Επιθεώρηση Κοινωνικών Ερευνών

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Elie Dimitras, Εισαγωγή εις την κοινωνιολογίαν της αναπτύξεως (Eisagogi eis tin koinvniologian tis anaptyxeos) (Introduction to the sociology of development)

Kourvetraris George A. Northern Illinois University

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Ερευνητέων Κοινωνικών Έρευνών a και β’ τρίμηνον 1974
έρευνης των τοιούτων θέματων εις τόν τόπον μας. Τα συμπεράσματα...
compact, concise, and analytical volume has given us both the conceptual/theoretical and applied dimensions of soci-ology and sociotechnology regarding the dissemination of knowledge for de-velopment.

The author begins his analysis with an a priori axiom that subsequently becomes his major thesis that knowledge (broadly defined to mean expertise, know-how, skills, training, education) plays a stra-tegic and primary role in the processes of social, economic, and political development of the developing nations of the third world. His analysis also has implications for the development of the Greek nation and all those with parallel levels of de-velopment, as those of Greece.

In part one, «The Sociological Principles of Dissemination of Knowledge for the Development», Professor Dimitras shows that the dissemination of knowledge is a concerted effort of national and international communities on one hand and the young and adult gen-erational cohorts on the other. In the first case, the author argues that the in-ternational community particularly the more developed nations should assist the less developed ones in mobilizing their human resources, exploiting their natural ability for learning and disseminating new knowledge. In turn the young and adult age groups are particularly fitted for such a role. Professor Dimitras synopsizes what he refers to as the three basic sociological principles of dissemination of knowledge which he inductively arrived at in his analysis and discussion previously: the geopolitical (diachronic) (national) internationally; the sociodemographic (young and adult); and the sociopolitical (middle and lower strata.) In his second part of the book Professor Dimitras discusses the practical ap-plications of the three aforementioned sociological principles, and offers what he perceives to be the sociotechnological rules and social policies of dissemination of knowledge, particularly among the adult segments of the population in the develop-ing societies. In this latter part he critically reviews the various interna-ternal and international community particularly the third world. In his appen-dix he also takes issue with one of his Greek colleagues who is critical of the absence of a genuine plan and science of development in modern Greece. Professor Dimitras, without being apologetic, argues persuasively that modern Greece has taken some major steps in the last five years or so toward that goal citing the short and long range plans of development of the national government and the growing literature on the sociolo-gy of development in Greece. In this effort Professor Dimitras argues sociology and the other social sciences are called perhaps for the first time to an important role in the theoretical and applied aspects of dissemination of knowledge for the rapid development of the Greek nation. In conclusion, this is an important contribution to a significant topic. Professor Dimitras has judiciously accom-plished both his stated objectives and limited scope in a fairly compact and parsimonious book. Although his book was originally written for his students at the Supreme Pantelios School of Po- litical Science, this reviewer concur's with the author's prolegomenon that his second edition was meant to reach the wider public. To go one step further, Professor Dimitras' important book should not only be read but also followed by the Greek academic community, the policy makers, the students of planning and de-volution and all those who are concerned with the humane processes of directed social change and development of their respective societies.