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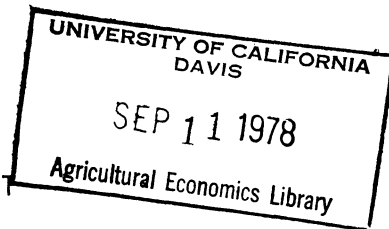
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ETHICAL ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

An outline prepared

by

James R. Simpson*

"...human beings, primitive or civilized, educated or uneducated, plodding or brilliant, simply cannot escape from philosophy. Philosophy is everybody's business." (Corliss Lamont, The Philosophy of Humanism).

"Analytic effort is of necessity preceded by a preanalytic cognitive act that supplies the raw material for the analytic effort This preanalytic cognitive act will be called vision." (Joseph Schumpeter, History of Economic Analysis).

Following are some statements which are offered as partial evidence for the conclusion that agricultural economists working in rural or international development should be cognizant that constraints imposed on research work by agricultural economists will continue to embody more and more ethical considerations.

- The "energy crisis", a drastic dwindling of food reserves a short time ago, the accelerated depletion of many scarce resources, and rapid population growth all indicate that in the decade ahead there will be serious questions raised about distribution of income and end use/benefit of scarce resources at the world level.
- As we in the United States begin to wrestle with emerging questions such as who owns technological advances, the developing countries are increasingly

*Associate Professor, Food and Resource Economics Department,
University of Florida.

vocal in their demands for, and right to, a large portion of resources and the benefits of technological development.

- It now appears that, to a greater extent than ever, decisions about development and resource use will be made in a non-market context.
- The time has come to challenge the "blind confidence" in neoclassical economics by recognizing that economics, while relatively value free, needs to incorporate ethical considerations in development paradigms.
- International development requires a vision (a la Schumpeter) of the concept "being developed". When such a vision is set forth, constraints can be identified.
- The agricultural economist has much to offer decision makers in non-market, non-quantifiable socially set goals because of an analytical background with a positivistic orientation which is combined with seeking alternatives.
- Participating in identifying ethical oriented (social) constraints does not mean that the economist is making value judgements; rather, it means that the economist is assisting in identifying alternatives.
- Economists working in development issues need to learn how to handle at least the basics of philosophical theory.
- The key issues are ethical/political/economic in nature. How can economists not attempt to work within the milieu if they are to remain relevant?

A Partial List of Ethical Issues in International Development of Concern to Agricultural Economists

Issues between developed and developing countries

1. The rise of ever greater affluence (along with the failure to eliminate poverty) in the developed countries while massive poverty exists in most LDC's.

2. Imminent scarcity of many natural resources, focusing on the flow of resources from LDC's to DC's.
3. The right of one person or country to influence another country's norms and values.
4. The question of whether multinational development aid should be given primarily to those countries best prepared to use it (in terms of a benefit/cost ration) or whether other criteria should be employed.
5. The amount of technical and financial resource flows to LDC's
6. The role and obligation of multinational corporations.
7. Periodic shortages of food at the world level.
8. "Trade not aid," concept in trade concessions.

Issues Fundamentally Related to LDC's

1. The extent and rate to which special efforts should be made to achieve income redistribution.
2. Right to form cartels for export products.
3. Proper mixture of popular participation in decision making.
4. Form of political-economic system to adopt.

Issues Mainly Relating to a Worldwide Development Strategy

1. Worldwide austerity as a development philosophy.
2. Brain drain to the more advanced countries.
3. Creation of a world technological expertise pool.
4. Dissolution of international borders.
5. A worldwide development plan.
6. Worldwide concern with ecology and use of certain resources such as the sea.

7. Creation of a "no growth" society or "steady state" economy.
8. Population control.
9. Use of labor intensive techniques versus introduction of greater mechanization.
10. Quality of food and life versus efficiency, e.g. "hard tomatoes, hard times," or maximizing use of labor versus capital.