



STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT: THE SAPRI REPORT

The Policy Roots of Economic Crisis, Poverty and Inequality
The Structural Adjustment Participatory Review International Network (SAPRI)

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ONE FACTOR, MORE THAN ANY OTHER, has crippled national economies, increased poverty and inequality, and made many millions of people hungry. It is a set of policies, called structural adjustment, that has been forced on developing countries for more than 20 years by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and Western aid agencies. Country after country has been compelled, regardless of circumstances, to adopt this 'one size fits all' economic strategy that exposes the world's most vulnerable peoples and weakest economies to the full force of the global market place dominated by the most powerful and richest economies and corporations.

Born of a unique five-year collaboration among citizens' groups, developing country governments, and the World Bank - and financed by European governments, UN agencies, US foundations and NGOs - this book represents the most comprehensive, real-life assessment of the actual impacts of the liberalisation, deregulation, privatisation and austerity policies that constitute structural adjustment programmes. Its authors, the members of the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review International Network (SAPRI) that engaged the World Bank's president in this ambitious and highly participatory endeavour, present the concrete consequences of adjustment policies for the manufacturing sector, small enterprises, the wages and employment conditions of working people, the delivery of essential services, health and education spending, small farmers and food security, women, and poverty and the environment.

The stark conclusion emerges: if there is to be any hope for meaningful development in the countries of the South and for the sustained reduction of poverty and inequality, the Western-inspired and imposed doctrines of structural adjustment and neoliberal economics must go.

'Structural adjustment has been the most controversial economic and social policy model foisted onto a reluctant Third World in the past two to three decades. SAPRI has been a pioneering network tracking, critiquing and acting on its damaging effects. This vitally important book cogently summarizes the various effects of structural adjustment and should be read by all who care about the developing world' - Martin Khor, Third World Network

'Structural Adjustment: The SAPRI Report illustrates the devastating impact that structural adjustment policies, undemocratically imposed by the international financial institutions, have had on national productive capacity, employment, wages and the growing number of people in poverty. It captures what we in Mexico and Latin America have fought against for the past two decades and is all the more pertinent given the intensifying challenges to neoliberalism in the region' - Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, former Senator, Governor and Mexican presidential candidate

'An excellent expose of how people's human rights are being sacrificed on the altar of the free market in the name of development' - Professor Fantu Cheru, former UN Special Rapporteur on Structural Adjustment

'This book documents a unique exercise in broad-based civil society participation, collaboration and engagement with official institutions. It represents a strong challenge to governments and the World Bank to open up economic policymaking to reflect local knowledge and realities' - Lidy Nacpil, International Coordinator, Jubilee South and Secretary General, Freedom from Debt Coalition (Philippines)

'We urgently need to change the way the aid business is conducted, including structural adjustment. This global report contains findings that warrant close examination by the international financial institutions, development agencies, and national governments' - Jan Vandemoortele, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP



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