

UNDERSTANDING SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES: CONCEPTUALIZING THE DIVERSITIES

EDITOR
DR. A.H.M. ZEHADUL KARIM

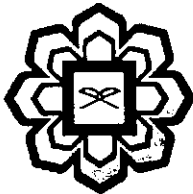
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Chapter 6

THE PARADOX OF DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF PLANTATION AGRICULTURE IN RURAL SOCIETIES

Pute Rahimah Makol-Abdul

ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the paradoxical and contradictory impacts of plantation agriculture on rural societies in the light of theoretical and empirical evidences. The article argues that while plantation agriculture brings progress and prosperity for certain segments of the population, the poor hardly benefits from this development initiative. It is suggested that there is a need to rethink the contribution of this approach on the overall development of rural societies in order to develop a more holistic rural development strategy for the poor.

Keywords: Plantation agriculture, rural development, rural societies, developing countries

INTRODUCTION

Recent trends in development planning in the Third World have shown greater emphasis on rural development. Policy-makers and development practitioners are devoting more attention to this aspect of development in their declarations and documents on national planning policies. This move reflects the concern on the part of government leaders in this region to improve the rural economy and the conditions of the rural poor which constitutes the majority of their country's population. Yet, in spite of their shared aspirations for development, many of these practitioners are convinced that development can only take place in their societies "if it resembles