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Internal Development: The Case of Minginui Forest Village

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Abstract

This is a study of 'Third World Development' in Rural New Zealand. A review of development theory provides this thesis with a base from which to approach 'Third World Development' with 'First World' realities. Recent Government development policy, moving toward establishing sustainable development for local (rural) communities, remains ingrained in neo-liberal economic growth strategy. Through a predominantly qualitative, fieldwork centred case study, the dynamics and impacts of development in relation to the small, isolated, rural New Zealand community of Minginui, in the Te Urewera Ranges, are examined. Historical factors for the community are also documented, particularly the impact of neo-liberal economic reforms initiated by the elected Fourth New Zealand Labour Government in 1984.

Research results show that a 'top down' development approach is still active. Historically this approach has led the Minginui community from an active robust village in the 1950s and 1960s as a developing single industry town, to a state of radical underdevelopment in the mid to late 1980s. The migration of the skills based labour (looking elsewhere for employment in a depressed labour market) in the late 1980s left the community to endure an extended period of isolation, marginalisation, social deprivation – in many ways, pure survival.

Over time, though, internal catalysts have generated a 'bottom up' participatory approach to development within the community, termed here 'internal development'. But the sustained period of marginalisation and survival (1987 – 2003) has created social and economic barriers that now hamper the development of further relationships with external organisations. In terms of alternative development theory, Minginui's 'internal development', now provides an opportunity for government to review its development policy and strategy. Uncovering an alternative approach, research has outlined the importance of a 'linking agent' that might generate more efficient use and distribution of resource as delivered by government agencies. This may be an approach to development worth researching for the achievement of sustainable livelihoods for rural communities and rebuilding their capacities.

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Abbreviations:

BoP	Bay of Plenty.
CYFS	Children, Youth and Family Services.
ECN	Enterprise Central Network.
ECNPRB	East Coast National Parks & Reserves Board.
ERO	Education Review Office.
FDC	Forest Development Council.
GDP	Gross Domestic Product.
GNP	Gross National Product.
GST	Goods and Services Tax.
IFDA	International Foundation of Development Alternatives.
ILO	International Labour Organisation.
IMF	International Monetary Fund.
INZ	Industry New Zealand.
MED	Ministry of Economic Development.
MSS	Ministry of Social Services.
NFAC	Native Forest Action Committee.
NZFS	New Zealand Forest Service.
OECD	Organisation of Economic Community Development.
SAP	(Economic) Structural Adjustment Programme.
SOE	State Owned Enterprises.
WDC	Whakatane District Council.
WINZ	Work and Income New Zealand.

Maori Words:

Hapu	Sub-tribe.
Hau Ora	Health clinic.
Hui	Meeting.
Iwi	Trible, People, Nation.
Kaka	Native bird, Native parot.
Kaumatua	Male elder.
Kaupapa	Strategy.
Kereru	Native bird, Native pigeon.
Kiwi	Native bird (ground dwelling).
Kohanga Reo	Language nest, Maori pre-school.
Kohanga	Nursery, Nest.
Korero	Discussion.
Kuia	Female elder.
Kura	School.
Maori Tanga	Maori culture, Maori perspective.
Marae	Meeting area of village and its buildings.
Ngati	People of
Pa	Stockade,
Pakeha	Non-Maori, European.
Runanga	Assembly, Management body.
Tangata Whenua	People of the land, Local people.
Te Puni Kokiri	Ministry of Maori Development.
Te Reo	The language.
Tikanga	Coustum, Meaning, Criterion.
Totara	Large native tree.
Turangiwaewae	Home, Home turf, Domicile.
Whakapapa	Genealogy, Cultural identity.
Whanau	Family, Extended family.
Whare	House, Deignated building.
Wharepakau	Tribal ancestor of Ngati Whare.

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