Is globalisation a factor of discrimination, human rights abuses? Using Sports to overcome!

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Introduction

Although the subjects of diasporas, discrimination and human rights are well known and established, they have evolved greatly, during the 20th century, influenced by many factors such as: demography, North-South migration and both man-made and natural disasters (e.g.: wars, famines...).

The spread of diasporas worldwide appears to be both, a result of developments in time as well as a cause and manifestation of globalisation. The term 'globalisation' means the expansion and harmonisation of interdependence among nations, human activities and political systems worldwide. Globalisation also refers to the transfer and exchange of goods, labor, knowledge and technology.

Thus, in an increasingly globalised world, we see a rapid increase of connections and exchange between people living in geographically distant areas, strongly improved by means of communication. As the migration of populations is reflected in trade and social life, migration is a good indicator of the successive phases of the globalisation process.

Prospects and Strength of Migrants

In the recent years, the importance and the influence of diaspora communities have been measured in terms of their contributions to their countries of origin. Indeed, individuals and groups from the diasporas are not only mobilised around the demands of integration into host societies. but are also increasingly seen as resources and actors in politics and co-development projects for their countries of origin.

The second category, the 'policy for immigrants' ('immigrant politics'), refers to actions taken by migrants to improve their social status in their host countries such as the fight against various forms of discrimination. Actions taken in favor of migrants can be considered transnational, since the authorities of the country of origin take part in the debate on integrating

immigrants into the host society. Furthermore when people from the same country, established in various host countries, come together to increase their demands, for example through federations.

We note that, economic activities undertaken by transnational migrants are more than support for the development of the countries the migrants came from. This assertion is increasingly putting the development of the migrants agenda in their hosts countries in jeopardy. Migrants do not see themselves as part of the solutions to the problems they face in their countries of residence. In general, few migrant associations before, multiplied and improved their organisation once their settlement became more long-term. Their emergence has created and constituted the true bases of diasporas.

The human rights factor

Indeed, there is one factor that might explain immigrant entrepreneurship and, by extension, transnational economic activity. The factor in question is the hostility people of immigrant origins face in their host societies that confine them to marginal sectors of economic activity. Thus, the development of transnational economic activities is a way to actually apply the migrants' skills and thus 'repair the economic lift.'

The concept of 'human dignity' is indeed the basis of human rights. Dignity expresses the idea that every human being has a value and should be treated with respect and without discrimination. People live in dignity if their basic rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. Governments that respect human rights work to achieve dignity.

Ensuring universal human rights offers a way of adjusting unequal power relations that separate people from the things that help sustain and improve their lives. These include skills and knowledge as well as facilities, goods and material resources. The more balanced these power relations become, the more people can live in dignity and escape from poverty. Swiss Minors seeks to emphasise that, discrimination against people from ethnic minorities is a human rights issue and must be treated with utmost seriousness.

Why we engage?

Diasporas are diverse. They experience different circumstances, have various relationships with their countries of origin, different levels of involvement in the development of these countries. Integrating them with their new environment becomes challenging.

In Switzerland, a lot is done to support the integration of migrants into Swiss communities. Integration, in that sense, would mean empowering migrants to do what the citizens of a country do and be partakers of the benefits resulting from the collective efforts of all.

Despite the huge sums of money invested in migrant integration, the benefits of lifting up migrants to the expected levels are still a dream for many. Many of us are still unemployed depending on the country we live in. We therefore, believe another approach acknowledging the migrants' perspective needs to be given attention. Therefore Swiss Minors tries to lead migrants through sports and games we already know (what they already can do) as a starting point. This is to increase the self-confidence of the migrants in helping them to learn new things.

Migrants have distinct cultural and social practices, which are valuable to the host country. They also run activities directed at strengthening national identity abroad or the collective enjoyment of cultural events or property. This form of transnationalism includes tours for folk music groups, which perform in front of an immigrant audience, the organisation of sport competitions for national teams and other migrants from around the country.

What we want to achieve at the end?

Our goal is to improve and build on the potential of migrants to develop through sports, cultural activities by means of effective and structured programmes.

Advantages of our short term goals

1. Increasing the self-esteem of migrants to help them face the challenges of today, forge ahead to reach their dreams and take care of themselves.
2. Using cultural and sports activities as a platform to improve the contact between migrants and Swiss citizens, so that both groups can learn from one another. By organizing such activities, participants can learn how things can be done and what is needed to organise successful events in Switzerland. The reason we do our project is that when people achieve success in their endeavors, their self-confidence increases, and they focus on their potential instead of their deficiencies.

Challenges

In Swiss Minors, we encourage sport and familiar cultural activity as a means of reducing anti-social vices and increasing the confidence in adolescent youth. However the youths we

motivate to do sports and take part in cultural activities, have to face prejudice, discrimination and racism. This lowers their self-esteem preventing them from freely use many sports facilities available here in Switzerland.

We believe that, focusing on the migrants' potentials and chances, creates the basis for their future self-esteem and confidence. In collaboration with State Agencies, Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) and other stakeholders, we help migrants to socialise through sports and cultural activities to bridge cultural barriers that sometimes tend to be a point of mistrust.

Conclusions

Discrimination and racism have resulted mostly from pressures exerted on the migrants by the inadequate distribution of resources. Ensuring universal human rights offers a way of adjusting unequal power relations separating people from the things that help sustain and improve their lives. This essay makes us aware of the issues raised by transnational practices in the context of globalisation through the spread or expansion of diaspora communities. Migration is by nature indispensable at the heart of cultural and knowledge exchange if one wants to understand the phenomenon of globalisation beyond its economic and financial borders.

Due to declining travel costs and the widespread use of new information and communication technologies people around the world become increasingly mobile and interconnected. The nexus of globalisation, migration, transnationalism, and entrepreneurship promises to be a potent driver for economic development. Any form of discrimination should be discouraged.

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