

FREEDOM AND THE FOUNDATIONS OF JUSTICE



YES, IT DOES! BUT JUSTICE MEANS THAT PEOPLE... ALL, SHOULD BE EQUALLY FREE TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES AND ASSESS THEIR OWN WELL-BEING!



BUT, OFTEN, WHEN... WE LOOK FOR JUSTICE, SOME ALWAYS SEEM TO GET ADVANTAGES?



OFTEN, IT IS BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION, BUT MOSTLY IT IS BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RIGHT THINGS!



WELL, CONVENTIONALLY, WE USE INCOMES AND COMMODITIES AS THE MATERIAL BASIS OF EVALUATING OUR WELL-BEING...



... BUT, IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT EVEN IF YOU LET PEOPLE HAVE EXACTLY THE SAME THINGS, THEY WILL MAKE VERY DIFFERENT USES OF THEM!



BECAUSE THEY ALL HAVE VERY DIFFERENT GOALS, PERSONAL GOALS?



YES, BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE DIVERSE, THEY CONVERT EQUAL RESOURCES INTO DIFFERENT THINGS!



SO, REAL INCOMES, BY THEMSELVES, CAN BE IMPERFECT INDICATORS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND WELL-BEING, WHAT PEOPLE ACTUALLY FEEL!



AND THERE ARE ALSO ENVIRONMENTAL SIDES TO THIS QUESTION, AREN'T THERE?



YES, AND THEY AFFECT THINGS LIKE THE NEED FOR SPECIAL CLOTHING AND HEATING...



...AND THERE ARE DIFFERENCES EVEN IN SOCIAL CLIMATES... INCLUDING CRIME, VIOLENCE, AND POLLUTION THAT MAKE THINGS UNEQUAL IN DIFFERENT PLACES!



SO, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT INCOMES AND COMMODITIES?



EVEN DIFFERENCES ABOUT HOW WE RELATE TO EACH OTHER VARIES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES, AND SO AFFECTS WHAT WE EACH FEEL TO BE NECESSARY IN OUR SOCIAL LIVES!



EVEN THE WAY INCOMES ARE EARNED AND USED WITHIN THE FAMILY, OFTEN VERY UNFAIRLY. AFFECTS THE ABILITY OF EACH OF US TO DEVELOP HEALTHILY!



SO, INCOME AND... WELL-BEING CAN VARY VERY MUCH?



... AND COVER-UP MUCH OF THE REALITY OF EVERYDAY LIVING AND MUCH INJUSTICE!



CLEARLY, WE NEED TO LOOK AT THINGS IN A NEW WAY, IN ORDER TO MAKE SOCIAL POLICY!



SEN SAYS THAT THE FOCUS HAS TO BE ON THE FREEDOMS GENERATED BY INCOMES AND COMMODITIES, RATHER THAN ON THOSE THINGS THEMSELVES.



?! WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?



IT IS NOT THE THINGS A PERSON HAS THAT IS IMPORTANT, BUT HER ABILITY TO CONVERT THEM INTO A WAY OF PROMOTING HER OWN ENDS IS WHAT COUNTS!



LIKE A DISABLED PERSON, WHO STILL HAS DIFFICULTY MOVING ABOUT, BUT MANAGES THROUGH THE USE OF MATERIAL RESOURCES!



LL!

SO, THE EMPHASIS MUST BE ON PEOPLE'S OWN CHOICES AND LIVING! THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO LOOK AT!

EXACTLY! THIS IS NOT A NEW IDEA! ... LONG, LONG AGO, ADAM SMITH UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING THE 'ABILITY TO APPEAR IN PUBLIC WITHOUT SHAME' ...

RIGHT!

... AND THAT TAKING PART IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY BY THE INDIVIDUAL IS A REAL NECESSITY!

ND... CAN ICH?

WHAT MUST WE BE LOOKING FOR AS THE FOUNDATIONS OF JUSTICE?

I THOUGHT IT WAS ABOUT LAW COURTS!

