

Gerhard Wurzbacher (Ed.), Störfaktoren der Entwicklungspolitik. Empirische Materialien zur Entwicklungsländerforschung. Stuttgart, Ferdinand Enke Verlag, 1975, 259 pages, DM 27.-

The nine contributions to this volume are a good example of the standards that academic enquiries into the development of the Third World have reached in Germany where this profession had to start from scratch after the Second World War and was only gaining momentum in the early sixties.

The book is introduced by a short article from the editor (pp.1-14) on "Disturbing Factors of Development Policies and Research" in which the following three fields are analyzed: a) Uncritical comparisons of industrialized and underdeveloped societies; b) the corresponding short-sighted expectations and development policies which lead to undue disenchantment and overreaction mainly because c) we have not developed a coordinated interaction between the various institutions of the world of enquiries and the world of day-to-day action.

That social scientists do indeed have something to offer if only their advice is asked for, is proved by chapters two and three of the study. Friedrich Heckmann (pp.15-35) analyzes subjective and objective factors influencing the performance of German Peace Corps Volunteers; Winfried Nacken (pp.36-83) evaluates a German Government programme for an effective reintegration of Turkish workers after their return to their own cultural environment; Badal Sen Gupta (pp.84-131) presents his results of a case-study on the functioning of development programmes in villages in Bihar and Mysore; Siegfried Schönherr (pp.132-182) gives an account of the patterns of power and dominance in the same area; and Horst Beyer (pp.183-212) correlates the structure of the educational system with professional underdevelopment in present India.

How the analytical knowledge displayed in these five contributions can be transformed into practical generalizations and guidelines to be used in administrative routine, is of course a question that is left open. Gerhard Wurzbacher has to admit in his introduction that social scientists have not yet developed instruments that would permit a quick feed-back of evaluative checks into a development programme actually running.

Still, some hints are given in the last chapter. After an analysis of the developmental functions of literacy campaigns in the Third World by Hanno Schindele (pp.213-228), and a justification of the standardized research instruments used by Schönherr and Sen Gupta in their village surveys (pp.229-241), Siegfried Schönherr reports about his involvement in an action-research programme in Kenya which is supposed to achieve a quicker diffusion of agricultural innovations than the traditional extension approach (pp.242-254). Whether this type of "action-research" can indeed be used as an instrument for better project monitoring and evalua-

tion remains to be seen. To me it seems as if the hiatus between the different performance standards and gratification systems of academics and professionals still remains open.

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