

### Chapter 1 : The case for positive adjustment policies; a compendium of OECD documents, /79 - CORE

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You serve as a catalyst to better lifestyles for each of your clients. As such, you are responsible for a wide array of tasks during the time between initial assessment and final discharge. Inevitably at times, the client relationship can become secondary to the frenzy of service coordination, communication among providers, documentation, burdensome technology, and other aspects of such an unpredictable field. These principles are tried and true, based on the experiences of human services professionals using Clarity Human Services case management software, as well as the expertise of Clarity Human Services staff. Taking practical steps to apply these principles to your day-to-day work will help you stay on track, and see better results in your job. Developing this kind of relationship with your client enables you to better engage them and develop the appropriate interventions with them. A large part of this principle is providing a safe environment for your clients to share their story, problems, and feelings. According to a presentation from Minnesota State University Moorhead, clients indicate that the following four personality characteristics are most important to them in a social worker: Understanding Pleasant Ability to put one at ease When you embody these characteristics, you communicate that you are genuinely interested in your client and that you are a safe person. Another key part of being a safe person is maintaining confidentiality at all times. Norcross, stating that studies have shown that patients with an empathetic therapist tend to progress more in treatment and experience a higher probability of eventual improvement. Rogers, PhD, writes that, in your ability to convey empathy, you are: Keep in mind that empathy is different from sympathy. Psychology Today shares some practical ways to convey empathy, including: Suspending your own judgments and critiques Using reflection to clarify what the client is saying Keying in to shared human values Focus on the Client This is a broad topic, but we want to discuss here the importance of balancing active listening with intake, assessment, and documenting other case notes. Gathering the necessary information to help your client is important, but so is making sure your client feels heard so they continue to share information with you. In addition to practicing the tips mentioned for conveying empathy, be sure to lean forward, make eye contact and nod your head when appropriate. One of the best ways to balance active listening with data collection is to use a client management software that is easy to use. When you have a client management software that makes it easy to enter data and take notes, you no longer have to focus on the hassles of technology. Instead, you can focus on your client, confident that you gathering the required information while still giving your client full attention.

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Structural Adjustment Policies are economic policies which countries must follow in order to qualify for new World Bank and International Monetary Fund IMF loans and help them make debt repayments on the older debts owed to commercial banks, governments and the World Bank. Although SAPs are designed for individual countries but have common guiding principles and features which include export-led growth; privatisation and liberalisation; and the efficiency of the free market. SAPs generally require countries to devalue their currencies against the dollar; lift import and export restrictions; balance their budgets and not overspend; and remove price controls and state subsidies. Devaluation makes their goods cheaper for foreigners to buy and theoretically makes foreign imports more expensive. In principle it should make the country wary of buying expensive foreign equipment. In practice, however, the IMF actually disrupts this by rewarding the country with a large foreign currency loan that encourages it to purchase imports. Balancing national budgets can be done by raising taxes, which the IMF frowns upon, or by cutting government spending, which it definitely recommends. As a result, SAPs often result in deep cuts in programmes like education, health and social care, and the removal of subsidies designed to control the price of basics such as food and milk. So SAPs hurt the poor most, because they depend heavily on these services and subsidies. SAPs encourage countries to focus on the production and export of primary commodities such as cocoa and coffee to earn foreign exchange. By devaluing the currency and simultaneously removing price controls, the immediate effect of a SAP is generally to hike prices up three or four times, increasing poverty to such an extent that riots are a frequent result. For more information on PRSPs, see [http: The pages of newspapers, magazines, and academic journals those that can survive in depressed economies been filled with damning analysis of structural adjustment. More important, people have been organizing to combat the pillaging of their lands and livelihoods. This organizing has resulted in mass movements and protests on every continent, but they are not often reported on in the mainstream press. October More than people killed in rioting against the high prices and unemployment in wake of SAP. Troops and riot police called out. October Workers in Ecuador firebomb a bank and block streets with tires during one-day general strike against SAP. After taking over the parliament building and allying with key members of the military, the indigenous organizations succeed in forcing the resignation of President Jamil Mahuad. Betrayal by the head of the armed forces leads to the vice-president taking over leadership rather than a government of national reconciliation. At least five protesters killed by police. August Riots break out in Karak and other southern cities after IMF demands removal of subsidies, resulting in tripling of price of bread. King suspends Parliament when it refuses to support price hikes. Protesters also target Ministry of Education because of hike in school fees connected with IMF program. The insurrection destabilizes the government and these policies. February Students at University of Niamey boycott classes to protest adoption of reductions in educational funding mandated by SAP. During the course of a peaceful demonstration police fired on demonstrators killing three according to official police sources or 14 according to student leaders. Many others were wounded. Military government stages armed assaults and hundreds of arrests, with hundreds more expelled from university system. May Students at Universities of Ibadan and Lagos protest against implementation of Structural Adjustment Program, which they accused of being responsible for the deterioration of campus facilities and education programs as well as doubling of transport prices. Police respond by shooting at the demonstrators, wounding at least five students. Battles between young anti-government demonstrators and riot police in Lagos leave at least three dead and hundreds injured. The IMF and World Bank made the removal of subsidies and probable increase of the price of gasoline the main imperative in its negotiations with the Nigerian government. December A coalition of parties opposed to the neoliberal reform SAP measures of the Yeltsin government wins a majority in parliamentary elections. Students at University of Khartoum occupy buildings, leading to eventual closure of the institution. Street violence and arrests follow. July August 2, The Society of Muslims](http://www.oecd.org)

