

Editorial

Security and social development, protection and production, are but two sides of the same coin. A community's security and self-identity can be enhanced by appropriate forms of increasing production, and on the other hand mere growth without equity will almost certainly increase problems of welfare and security. Thus there should be no conflict or difficulty in examining themes of economic and social security within the context of social development. The proof of this assertion is in part demonstrated by the mix of articles presented in this issue of the journal.

The first article by Kaseke, "Social Security in Zimbabwe", offers an overview of the development, provision and possible future of statutory welfare provisions within a newly independent African country. The author concludes that a specific administrative structure needs to be set up to cater for the 'casualties' of the development process: it could also be argued that a comprehensive social security scheme will enhance the growth and development of the country as a whole. Kaseke presumes that this coverage can best be attained through a mix of social insurance types of social security, administered against a backdrop of land reform and greater rural development; if this is done, then the very schemes of protection and assistance will also be causal agents of greater and more equitable development.

In the following article by Jackson and Mupedziswa, "Disability and Rehabilitation: Beliefs and Attitudes Among Rural Disabled People on a Community Based Rehabilitation Scheme in Zimbabwe", the authors show how rural disabled within Zimbabwe could well be considered as 'casualties' of the development process, and offer an assessment of a Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programme designed to counteract these and provide assistance in welfare through integration. The article focuses on the particular issue of cultural and religious beliefs and the effects such beliefs have on medical and community based intervention. Their conclusions, albeit tentative and needing confirmation, nevertheless paint a fairly optimistic picture of the potential uptake of rehabilitation services in rural areas, should they be provided.

The article by Holm and Cohen, "Enhancing Equity in the Midst of Drought: the Botswana Approach", is interested in the development of what the authors refer to as a 'veritable welfare state'. The growth and development

of a unique social security model from the unlikely origins of a drought relief programme is praised by the authors for its ability to maintain equity under conditions of drought. The Botswana experience could be an example to be followed by other African countries.

A more regional, and indeed global, approach is adopted by the two other papers, one by Bloom entitled "Social Science in Africa: Problems and Prospects" and the other by Jackson, "Approaches to Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities: A Review". In the former, the author argues that the role of social scientists is misconstrued if they are seen as, or in fact become, agents of the current political and/or administrative process, but in fact they have a moral duty to 'speak the truth' on the harm and the welfare that policies and programmes may bring. In the latter paper it is argued that community based rehabilitation is, in spite of many problems, a successful strategy in reducing or eliminating the marginalisation of the disabled, especially for developing countries where institutional services may be very few and with no possibility of funds for expansion.

Finally, with this issue marking the third year of publication, a welcome innovation: a reply to a previous article. Karner argues that the Burki paper, "The African Food Crisis: Looking Beyond the Emergency" (Vol 1 No 2) promotes a model of development, and of food production in particular, that is inappropriate for Africa. In its place Karner puts forward a description of a decentralised, ecologically-oriented agricultural development. This journal hopes that debates on issues relating to social development can be conducted through its pages and looks forward to further 'Replies'.