Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research

international, movement-driven institution focused on stimulating intellectual debate that serves people’s aspirations.

Revolutions Are Not the Train Ride, but the Human Race Grabbing for the Emergency Brake: The Twenty-Ninth Newsletter (2019).

celina · Thursday, July 18th, 2019
Over the course of the past decades, international organisations and scholars have tried to sharpen our understanding of poverty. Ten important factors are looked at to develop the indicator:

1. Housing
2. Sanitation
3. Drinking water
4. Electricity
5. Cooking fuel
6. School attendance
7. Years of schooling
8. Nutrition
9. Assets
10. Calorie intake

Impossible to deny the reality of poverty in our world. Studies of the data on income and wealth routinely show that inequality has increased mainly because the wealthiest individuals have become wealthier, both in absolute terms and relative to the rest of the population. They have the wealthy become wealthier, but they have moved large parts of their wealth to tax havens. The Tax Justice Network argues that the total amount of wealth hidden in tax havens is $32 trillion – an amount that is four and a half times the total value of gold that has been mined and is in circulation anywhere in the world.

Hernando de Soto in The Other Path: The Invisible Revolution in the Underdeveloped World points out that the solution to endemic poverty is to let the poor have land titles to their homes in the slums. Yet, as the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Olivier De Schutter argues, ‘multi-dimensionally poor’ people have the right to communal property and to autonomous control of their lands.

Elise Driggs in her article “Corporate Suckers” in The New Intellectual argues that the solution to poverty is not to focus on philanthropy and not on taxation. Democratic control of wealth is set aside. Instead, some redistribute a small amount of the billions of dollars that some are worth to improve the lives of the poor.

If a person is deprived of at least a third of these factors, then they are considered to be poor. Last week, the UNDP and the Oxford Initiative published their latest MPI report on multi-dimensionally poor people. They show that 1.3 billion people are ‘multi-dimensionally poor’. About half of these 1.3 billion people – 663 million – are denied education, health care, and living standards. Ten important factors are looked at to develop the indicator:

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It is not enough to see poverty as the absence of wealth. It is the absence of education, health, and living standards. Calorie intake of fats and proteins is not a sufficient indicator of wealth – it is not even a good measure of nutrition, because they do not measure the intake of fats and proteins.

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the desk of the coordinator of our office in Buenos Aires, Jose Seoane, who spoke with Denis Rogatyuk about our project. You can watch the interview here.

Zainul Abedin

PS: the coordinator of our office in Buenos Aires, Jose Seoane, spoke with Denis Rogatyuk about our project.