



Pat-MedMUNC III ECOSOC

Industrial Development in Third World Countries

In the 17th and 18th century, a global phenomenon known as the Industrial Revolution occurred. It forever changed the economy of the world, revolutionized the way products are produced and consumed, and paved the way for immense social and cultural changes. In many nations, the effects of industrialization are evident, as the present is quite different from the past. However, in many third world countries, industrialization has not occurred. If it has occurred, it is minimal at best.

To understand the topic, let us discuss the relation between industrialization and third world countries. Industrialization is often characterized by the emergence of an interconnected economy; agriculture and the exploitation of natural resources, manufacturing, and the emergence of service businesses all depend upon each other. For industrialization to occur in a country, it needs modern machinery, a large workforce, and a great energy supply. Third world countries have virtually few resources to be able to pull off industrialization. They do have potential, but they must face many obstacles for success in industrialization.

History has proven that industrialization can benefit a country tremendously. The average income and population of a country shows extraordinary sustained growth. The science going towards industrialization helps facilitate work. Industrialization promotes the creation of innovative products, innovation in transportation and communication, increase in jobs, and leads to an advancement of a certain aspect of society. However, the disadvantages of industrialization often equal or outweigh the benefits. There is a direct relation between industrialization and pollution. The gap between the rich and the poor widens. The extravagant exploitation of natural resources threatens future generations. Most importantly, it prompts questioning on its effect on human rights, as evident through gender division, poor working conditions, and its detrimental effects on health.

ECOSOC is in charge of coordinating the activities of UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization). UNIDO has established their main mission statement as: "UNIDO aspires to reduce poverty through sustainable industrial development. We want every country to have

the opportunity to grow a flourishing productive sector, to increase their participation in international trade, and to safeguard their environment." This powerful mission statement echoes the United Nations' desire to improve the condition of impoverished countries. Also, through the work of UNIDO, the UN can get one step closer towards full achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Some organizations and countries may not recognize the need for promoting industrialization in a third world country. Rather, they would prefer establishing other developmental programs essential to the basic needs of the people. Some would argue that industrialization is absolutely necessary to keep up with the ongoing globalization and to weave a certain country into the modern global economy, which is based off free trade. The efficiency, or inefficiency, of possible industrial development is something which must be addressed. A question to consider is this: does industrialization no longer benefit poor countries? Social scientist Glenn Firebaugh stated that "for most poor countries industrialization has turned out to be an ineffectual means of economic advancement". His argument further implies that industrialization has not been able to close the North to South income gap or able to reduce poverty in poor countries.

Recent Developments

The United Nations High Representative for LDC's, Cheick Sidi Diarra, recently wrote in an article that "it is only by strengthening their productive capabilities that the world's poorest and economically vulnerable countries can build up resilience to the external shocks and lessen their dependence on foreign aid." Diarra's compelling argument for industrial development of underdeveloped nations is very important, as it represents the United Nations views of promoting progress for third world countries.

The government of Italy recently funded a UNIDO project for the industrial development of Iraq. This project intends to aid in the development of industrial zones as well as enhancing investment in the country. The UNIDO project in Iraq exemplifies the initiative taken by the United Nations and individual countries to help the nations in need of development. The current Iraq project is the second largest UNIDO country programme, after the UNIDO programme in China.

A current issue which threatens the today's aspirations of development is the current financial crisis. The financial crisis leads to the impediment of development. A joint report by the World Bank and the IMF predicts that between 55 million to 90 million people will join the ranks of impoverished

people. Another current issue which must be addressed is the "green movement"- the worldwide movement that seeks the protection of the environment. It is in the best interest of the international community that ECOSOC find a competent strategy that seeks to go on with industrial development while bearing in mind the burdens of the financial crisis and addressing the green movement.

However, keep in mind that some countries may not wish to accept industrial development, as it affects the unique culture of that particular country. Perhaps it will take some serious convincing to sway an unwilling country to implement some industrial development. Regardless, some ideologies will remain upheld by those who firmly believe that industrialization is not appropriate for the time being.

Points to Consider

- Is your nation a third world country or an industrially developed nation?
- What does your nation have to gain/lose from industrialization?
- How does industrialization affect the common man of your country?
- Analyze the pros and cons of industrialization.