

Abstract

International development aid is one of the main elements of international relations and politics. It has taken place since the 1950's through great international organisations and institutions. Nevertheless, the international approach towards development has been considerably criticized. Critics have pointed out the generality of methods of development and the "one size fits all" paradigm. These programmes did not reflect and adapt enough to the conditions of specific areas, and preferred centralised approaches. At the same time a range of regional and local development initiatives has emerged. Despite the great success of local forms of aid, the international aid is still widely in demand and not decreasing. The aim of this thesis is to demonstrate the advantages of international presence in developing education programmes, with the following research question: What benefits do international organisations or institutions bring to national education programmes? Based on participatory observation of education systems in the Philippines and Myanmar, the thesis assesses the main advantages of international development programmes and the benefits for their participants. On the example of two international non-governmental organisations, namely Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education and Save the Children, the thesis shows the contribution of international presence in the field advocacy and capacity building.