural homes and come down to the big city to seek work. Some of these women become head porters of goods and luggage for women shopping in the markets and elsewhere. They cannot afford to buy push carts and gender stereotypes in any case forbid this, and they lack the educational resources to do other kinds of work. James Opare analyses their demographic characteristics and vulnerabilities in a range of different spheres; from exploitation by other women and relatives as well as sexual abuse by "friendly" men. He suggests that, as these women are not likely to stop trying to earn a wage in this way, they should be taken on by civil society organizations and provided with dormitory accommodation and some form of training.

Mbuagbo and Fru sketch some of the problems facing civil society organizations in Cameroon in the face of undemocratic practices by powerful élites, the control of the media and communication by the state and the parochialism of Cameroonians themselves which makes them an easy target and willing accomplices in the game of divide and rule. The authors sketch the extent of fragmentation and competition in civil society and comment on the inability of civil society organizations to transcend these divisions. The authors point to the possible lead that the Catholic Church can give to heal these divisions in civil society. As a universalizing authority committed to upholding the rule of law and morality the Church can show the way to a social activism that will empower civil society organization so they may institute a grassroots-up democracy that can ultimately resist state control

Rono and Aboud take up the theme of community in a rural district in Kenya. Although many community development projects have been funded in Kenya the standard of living in areas such as Nandi is declining and the rural development projects are not succeeding in their aims. Community participation, particularly the contribution of free labour, plays a large part in development projects. The poor performance of these projects may be partly the result of a poor work ethic in the community.

Based on a sample of 25 projects, the authors find that low levels of productivity are due to low participation in these projects and that the work ethic in the District is also low. This impinges on the success of

community projects and consequently on community development as a whole. The authors suggest that rural communities should be supported in terms of capacity building and training. In the current and foreseeable economic climate, rural people must be empowered to take the initiative and work together to develop their own communities. They need to be involved in the development process from the inception and throughout, at all levels of management.

In his wide-ranging discussion on the effect of globalization, Gary Craig argues that economic globalization is rapidly eroding any developmental gains that small and southern states may have made in the last few decades. Free market and free-trade policies, but also structural adjustment is taking place throughout, in a world unmediated by principles of justice. One casualty of these developments is the notion of the community. This notion, argues Craig, is expropriated by powerful agencies that are destroying communities and their livelihoods as the very same time as they are pretending to develop them. Thus undermined and impoverished, local economies and welfare structures and services are incapacitated.

Another consequence of the impoverishment and disempowerment of local communities is the therefore the large-scale economic and political migration from poor countries to the rich northern ones. Migrants, both legal and illegal, crossing national borders at an exponential rate are being subject to growing racism and discrimination. International migration will become the most significant demographic characteristic of our century: unjust and exploitative practices must therefore be tackled now, before it is too late. Craig shows the functions of racism in northern societies and suggests ways that community development, based on principles of social justice and modelled on community activism, can map a way forward.

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