TWO IMPORTANT CONCEPTS; 'FUNCTIONING' AND 'CAPABILITY' IN EACH INDIVIDUAL!

PLEASE EXPLAIN!

FUNCTIONING REFLECTS WHAT A PERSON MAY VALUE DOING OR BEING. IT CAN VARY FROM SIMPLY BEING ADEQUATELY HOUSED OR FED...

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... TO MORE COMPLEX THINGS, LIKE HAVING SELF-RESPECT, AND TAKING PART IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY!

CAPABILITY, AS HAS BEEN SAID BEFORE, IS WHAT A PERSON CAN CHOOSE TO DO, OR BE, AND IT INCLUDES A RANGE OF FUNCTIONINGS THAT ARE FEASIBLE ...

... AND MEANS THE FREEDOM TO BRING TOGETHER ALTERNATIVE COMBINATIONS OF THESE FUNCTIONINGS TO CREATE A LIFESTYLE!

WHO 'ING GH IRCES!

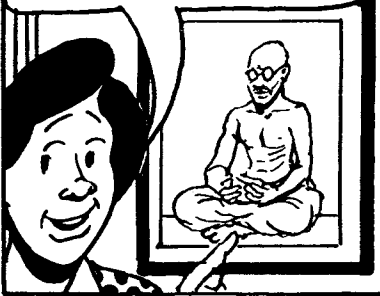
THE FREEDOM TO LIVE THE WAY YOU WANT TO LIVE?... TO CHOOSE?

YES, FOR EXAMPLE, A DESTITUTE PERSON CANNOT CHOOSE TO 'FAST', THEY DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD IN THE FIRST PLACE!

NOT EVEN FAST FOOD!

A BETTER-OFF PERSON CAN CHOOSE TO FAST, BECAUSE THEIR 'CAPABILITY SET' IS ABLE TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS FOOD THERE ...

... WHICH THEY CHOOSE NOT TO EAT, FOR SPIRITUAL OR RELIGIOUS REASONS! THEIR CAPABILITY SET ALLOWS THEM TO DO IT!



YOU CAN DO IT, OR YOU CAN CHOOSE NOT TO DO IT! IT CREATES A FREEDOM OF CHOICE!



YES! IT CREATES A RANGE OF... POSSIBILITIES! THIS IS WHY THE CAPABILITY OF A PERSON IS AT THE VERY FOUNDATION OF JUSTICE!



SO, IT IS DEFINITELY NOT HOW MUCH INCOME, OR HOW MANY THINGS YOU HAVE THAT DETERMINE YOUR WELL-BEING?



OF COURSE, BUT IT IS MUCH BROADER THAN THAT, AND MORE SENSITIVE TO EACH INDIVIDUAL'S OWN PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES! THE CAPABILITY APPROACH CAN BE USED BY POLICY-MAKERS TO ESTABLISH THESE FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE! TRULY!



HOW?

HOW CAN PEOPLE PLAN TO CREATE POSSIBILITIES FOR ALL OF US?



BY COLLECTING INFORMATION, ADDING TO WHAT IS KNOWN ABOUT INCOME INEQUALITY AND INCOME POVERTY, AND MAKING ADJUSTMENTS...



... WHICH IS WHAT PUBLIC POLICY MAKERS DO! COLLECTING THIS INFORMATION IS DIFFICULT. BUT, ... BY FOCUSING ON THE SUBSTANTIVE FREEDOM OF INDIVIDUALS, ACROSS A WIDE VARIETY OF CONSIDERATIONS...



... A NEW ROAD CAN BE CREATED FOR ECONOMIC EVALUATION AND SOCIAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL BE JUST TOWARD ALL THE PEOPLE!



AND WHAT WILL EMERGE IS NOT ONLY FREEDOM FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE THEIR LIVES, BUT TO LIVE LIVES THEY ALL VALUE, BECAUSE THEY MADE THEM THEMSELVES!

YES! LIKE BUILDING YOUR OWN HOUSE, ON YOUR OWN LAND! YOU FEEL SECURE!

