



Social Justice & Economics

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Abstract:

National economic growth is a simple and complex process. When the majority of indicators show a positive increase, we usually think that the national economy has developed. Then, there is a complex relationship behind this growth. There is a relationship between economic, social, political, cultural, and ecological values, including conflict, symbiosis, infiltration, influence, restriction, or mutual causality. This relationship changes dynamically, making it difficult to discern what factors drive economic growth and what value is sacrificed to achieve it. To solve these doubts, we need to extract and contrast a set of concepts. This paper chooses economic growth and social justice to explore the relationship between economic value and non-economic value in the process of national development, so as to try to put forward the economic development policy which can realize the symbiosis of multiple values.

Introduction:

Social justice is concerned with equal rights in general for people of all social dimensions. The idea behind social justice is that all people should have equal access to wealth, health, well-being, justice, privileges, and opportunity—regardless of their legal, political, economic, or other circumstances. One definition of justice is “giving to each what he or she is due.” The problem is knowing what is “due”. Functionally, “justice” is a set of universal principles which guide people in judging what is right and what is wrong, no matter what culture and society they live in. Justice is one of the four “cardinal virtues” of classical moral philosophy, along with courage,

temperance (self-control) and prudence (efficiency). (Faith, hope and charity are considered to be the three “religious” virtues.) Virtues or “good habits” help individuals to develop fully their human potentials, thus enabling them to serve their own self-interests as well as work in harmony with others for their common good. The ultimate purpose of all the virtues is to elevate the dignity and sovereignty of the human person.

Distinguishing Justice From Charity:

While often confused, justice is distinct from the virtue of charity. Charity, derived from the Latin word *caritas*, or “divine love,” is the soul of justice. Justice

supplies the material foundation for charity.

While justice deals with the substance and rules for guiding ordinary, everyday human interactions, charity deals with the spirit of human interactions and with those exceptional cases where strict application of the rules is not appropriate or sufficient. Charity offers expedients during times of hardship. Charity compels us to give to relieve the suffering of a person in need. The highest aim of charity is the same as the highest aim of justice: to elevate each person to where he does not need charity but can afford to become charitable himself.

True charity involves giving without any expectation of return. But it is not a substitute for justice.

Defining Social Justice:

Social justice encompasses economic justice. Social justice is the virtue which guides us in creating those organized human interactions we call institutions. In turn, social institutions, when justly organized, provide us with access to what is good for the person, both individually and in our associations with others. Social justice also imposes on each of us a personal responsibility to collaborate with others, at whatever level of the “Common Good” in which we participate, to design and continually perfect our institutions as tools for personal and social development.

Defining Economic Justice:

Economic justice, which touches the individual person as well as the social order, encompasses the moral principles which guide us in designing our economic institutions. These institutions determine how each person earns a living, enters into contracts, exchanges goods and services with others and otherwise produces an independent material foundation for his or her economic sustenance. The ultimate purpose of economic justice is to free each person to engage creatively in the unlimited work beyond economics, that of the mind and the spirit.

The Three Principles of Economic Justice:

Like every system, economic justice involves input, out-take, and feedback for restoring harmony or balance between input and out-take. Within the system of economic justice as defined by Louis Kelso and Mortimer Adler, there are three essential and interdependent principles: Participative Justice (the input principle), Distributive Justice (the out-take principle), and Social Justice (the feedback and corrective principle). Like the legs of a three-legged stool, if any of these principles is weakened or missing, the system of economic justice will collapse.

The International Forum for Social Development was a three-year project undertaken by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs between November 2001 and November 2004 for the purpose of

promoting international cooperation for social development and supporting developing countries and social groups not benefiting from the globalization process. “Open Societies, Open Economies: Challenges and Opportunities” represented the overall theme of the project, which was financed through extrabudgetary contributions and carried out within the framework of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995, and of subsequent major international gatherings, including the Millennium Summit and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, held in New York and Geneva, respectively, in 2000. Four meetings of the Forum were held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as follows:

- Financing Global Social Development, 7-8 February 2002
- Cooperation for Social Development: The International Dimension, 16-17 October 2002
- International Migrants and Development, 7-8 October 2003
- Equity, Inequalities and Interdependence, 5-6 October 2004

These meetings brought together invitees from different regions and different walks of life for seminars followed by open and informal debate with representatives from United Nations Member States and non-

governmental organizations. Findings were presented orally at the annual sessions of the Commission for Social Development, and reports or summaries were issued. The present publication seeks to provide an overview and interpretation of the discussions and debates that occurred at these four meetings from the broad perspective of distributive justice. During the year this work was under preparation, the United Nations reviewed the commitments made ten years ago in Copenhagen to promote social development and in Beijing to pursue equality between men and women. In the light of the evolution of the Organization’s mandates and priorities, however, considerably greater attention was given to the review of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and to the assessment of the progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The 2005 World Summit, which produced the largest gathering of world leaders in history, was held by the General Assembly in New York from 14 to 16 September and focused on development, security and human rights, as well as on United Nations reforms proposed Social Justice in an Open World: The Role of the United Nations viii by the Secretary-General.¹ It is hoped that the analyses and observations presented here will contribute to the continuing debate on these important issues.

DESA:

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is

a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas:

(i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and to take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint course of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities Economic justice is the idea that the economy will be more successful if it is fairer. The goal is to create opportunities for all to succeed regardless of sex, race, age, disability, color, creed, national origin, religion, or genetic information. The main principles of economic justice include universal basic income, income equality by gender and race, and equal opportunity for employment and credit During 2006 to 2016, a panel link between social justice

and economic growth is explored by performing the comparative analysis of G20 countries. The relationship between social justice and economic growth is exhibited as a U-shaped function. Economic growth is a quadratic equation of social justice. In addition, the path of economic growth is developed from “Double low”, “Justice leading” to “Double high”. Through case studies, public policy should serve the more balanced structure of social justice.

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