

Health, Development, and Human Rights

Skepticism About Global Justice

As you read the material for the next class, keep the questions below in mind. To answer these questions you will have to reflect critically on what you have read and possibly re-read important passages. Keep in mind that there are two basic kinds of information that you need to look for in the readings:

1. What are the main points or conclusions that an author accepts with respect to a particular issue?
2. What are the reasons, important considerations, and evidence that lead the author to accept that conclusion?

For our purposes, *it is information of the second sort that will be our primary concern* since our most basic task is to *evaluate the reasons and evidence* that are offered to support accepting one possible conclusion about an issue, rather than another.

Although I strongly suggest that you write out brief answers to these questions, you do not have to turn in written responses. You do, however, need to be prepared to speak intelligently to these issues in the next class meeting.

Readings

- Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*, Chapters 6 and 8.

Questions

1. What three reasons do some people give to argue that democracy is not appropriate for a developing country? Why does Amartya Sen reject these three arguments?
2. What three sorts of positive features of democracy does Sen give? What are the limits of democracy that he recognizes?
3. What is the difference between agency and well-being, according to Sen? Why is this important for empowering women?