

Abstracts

Paradoxes challenge the world's best in development aid: Are rights and Danish jobs more important than poverty reduction in Danish development policy?

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Through decades Denmark has been recognized internationally as the world leader when it comes to helping the poor. Not only is Denmark best, lately, the gap has been increasing to the next-best countries. Leading politicians has even stated that development aid is Denmark's most important tool in its foreign policy. Danish development aid benefits the world's poor as well as Denmark itself. Based on this win-win perspective about Danish development aid it therefore seems paradoxical that it has been gradually reduced. With the purpose of decoding the notions, specific actions as well as the changes over time the goal of this contribution is to analyze the development in Danish development policy. The analysis proves that Danish development policy has gone through major changes. For instance, due to the increased importance of domestic political priorities poverty reduction has become a smaller focus area. Lastly,

a reflection upon the perspectives for Danish development policy is provided, focusing on the implications of poverty reduction and Denmark, in relation to the foreign aid's declining role as well as Denmark's desire to do good, not only for the poor, but in several areas.

Does the Colour of the Government Make a Difference? An Analysis of Danish Development Policy From 1989 to the Present Day

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This article contains an analysis of Danish aid policy from the end of the Cold War until today.

More specifically, the article examines the extent to which a change of government has an effect on the aid policy.

The article finds that Danish aid policy has been characterized by a large degree of political consensus on the two leading principles, namely to fight poverty and to serve Danish business interests. In this regard, the hypothe-

sis is not supported. However, aside from the political consensus on the leading principles, there have been three significant changes in the Danish aid policy in the period investigated. The last two of these changes are connected with change of government and thus do provide support for the hypothesis. Therefore, there is some support for the hypothesis.

The article also contributes to the existing studies by finding ways to strengthen the hypothesis while calling for more transparent statistical data to be able to carry out even more detailed research in the future.

Rights-based Development – A New Approach to Development Aid

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Taking departure in the recent Danish development strategy from 2012, “The Right to a Better Life”, the article introduces the human rights-based approach to development. It provides an overview of the concept and its implementation. The particular importance of the human rights principles of Participation and Inclusion, Non-Discrimination and Equality, and Accountability is discussed. In terms of implementation, the human rights-based approach is related to processes of empowerment, forms of advocacy, and to the use of legal instruments in defense of poor, discriminated or marginalized groups. The article provides examples from African and Asian contexts where respectively local NGOs and donors are using the approach, in some cases with the result that new dialogues

are created between rights-holders and duty-bearers. In concluding the article, it is stressed that human rights-based approaches will not replace good development practice; rather it is important that human rights advocates draw learning from good practices, not least as far as gaining insights into conditions of poverty, while continuing to explore and use the strength of the approach in terms of empowerment of marginal and resource poor groups, in the focus on non-discrimination and in relying on legal thinking and instruments.

Results-based Resource allocation – What will it result in?

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This article discusses the recent attempts from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to introduce a new results based resource allocation model, in funding Danish development aid through the Danish Civil Society organisations. It discusses the effects of such initiatives on the functioning and the strategies of the Danish civil society organisations.

Future aid: Development cooperation in the interaction of poverty reduction, sustainability and global public goods

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Denmark’s development policy aims at poverty reduction, though with more goals being added over the years, notably human rights. The aid narrative pursued by OECD donors, which emphasizes developing country ownership of local poverty reduction,

must be updated to incorporate the global goals and problems that overwhelm development cooperation: climate change, failing states, refugees, illicit capital flight, financial instability, increasing inequality. The size and significance of official development assistance has declined relative to other flows and political influences, except for the least developed countries and fragile states. Danish development policy should recognize the need to deal with sustainability issues and global problems and focus on where poverty reduction, sustainable development and global public goods interact in and for the least developed countries and fragile states. Here, aid can still make a difference. This requires a new aid narrative led by Danish politicians.

Global allocation of production and the impact of economic development

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The purpose of this article is to give an insight into the development of the global allocation of production. Initially strategies for laying out production will be outlined. Thereafter the article provides an overview of some of the challenges associated with the laying out of production, and following on from that what strategies Danish companies typically make use of when they move production. The main focus of the article is on how the motive for laying out production changes with the countries' economic development. Finally, the economic development in China and Africa is used as illustrative cases.