

EPREUVE ECRITE D'ANGLAIS

Cette épreuve comporte deux (2) pages

Economic and Social Marginalization

Through the complex regional and world diversities, a pattern of economic marginalization can increasingly be discerned. Its identifying motif is steady sidelining of the poorest nations and of the poorest people within these nations. Internationally, the poorest forty or fifty countries have seen their share of world income decline to the point where one fifth of the world's people now share less than 1.5 percent of the world's income. Within individual nations, developing or industrialized, the poorest sections of the community are continually being marginalized, as they now share, on average, little more than 5 percent of their national income, while the fewer rich group claims between forty and sixty percent of the same income.

In the last 10 years in particular, falling commodity prices, poor returns on investment, the debt crisis, and structural adjustment programs, have reduced the real income of approximately 800 million people in some 40 developing countries. In Latin America, the fall in incomes has been as much as twenty percent. In sub-Saharan Africa, it has often been much more. At the same time, cuts in essential social services have meant health centers without drugs and doctors, schools without books and teachers, family planning clinics without staff and supplies.

For many million families in the poorest villages and urban ghettos of the developing world, the daily consequences of these negative economic forces are that people are unable to maintain a home fit to live in, to place enough food on the table, to dress conveniently and live decently, unable to keep their children at school, etc. Consequently, millions of children in the world have failed to find any work; they have become economically unproductive and socially irresponsible adults, thus creating an underclass of unskilled and undereducated individuals.

Through such processes, millions of people are driven into misery and despair. And when the desperate and the destitute are increasingly young, uprooted, urbanized people, who know far more about the world than their parents and expect far more from it, the almost inevitable result is increased social disintegration, ethnic tensions and political turbulence. Inevitable, also, is the rise of crime, violence, alcoholism, and drug addiction, in which most of the aggrieved and the discarded have most often sought refuge.

Adapted from UNICEF's "The State of the World's Children, 1995"

A. Guided Commentary

- 1) Basing on the text, say what economic marginalization means. (3 points)
- 2) Give three causes of economic marginalization from the text. (3 points)
- 3) Basing on the text, state in your own words four social consequences of economic marginalization. (4 points)
- 4) How do poor people suffer from economic marginalization, according to the text? (4 points)

B. Essay:

In your opinion, what measures can be taken at different levels of society to improve the situation of marginalized people in your country? (6 points)