assaults government headquarters and takes President Robinson and other members of the cabinet hostage, demanding an end to IMF-imposed economic austerity measures. Riots and looting follow the assault in Port of Spain; at least 50 people killed. Police fire into a crowd of protesting students, killing two. February March 2, About people killed and more than wounded in rioting over economic measures, including sharp increases in fuel and public transport prices, imposed to satisfy the IMF and World Bank. February Coup attempt by middle-level military officers, widely supported by the population, fails.

**Chapter 3 : Structural adjustment - Wikipedia***2. The case for positive adjustment policies: a compendium of OECD documents, / 2.*

They emerged from the conditionality that IMF and World Bank have been attaching to their loans since the early s. From the s onward, the United States doled out loans and other forms of financial assistance to Third World nations now commonly referred to as least developed countries, or LDCs. Free-market economics were encouraged in the Third World, not only as a measure of countering the spread of socialist ideology during the Cold War, but also as a means of fostering foreign direct investment FDI and promoting the access of foreign companies within the OECD nations to certain sectors of target economies. In particular, Western companies sought to gain access to the extraction of raw commodities, especially minerals and agricultural products. Where loans were negotiated on the basis of implementing large infrastructural projects such as roads and electrical dams, Western countries stood to gain by employing their domestic businesses and by broadening the means by which Western companies could more easily extract these resources. Enormous capital flows to the United States had the corollary of dramatically depleting the availability of capital to poor and middling countries. Taking advantage of the financial straits of many low- and middle-income countries, the agencies of the consensus foisted on them measures of "structural adjustment" that did nothing to improve their position in the global hierarchy of wealth but greatly facilitated the redirection of capital flows toward sustaining the revival of US wealth and power. Moreover, very few of the loans have been paid off. Pressure mounts to forgive these debts, some of which demand substantial portions of government expenditures to service. Structural adjustment policies, as they are known today, originated due to a series of global economic disasters during the late s: While the main focus of SAPs has continued to be the balancing of external debts and trade deficits, the reasons for those debts have undergone a transition. Today, SAPs and their lending institutions have increased their sphere of influence by providing relief to countries experiencing economic problems due to natural disasters or economic mismanagement. Since their inception, SAPs have been adopted by a number of other international financial institutions. Effect of SAPs[ edit ] Structural adjustment programs implemented neoliberal policies that had numerous effects on the economic institutions of countries that underwent them. It entailed the substitution of foreign imports by goods produced by national industries with the help of state intervention. State intervention included providing the infrastructure required by the respective industry, the protection of these local industries against foreign competition, the overvaluation of the local currency, the nationalization of key industries and a low cost of living for workers in urban areas. While the structuralist period led to rapid expansion of domestically manufactured goods and high rates of economic growth, there were also some major shortcomings such as stagnating exports, elevated fiscal deficit , very high rates of inflation and the crowding out of private investments. Critics denounce, though, that even the productive state sectors were restructured for the sake of integrating these developing economies into the global market. The shift away from state intervention and ISI -led structuralism towards the free market and Export Led Growth opened a new development era and marked the triumph of capitalism. For the inward-oriented economies it was therefore mandatory to switch their entire production from what was domestically eaten, worn or used towards goods that industrialized countries were interested in. Developing countries had to compete against each other, causing massive worldwide over-production and deteriorating world market prices. However, foreign capital could not be freely invested yet because most of these countries protected their nascent industries against it. This changed radically with the implementation of SAPs in the s and s, when controls on foreign exchange and financial protection barriers were lifted: Economies opened up and foreign direct investment FDI flowed in en masse. While the scholars Cardoso and Faletto judged this as yet another way of capitalist control of the Northern industrialized countries, [24] it also brought advantages to local elites and to larger, more profitable companies who expanded in size and influence. However, smaller, less industrialized businesses and the agricultural sector suffered from reduced protection and the growing importance of transnational actors led to a decline in national control over production. The goal was to shift them away from state intervention and inward-oriented development and to transform them into export-led, private

