

SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD:
A NORTH-SOUTH COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The flaws of the one-size fits all policy tendency in the globalization of neo-liberalism is clearly manifest in its not being mindful of differences in social structures in the North and South. This is exemplified in the rare social security policy for citizens in the developing world - particularly in the informal sector. As the State increasingly divests socio-economic responsibilities to the private sector, more social burden is being placed on the few working poor - given the high poverty profile and high dependency ratio in the South. This is also exacerbated by job losses emanating from related reform policies.

The paper, therefore, critically and comparatively examines North-South social structural disparities and the implications of these for social protection in the respective globalizing areas of the globe, with particular reference to high dependency ratio labour market flexi-curity in the formal and informal sectors, as well as working and post-working life.

Secondary data from standardized national and international sources, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Research in Social Development (UNRISD) were utilized in the paper to show low or deteriorating social wellbeing in countries located in the South - even when economic growth has been recorded as a result of globalization. . The paper, therefore, makes a strong argument for a more creative institutionalized regulatory policy framework to promote social inclusiveness in the implementation of on-going reforms in the South.