

Poverty, Inc

This documentary shows a darker side of development aid. Indeed, we can see that some good intentions to help the poorest, end up aggravating the problem : Many actions are seen by most people as valuable aid to developing countries, when in fact they do not help and even destroy the local economy.

First, many countries are seen as poor countries, whereas they have a lot of resources but they can't exploit them because they are not integrated into international trade. Furthermore, NGOs give many things for free, but this creates two important problems.

- When rich countries commit to protecting the poor countries, it creates a system of dependency where poor countries become "slaves" of rich countries.
- NGOs don't realize that giving things for free helps for a while, but that ends up destroying the country more than anything else : NGOs give things for free that competes with local industries and at the end destroys it.

For example, The food American policy of sending free rice to Haiti only destroyed the local economy rather than helping the country, because it prevents small local producers from producing their own rice and finally they can't grow. On the other hand, if policies promoted local production, the country would be able to support themselves and perhaps even exporting some products, and thus enrich themselves.

Second, some aid agencies don't understand the real problem and therefore the implemented measures only make it worse.

We can see the example of poverty orphans where many children are abandoned because their parents don't have enough money to support them. So, to resolve this problem, instead of building orphanages, we need to find a way for parents to have enough money to keep their children. We can see the example of a couple who created Papille Enterprise through which Haitians could earn enough money to buy a house and feed their children.

In the documentary, we can also see an example of a success with the Enersa enterprise which is an electricity factory (specialised in solar energy) that hired some poor people through the development of a national industry.

Indeed, the employees can earn money and thus pay their house, feed their children and even pay school for their children. So, this is also a solution to resolve the education issues in poor countries.

Finally, the most important problem in poor countries is that poor people are excluded from everything and have no opportunity to access to anything and therefore to evolve. And, with the actual measures, poor countries can't get out of poverty : they need to be developed.

To conclude, the aim goal of the documentary is to show that donations are seen as something good for poor countries, but in reality they are only a temporary solution, while training and creating links with the global markets could allow an exit.

In my opinion, as raised in the documentary, to really solve poverty issues, the foreign aid must be restructured by reducing donations and helping countries to be developed and to be integrated in the global market. This goes through by developing education, creating jobs and also improving all necessary infrastructures and health systems. Also use money to buy food in developing countries rather than bringing food from abroad to develop local economies. Finally, I think that aid must be adapted according to each country because each country has its own poverty issues and its own resources.