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“Development on the margin”

Seven Step Approach for Active Involvement of Marginal People in Sustainable Rural Development

GHOLAMHOSSEIN HOSSEININIA¹, HOSSEIN AZADI²

¹*Deputy Minister; Ministry of Cooperative, Iran, Education, Research, Extension, and Entrepreneurship,*

²*Ghent University, Socio-economic Geography, Belgium*

Abstract

An increasing volume of literature deals with different meanings of the term ‘approach’ due to the many different rural development goals. Acknowledging the diversity of these approaches, the authors recognise that there is usually a bias towards some specific aspect of these interventions that indicates a need to consider a systemic framework for understanding the main constraints of active involvement of marginal people in sustainable rural development. Historically, there is diversity between the approaches which could be argued that some approaches are more useful in particular contexts. However, certain processes and procedures are common to all kinds of the approaches. Using a comprehensive overview of the approaches, this paper aims at understanding the main constraints of active involvement of marginal people in sustainable rural development. To do so, three levels of analysis will be scrutinized: micro (institutional), meso (national) and macro (international). The main question at the micro level is to understand what institutional arrangements and funding trends help to involve marginal people. To answer, the main institutional functions of local rural development agencies will be discussed. The main question at the meso level is why a country needs to involve marginal people within rural development process, which defines different goals for rural development. To answer, the most important considerations at national level which could lead to governmental support for or restrictions on the institutional arrangements will be argued. Finally, the main issue at the macro level is therefore to understand what international forces and considerations bound the active involvement of marginal people in rural development. To answer, the main international components and their impacts on the level of socioeconomic development of particular countries and, then, the rural development missions will be analysed.

Keywords: Marginal people, participation, rural development approach, sustainability