

Mainstreaming Social Policy in National Development Strategies

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Outline

- What is Social Policy?
- Social Policy is Integral to National Development
- Approaches to Social Policy
- Has Social Policy Been Mainstreamed into National Development Strategies?
- Main Challenges to Mainstreaming Social Policy into National Development Strategies
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Introduction

- *What is Social Policy?*

1. Definition: state intervention that directly affects social welfare, social institutions and social relations. It's typically defined as social services such as education, health, as well as protection, redistribution, and social justice.
2. Function: regulate and supplement market institutions; secure political support; promote positive economic outcomes.

Social Policy is Integral to National Development

World Summit for Social Development (1995)

- Economic development, social development and environmental protection are inter-dependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development.
- Priorities should be eradication of poverty, creation of productive employment and social integration.
- A framework for action is in need.
- Quotation of the Commitment

24th Special Session of the General Assembly (2000)

- Reviewed progress achieved and identified further actions
- Highlighted the positive impact of effective social policies
- Decided to enhance positive interaction among environmental, economic and social policies

Millennium Summit (2000)

- International commitments to core values of freedom, equality, solidarity and peace
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

World Summit (2005)

- Further reaffirmed international commitments
- National Development Strategies

2002 Session of Commission for Social Development

- Emphasized the interdependence between social and economic policies
- “Broaden the scope of sound macroeconomic policy to integrate social and economic policy”
- “Social impact analysis and assessments are useful tools to promote a more participatory and people-centered process of policy-making as well as a way to provide a social perspective for policy conceptualization and analysis”
- Promote “strategies that favor sustainable and stable economic growth benefiting all”

Approaches to Social Policy

- The Trickle Down Doctrine—social development as the outcome of economic growth
- However, economic growth is not enough to ensure social development—the case of high growth countries and Sub-Saharan Africa prior to the current crises

Approaches to Social Policy

- Universalism vs. Targeting
- Sector Policy vs. Integrated Social Policy

Has Social Policy Been Mainstreamed into National Development Strategies?

- Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) have become the primary form of national development strategy for low income developing countries.
- As of September 2009, 63 countries had prepared PRSPs, and three more had produced interim strategies.

- PRSPs are not delivering on their potential for social development.

1. Employment (WB and IMF)

2. Health (WHO)

3. Education (UNESCO)

Main Challenges to Mainstreaming Social Policy into National Development Strategies

- Reality Challenge

Economic growth preconditions the scope and effectiveness of social policies in terms of resource constraints.

- Awareness Challenge

Common perception believes that social policy is primarily geared towards protecting the vulnerably and marginalized populations in society, whereas the current global financial crisis generated a new momentum in support of public sector intervention.

- Coherence Challenge

Macroeconomic policies, international trade and finance rules and regulations may not always be consistent with social policy objectives

- Implementation Challenge

1. How to integrate social objectives and social policy into national development strategies?
2. What are some of the pragmatic approaches and practical measures?
3. What lessons can we learn from good practices as well as failures at the national level?

Concluding Remarks

- Mainstreaming social policy in national development strategies is an imperative – political commitment and development necessity
- There remain challenges, both conceptual and practical, to implementation

- Constructive lessons can be learned from past experiences—good practices as well as failures:
 - An entry point for mainstreaming social policy is labour market and employment: a natural intersection of social and economic policies. Employment is critical to poverty eradication. Growth with employment/decent work, inclusive social policy form a virtuous circle

- Disaggregated data collection is a starting point of socially inclusive National Development Strategy
- Social policy should be universalist in principle and spirits, practiced with prioritization based on a balance between short-term quick-impact initiatives and long-term developmental objectives

- Targeting social groups vs. targeting poor people at the individual/household level
- Participatory process and sustainability of social policy

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Thank you