

India's and Brazil's foreign aid and their roles in the future development architecture

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Why do we care?



Some additional considerations

- 1. North-South imbalance**
- 2. Poverty and emerging donors**
- 3. Aid, status and identity**

1. North-South imbalance

1. Number of development specialists from the South is low; we still use 'Western' vocabulary and frameworks
2. Human capacity restrictions: There are 400 Indian diplomats, fewer than most small EU countries (Canada has 3000). Indian government has very few development officials
3. 'Development aid' not a popular topic among political scientists and even less so among IR scholars in Brazil
4. Lack of knowledge leads to a general sense of insecurity and unwillingness to engage in an open debate: Tendency to block and reject proposals
5. Partly explains institutional chaos, lack of transparency and lack of responsibility
6. Sense that Western attempts to tie down emerging donors with concepts such as transparency, accountability etc.

"There will come a time when we will be richer and more rigid and perhaps then less creative, more boring."

Marco Farani, ABC (Brazilian Development Agency)

2. Poverty and emerging donors

- 1. Half of the world's poor live in countries that are so-called 'emerging donors'**
- 2. India and Brazil are increasingly reluctant to accept the presence of foreign donor agencies**
- 3. If emerging donors' only focus was to reduce poverty, they'd invest everything in domestic programs**
- 4. But domestic criticism of aid programs is lower than one would expect**
- 5. International engagement is seen as an important element of 'big power status'; helps countries' ambitions to obtain permanent UNSC membership and to strengthen their regional leadership role**

3. Aid, status and identity

- 1. Both actors are still reluctant to embrace “donor” status as it remains linked to humiliating experience as IMF recipients**
- 2. At the same time, both Brazil and India seek to reduce the presence of foreign donors in the country (Tsunami 2004)**
- 3. Negative attitude towards formalization of aid process as this requires specific designation of donor – this implies a hierarchy and the creation of unequal relationship which emerging donors seek to avoid (help recipients ‘save face’)**
- 4. OECD is seen as a ‘rich country’s club’, and joining it or accepting any of its rules could create a backlash at home.**