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A Pathmaking Journal



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BOOK REVIEW:

Michal Apollo and Pahlaj Moolio, eds. (2021)

Poverty and Development: Problems and Prospects.

Bristol: Channel View Publications.

9781845418465, 280 pp.

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Poverty and Development: Problems and Prospects, edited by Michal Apollo and Pahlaj Moolio, provides a much-needed contemporary and multidisciplinary focus on poverty and development. As identified in the preface to the book, poverty and development are multidimensional and complex concepts. Indeed, as the authors note, “following the rules of sustainable development to fight against poverty is not easy”. This, therefore, necessitates research which focuses on “current problems and foresee future ones”. As such, this book carefully draws on both empirical and conceptual work that enables the reader to comprehend the importance of this topic, particularly within the context of sustainability and tourism. A range of themes are explored which take an economic, social, and environmental perspective. The book draws attention to how human behaviour is dramatically changing our environment. It illustrates the impact of global warming and climate change on human welfare, offers an analysis of public discourse on immigration, and highlights how overconsumption is affecting sustainable development. Furthermore, and in my view a major contribution of this book, is how it explores these themes in the context of tourism, offering an important critique and illustrative perspective of poverty and development

from a tourism point of view. This book successfully explores and engages in contemporary debate around poverty and development. Contributions are sought from a variety of perspectives and, as such, the book provides novel illustrations and a critical appreciation of poverty and development.

The book is presented in two parts, with a total of 15 chapters from authors who are drawn from a range of academic disciplines, including economics, geography, nutritional science, sociology, agricultural, and tourism. The first part of the book explores poverty and development from a global perspective, whilst the second part presents local perspectives. To single out particular chapters in such a collection of high-quality contributions might seem unfair. However, of particular interest is Urszula Sliwka's chapter: 'Nutrition Insecurity in a Developed World: Challenges for Health Promotion and Further Directions for Sustainable Development'. This chapter (Chapter 4) explores how overconsumption alongside poor nutrient intake can result in nutritional deficiencies. The chapter is of particular interest as it explores how nutritional deficiencies affect not only the Global South but also the Global North. Chapters 5 to 7 specifically focus on poverty and development in the context of tourism. Major themes explored include a contemporary review of the negative impacts of tourism on the economy, society, and the environment (Chapter 5), slow tourism (Chapter 6), and Agritourism and Ecotourism (Chapter 7).

The second part of the book contains seven chapters that focus on a range of contemporary case studies. A wide range of different contexts and discourses are examined and draw attention to specific cases of poverty and development with the aim of broadening awareness of these issues. Case studies are drawn from Vietnam (Chapters 9 and 15), Romania (Chapter 10), Bangladesh (Chapter 11), Nigeria (Chapters 12 and 13), and Cuba (Chapter 14) and offer an insightful and thought-provoking analysis of a range of themes including agriculture, sustainable consumption, urbanism, housing, education, and water pollution. Each case study critically explores these issues, offering a contemporary analysis, yet also looks ahead at future perspectives. As such, a research agenda can be formed which provides a clear focal point in exploring these issues further.

The authors should be congratulated for a timely and important volume. The originality of *Poverty and Development: Problems and Prospects* lies in its contribution to current debate, drawing attention to the importance of understanding

poverty and development in the context of sustainability and tourism. This is a well-constructed, theoretically based volume, with a range of illustrative case studies and contributions of a multidisciplinary nature. It has an international approach and, with contributions that include a range of contemporary examples, results in an accessible and insightful volume. The diversity of the perspectives, both global and local, provides a basis for further discussion and future research on poverty and development. This book is thoroughly recommended for anyone with a scholarly or professional interest in poverty, development, sustainability, and tourism. It offers a depth of theoretical and practitioner concern that is difficult and not always successfully achieved. The volume has the necessary breadth and depth of coverage and contemporary focus, with insightful discussions and conclusions, ensuring it will meet the needs of academics, practitioners, and students in a refreshing and dynamic manner.