Damian Szymczak
University of Lodz
Faculty of Economics and Sociology
e-mail: dejman7@gmail.com

Introduction to the Problem of Poverty by Amartya Kumar Sen. The Ethical Dimension

On the threshold of the 21st century the problem of poverty has not been dealt with yet. The world constantly suffers hunger, and many people have no access to running water or education. This raises fundamental question, which have bothered economy researchers for centuries: What determines the wealth of some countries, and the poverty of others? One of the contemporary researchers analysing the causes of poverty and development barriers is Indian economist Amartya Sen. Referring to the socio-economic theory of Sen, the author indicates that modernity implies the need for reflection on the definition of poverty. The author attempts to justify the thesis which focuses on the dissonance between the evaluation concepts of good and evil with objective economic factors which define poverty. The author claims that the definition of poverty should be grounded in considerations concerning good and evil in a specific time, as well as cultural and historical context.

Keywords: poverty, development, Amartya Sen

JEL Classification: A13, B31, I31