

Voices of Participants

Lemuel S. Boah, Liberia

Government and donor agencies must initiate the process of economically empowering the community/poor, and leave the continuity for the empowerment and development of their lives with the community/poor.

J. Alexander, India

Globalisation as part of the new economic order has come to stay in the world. Those of us who work with the poor should make use of all the resources at our command, namely media, organisations of people etc., to bring to the notice of policy makers, that, while we work for alleviation of poverty and for the reduction of the sufferings of the poor, we should not lose sight of the negative impact of globalisation and market-economy which causes many people losing their employment and income.

Eloisa Manzano, Brazil

It is important that all organisations and networks involved in working for the poorer and weaker sections of community can share and join together.

Saverio Grillone, Comores Islands

Unfortunately, some representatives of World Bank and International Monetary Fund have played a very negative role in Comores, when they came to speak with the authorities of our country. They have insisted on structural readjustment programmes, which have made the already bad situation, even worse. As they have blackmailing attitude with our Government, they have forced degradation of so many problems. Political instability and lack of Government leaders with clear ideas have helped in this degradation. They have forced rigid ideas and conflicts with NGOs working for poor groups. We are blamed for giving assistance to the poor and to block their development, as we oppose the fee for service for accessing health system, for the poorest groups. Health system has been especially penalised by these policies of IMF and World Bank. Our health budget has been cut. Earlier, the contribution of the Government to the health system was low, but this has been further cut following directives from World Bank and IMF. They talk about community participation for covering the cost of basic services. But even if the poorest are forced to pay a fee, this can not be enough to cover all the costs of running a health service, unless the Government provides proper budget for it. So now our hospitals do not function and every thing must be paid for, consultation, drugs, every thing. How can poor persons go to the hospitals in such conditions?