

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY AND INTERVENTION



Social Policy in a Disrupted World: Development and Dynamic Change

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Evolution of social protection systems in LMICs

- Historically social protection considered unaffordable and undesirable
- Subordinate to economic policy and justified only to improve social capital/productivity
- 1990s – social policy recast as a key instrument for development and social justice
- Paradigm of *social risk & social investment* replaced with discourse of *pro-poor transformative* social policy

Social protection now high on policy agendas in global South

- Social Assistance Programmes...
- Universal Health Care...
- Sustainable Development Goals...
- WB/WHO/ILO/Regional organisations

Social policy analysis lagging behind..?

- Is 'Western' model of state led welfare relevant?
 - complexity of welfare arrangements
 - diversity of funding
 - impact of colonialism/globalization

- lack of state capacity
- underdeveloped formal labour market

Ongoing variance – but also some new convergence?

- Actors...
- Instruments...
- Institutions...
- Ideas...

Social Policy Actors:

- **NGOs, INGOs, Multi-lateral /Bilateral Donors, Epistemic Communities...**
- **New Philanthropists**
 - 2013 – 2015 = \$20b ODA
 - BMGF = \$36b endowment
 - emphasis on technical/scientific development solutions
 - new partnerships with global PPPs
 - market based solutions preferred to state led
 - increased fragmentation and diversity of funding, delivery modes, standards

Social Policy Institutions: bringing the State back in

- End of the ‘Washington Consensus’
- Emergence of the ‘***Developmental State***’
 - state as enabler, regulator and champion of enterprise/occupational welfare
 - concern with human capability – social investment model
 - social policy identified as link between protection and production
 - ‘productivist’ emphasis on skills and vocational training
 - labour market activation (job re-training programmes)
 - social insurance with conditionality

Social Policy Ideas: Citizenship and Social rights

- 'Rights to welfare' now prominent throughout global South
- Actively supported by donor and development organisations
- Entitlement to social protection enshrined as a social contract
- Repositions social policy from *instrumental* to *activist* model

Social Policy Instruments: a quiet revolution?

- Cash transfers: conditional/unconditional social assistance
 - *Bolsa Escola, Progresas-Oportunidades-Prospera, CSG, PSNP*
 - *25% of population in Brazil and Mexico & 66% of children in SA*
- Social pension schemes
- Hunger/productive safety net programmes
- Public Works, Micro finance, Employment Guarantee Schemes

Future Directions

- Ongoing variance – but also some new convergence?
- Social policy in global South: a more ‘porous ecology’ than in North
- Linear trajectory towards western welfare state model unlikely?
- Heterogeneity between developing nations
- Fluid and rapid pace of change in political, economic, social agenda