

## ABSTRACT

### Understanding Caribbean Identity and its Implications on Caribbean Economic Development

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The aim of this research is to propose a philosophically robust strategy for inclusive economic growth in the Caribbean, whereby the choices, freedoms and welfare of Caribbean people may be enlarged. This is done by analysing the metaphysical issues of identity and ethical issues of development.

It is argued that developing an acceptable notion of Caribbean identity is critical in achieving economic development, through efforts such as the move towards establishing the Caribbean Single Market Economy, guided by, and reflective of, the common goals, values, ideals and identity of Caribbean people.

It is recognised that problems concerning collective regional economic development are tied strongly to issues of identity. These issues have their origins in the region's history of subjugation, isolation and dubious notion that Caribbean existence is hinged on the ability to produce economic output for external consumption – mostly raw materials or tourism targeted at foreign visitors.

However, these ideas about economic development are largely from a European perspective, and though these ideas may work in those spaces, there is no guarantee that they can work as effectively in the Caribbean space. Therefore, it becomes necessary that economic strategies be developed, guided by economic theories, that are reflective of the ideals, experiences and realities of Caribbean society.

For this to occur, more effort must be made to develop a collective understanding of Caribbean identity. With this common notion of being a Caribbean community, our ability to work together as a region to solve our shared economic, social, political, cultural, spiritual and intellectual challenges will be enhanced.

Keywords: Khimaja Ramoy Connell; Caribbean identity; Caribbean Single Market Economy; economic development; Caribbean Community; CARICOM, Ethics, Metaphysics