

Book review

'RETHINKING POVERTY: WHAT MAKES A GOOD SOCIETY?' BY BARRY KNIGHTDr. Md. Enarul Hoque¹✉**Article Ref. No.:**

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Title Rethinking Poverty: What Makes a Good Society?

Author Barry Knight

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The book under review contains six chapters dealing with the saga of not repairing an old system appearing incapable of eradicating poverty, but instead supporting a process of redesigning a society in which poverty becomes obsolete.

The *first chapter* of this book narrates British thinking of poverty and shows its history since Beatrice Webb's 1909 Minority Report. The report focuses on three main findings. Firstly, the language that informs the development of welfare state has lost its power. Various options designed to elicit attitudes to absolute and relative poverty are shown rightly in chart. Author neatly includes variety of poverty measures with an academic literature. Secondly, the way the institution to reduce poverty and provide work may be doing more harm than good, and finally, it needs to review the way we understand the poverty.

The *second chapter* focuses on 1916, June referendum in which it has to leave or remain in European Union which has exposed the divisions in British society. In this regard author finds some disadvantages in respect of social, economic, political and demographic aspects. In Britain, Trust is the building block of society and without it the

¹ [First Author] ✉ [Corresponding Author] Associate Professor in Sociology, Dr. Meghnad Saha College, Itanagar, Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal, INDIA; Email: haqenarulhaq@gmail.com

society may not be able to move forward. The decision of many to leave the European Union was a wake-up call to examine the state of British society.

The *third chapter* highlights, what people want from the society? It deals with first of the three questions that framed the Trust's research: What is good society without poverty? The chapter shows by explaining why deciding what we want as a society matters. Next comes a brief description of the key findings from the research, followed by an explanation of the Trust's approach and a description of a multi-methods used to reach conclusions. Finally, this chapter sets out what the Trust learned from the various studies undertaken which have been depicted by the author through a survey.

In the *fourth chapter* author starts by comparing the society we have, with the society we want, and then he considers how to close the gap between two types of society. This brings into second framing of questions. The question is that how shall we achieve a good society where there will be no clutch of poverty.

The author has rightly put questions to the social reformers since Beatrice Webb's 1909 Minority Report challenged society to end destitution. In this regard some of the methods adopted to achieve this, the Trust research suggests about the wrong approach. The question "who does it?" but not to ask "how to do it?"

Author in his writing has clearly explained the model of society which is now based on the principle of individuals by maximizing their income. The consequences can be seen in rising the inequality, damaging the environment and populations who have not benefited from the fruits of economic growth.

Chapter five articulates the question of "who does what" to achieve the five principles which have been discussed in the previous chapter while it cannot be prescribed for what people do, various pointers are suggested by the emerging views from the research that will take things forward and develop a better balance in our society over long term.

This book has suggested five principles for a good society that are not comprehensive but prevent the pitfalls of starting from scratch working within the confines of narrow organizational goals producing policy shopping lists or display another individual manifesto. To combat the poverty, first step should be cooperation rather than competition. Author agrees that in this way the networks have been responsible for creating social change. The central purpose of the network is to create energy within a supportive eco-system delivering social advance. It is rightly explained by the author that the poverty is everyone's problem and everyone has a role to play in creating a society where we can all thrive.

Chapter six of the book has developed an alternative formulation based on building "the society we want". The advantage of this approach is that it frames the task positively, rather than solving a problem that many people feel doubtful of its importance, the goal is to develop an asset where everyone has a stake in it. The process should be creative and avoid the destructive feelings surrounding the word 'poverty'. So far as the issues of social security benefits are concerned; have also been considered in this chapter

The task of this book was not to provide answers but to provide a fresh framework through which others can develop answers. It also is mindful of the future suggested by the book for a new generation of young people to lead the way.