sector-driven economies open to foreign imports and FDI. Criticisms[ edit ] There are multiple criticisms that focus on different elements of SAPs. In Africa, instead of making economies grow fast, structural adjustment actually had a contractive impact in most countries. Economic growth in African countries in the s and s fell below the rates of previous decades. Agriculture suffered as state support was radically withdrawn. After independence of African countries in the s, industrialization had begun in some places, but it was now wiped out. Thus, SAPs are unnecessary given the state is acting in its best interest. However, supporters consider that in many developing countries, the government will favour political gain over national economic interests; that is, it will engage in rent-seeking practices to consolidate political power rather than address crucial economic issues. In many countries in sub-Saharan Africa , political instability has gone hand in hand with gross economic decline. One of the core problems with conventional structural-adjustment programmes is the disproportionate cutting of social spending. When public budgets are slashed, the primary victims are disadvantaged communities who typically are not well organized. An almost classic criticism of structural adjustment is pointing out the dramatic cuts in the education and health sectors. In many cases, governments ended up spending money on these essential services than on servicing international debts. Upon independence from colonial rule, many nations that took on foreign debt were unable to repay it, limited as they were to production and exportation of cash crops, and restricted from control of their own more valuable natural resources oil, minerals by SAP free-trade and low-regulation requirements. In order to repay interest, these postcolonial countries are forced to acquire further foreign debt, in order to pay off previous interests, resulting in an endless cycle of financial subjugation. While the latter agreements are formally "voluntary," in light of the desperate economic dependence of many developing states, they are to all intents and purposes "imposed. In both cases, the "voluntary" signatures of poor states do not signify consent to the details of the agreement, but need. Obviously, trade with liberal or nonliberal states" is not a moral obligation, yet conditional aid, like IMF and WTO policies, aims at changing the cultural, economic, and political constitution of a target state clearly without its consent. This policy aims to increase efficiency and investment and to decrease state spending. State-owned resources are to be sold whether they generate a fiscal profit or not. Furthermore, state-owned firms may show fiscal losses because they fulfill a wider social role, such as providing low-cost utilities and jobs. SAPs emphasize maintaining a balanced budget, which forces austerity programs. The casualties of balancing a budget are often social programs. For example, if a government cuts education funding, universality is impaired, and therefore long-term economic growth. There may be factors within these sectors that are susceptible to corruption or over-staffing that causes the initial investment to not be used as efficiently as possible. Recent studies have shown strong connections between SAPs and tuberculosis rates in developing nations. Authors Ikubolajeh Bernard Logan and Kidane Mengisteab make the case in their article "IMF-World Bank Adjustment and Structural Transformation on Sub-Saharan Africa" for the ineffectiveness of structural adjustment in part being attributed to the disconnect between the informal sector of the economy as generated by traditional society and the formal sector generated by a modern, urban society. In some rural, traditional communities, the absence of landownership and ownership of resources, land tenure, and labor practices due to custom and tradition provides a unique situation in regard to the structural economic reform of a state. Kinship-based societies, for example, operate under the rule that collective group resources are not to serve individual purposes. Gender roles and obligations, familial relations, lineage, and household organization all play a part in the functioning of traditional society. It would then appear difficult to formulate effective economic reform policies by considering only the formal sector of society and the economy, leaving out more traditional societies and ways of life. The IMF mainly lends to countries that have balance of payment problems they can not pay their international debts , while the World bank offers loans to fund particular development projects. However, the World Bank also provides balance of payments support, usually through adjustment packages jointly negotiated with the IMF. Today, there are a few longer term options available, which go up to 7 years. Donor countries[ edit ] The IMF is supported solely by its member states, while the World Bank funds its loans with a mix of member contributions and corporate bonds. Members are assigned a quota to be reevaluated and paid on a rotating schedule. One of the critiques of SAPs is that the highest donating countries hold too much influence over which countries receive the loans

and the SAPs that accompany them. Some of the largest donors are:

### Chapter 4 : Structural Adjustment Program

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