

THE DISCOURSE OF DEVELOPMENT: A CLOSE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GUATEMALA

Research Question

The dominant scholarly discourse of development has shifted from neoliberalism to human development. How is this shift reflected in the language employed by large development organizations in Guatemala? And what are the policy implications of this shift?

Methodology

- Discourse Analysis
- Neoliberalism and human development in "Country Strategy Reports"
- Analyze policy

Findings

- USAID, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank presenting themselves as doing Human Development
- Country Strategy Reports directly say "human development"
- Policy implementation requires neoliberal ideology
- No deep participation from locals

Conclusion: Neoliberalism is being repackaged as human development in order to get more public support. No substantive strategy change has happened for USAID, the Inter-American Development Bank, or the World Bank in Guatemala.

Policy Analysis

- Alliance for Prosperity
- Neoliberal undertones
- Lack of true local involvement

Implications and Limits

- Look below the surface
- Scholarly impact in the policy world
- Specific to Guatemala



the sustainable rural development necessary for social and economic equity. Improved income alone is insufficient to reduce poverty, illness and malnutrition in Guatemala's rural poor communities; therefore,

Expanding job opportunities, making health services widely available and increasing basic and vocational education opportunities not only go a long way to address the deep-seated inequity of Guatemalan society, they also foster economic growth in the Western Highlands and improve the health and educational status of families and communities in this area. Helping to strengthen the GOG's capacity to provide and improve the quality of health and education services contributes to long-term sustainability and social development. As a result of improved social and economic development, Guatemala will become more prosperous. In addition, reducing the economic motivations behind criminal activity, providing youth with alternative educational opportunities and strengthening GOG systems will create a more secure Guatemala as well.

Purple=Human Development
Yellow=Neoliberalism



weaken the legitimacy of the public sector. The NLTA on urban infrastructure will provide targeted support for the implementation of the Barrio Seguro agenda which improves the ability to deliver results at the local level from a variety of government programs. Barrio Seguro is an umbrella for programs that emphasize youth employment and training. The NLTA on Crime and



promote reforms involving the various actors. This also includes strengthening mechanisms for citizen oversight in internal affairs bodies, and community organizations promoting neighborhood development in ways compatible with culturally relevant social protection policies and instruments. At the same time,

