

The Economist
22 Jan 2005

You'll go far, my son

SIR - Offshoring children already has effects in more ways than you suggest ("A modest proposal", December 18th). People in rich societies are having fewer children as they are unwilling to bear the cost of child-rearing in terms of marital commitment and lost wages. This will result in a future shortage of workers needed to support welfare programmes. To make up for this shortage countries are now increasing their numbers of young immigrants, who have been reared and educated at a much lower cost. If this isn't offshoring of child-rearing, what is?

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Reason
July 2006

Why Poor Countries Are Poor

Foreign aid money might be lining the Cameroonian despot's pocket and perpetuating his rule ("Why Poor Countries Are Poor," March), but that hasn't stopped us from sending more. In 2003 dictator Paul Biya received \$200,000 under the International Military Education and Training program of the U.S. Department of Defense. If you are wondering why, consider a White House press release from March of that year, which reported a meeting at which George W. Bush "congratulated President Biya on Cameroon's successful record of reform, and encouraged him to continue to tackle sensitive issues, such as governance and privatization," and (more important) that "President Biya has been supportive of U.S. effort to combat international terrorism."

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The Atlantic
Oct 2007

After noting the competition faced by some rich-world workers from their developing-world counterparts, James Fallows concludes: "With no trade barriers, there would be no reason why the average person in, say, Holland would be better off than the average one in India." But there is. An average Dutch person is more productive in the marketplace due to his or her better education, health, institutional environment, and access to capital, and so he or she will always earn a higher wage.

Later in the article, Fallows discusses European subsidies to Airbus, and urges Americans to be aware that "Boeing sells fewer airplanes and employs fewer engineers than it presumably would without competition from Airbus." True, but that says very little about the overall employment prospects for American engineers. In fact, the demand for them has constantly outstripped supply. Instead of being alarmed, Americans should send a thank-you note to European taxpayers for subsidizing world airplane production, so that America is able to allocate its scarce engineering talent to other uses.

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The Times of India,
27 Dec 2005

The recent protest by the residents of Meerut against "moral policing" by the law enforcement is rich in symbolism. One hundred and fifty years ago, this little town was the site of the Sepoy Mutiny, local uprising that sparked off a nationwide revolt against the British rule. Today, by once again leading the nation in a popular outrage, Meerut has sent the message that Indians will resist any kind of oppressive antics by the state – foreign or not.

-Nimish Adhia, Ahmedabad