

alarming fact that, “Belize has not seen tangible benefits from participation in the WTO. While officials admit that isolation is not an option and would send the wrong signal to the international community, they point to losses that they attribute to the WTO” (p.93).

There were some minor shortcomings of this seminal publication. Firstly, the 45 chapters could have been grouped under broad geographical themes such as Latin America, Asia and Africa. This would have allowed the reader to better assess and compare the impact of the WTO and response of the various countries. Another format could have been grouping the chapters under thematic headings such as Health, Agriculture and Industry.

Unfortunately, the scholars overlooked the issues of gender and religion. It would have been interesting to learn about the economic effects on women or gender organizations who either benefited or suffered as a result of the infringement of WTO’s rules. Also, another area to be explored could have been the impact of WTO participation on the functioning of religious institutions.

The case studies strongly suggest that the decisions and membership in the WTO is not a responsibility solely for the government. Instead it is one which demands the involvement of diverse groups inclusive of academics, consumer associations, civil society groups and trade unions. The work will certainly prove to be a guidebook for countries serious in charting their destinies in the global village. The book should be compulsory reading for economists, policymakers and technocrats in developing countries.

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Sally Wyatt and Flis Henwood (Editors), *Technology and In/equality: Questioning the Information Society*. New York: Routledge, 2000, 242 pp.

This edited work has an introduction, ten chapters and is divided into three sections: “Promises and Threats: access and control in media technologies”, “Exclusion, inclusion and segre-

gation: new technology and skill in education” and “Technology, inequality and economic development”. The decision of the editors to organize the chapters into three sections did not seem appropriate because each chapter tends to focus on some aspect of technology and inequality. Thus there seemed to be overlapping of the themes of the three sections. A noteworthy feature is that there are subsections in each chapter with a logical development of arguments and presentation of facts.

The underlying objective of the study is presentation of critical perspectives on the relationship between information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the socio-economic factors which are linked to inequality and equality. *Technology and In/equality* addresses such themes as the manner in which theoretical ideas can assist us in understanding inequality and technology, the repercussions of questioning the information society and finally, using past experiences to understand current and future debates on technological innovations.

The contributors challenge the prevailing notion of associating technology with progress. And, they have attempted to analyze the differences in technology which lead to disadvantages. Interestingly, the writers utilized theoretical frameworks which highlighted both the symbolic and material aspects of inequality.

Graham Thomas and Sally Wyatt in “Access is not the only problem” attempt to prove that the inequalities in ownership of, and access to, such appliances as computers and televisions are inextricably linked to the structures of production of the Internet. The authors dismiss the “trickle-down” view that inequalities of access will be considerably reduced or removed as time progresses. They argue that growth is not evenly distributed and also, reject both assumptions that growth will continue and that inequality will be reduced by an increase in Internet users.

Chapter Three, offers some historical illustrations of technological inventions which failed to live up to the expectations of some persons. For example, the invention of the radio did not create the global peace promised by author Caractus Lewis. Likewise, the cable channels such as HBO and Black Entertainment Television (BET) address audiences not served by local stations but such channels do not lead to the empowerment of the people or local democratization.

Chapter Six dealt with the previously overlooked topic of

gender and equality in computer education. The author critically analyzed women's experiences which result in their marginalization and alienation in the technological culture. This research will prove interesting for persons seeking to understand the link between technology and a patriarchal society. Even though Chapter Seven examined information technology-related higher education for mature Black women, there was a need for a chapter on the effect of technology on Black men or other minorities. Chris Freeman in "Social Inequality, Technology and Economic Growth" must be commended for his judicious utilization of statistics to prove that trends towards greater inequality as a result of technology will impact on our lives.

The work *Technology and In/equality* includes case studies in Canada, United States and Britain, however, there should have been inclusion of a chapter or illustrations on the impact of technology in a Third World country or developing society. The impact of global capitalism as a contributory factor on this technological inequality should have been explored.

The ideas raised in these studies will leave the reader with unanswered questions such as: is all technology associated with inequality? Do governments attempt to reduce these inequalities? It is obvious that universal possession of a particular technology is impossible. Thus, there will always be some form of disparity.

In retrospect, this book proves that the ongoing debate over the usefulness or the disadvantages of technology will depend on the individuals or particular society. There is no simple panacea to solve the economic and social inequalities which arise from technological development.

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Neil Middleton and Phil O'Keefe, *Redefining Sustainable Development*, London: Pluto Press, 2001, ISBN: 0-7453-1610-7 (Cloth) and 0-7453-1605-0 (Paper).

Sustainability has become one of the latest buzzwords in the field of development work, both international and home-