

The Focus and Scope of BEIF

- BEIF is a forum for people interested in understanding the relationship between Economic Inequality and Business
 - Economic inequality refers to disparities in the distribution of economic assets among individuals or households in a society.
 - Economic inequality includes income inequality and wealth inequality; It could relate to, but by definition does not include other forms of inequality, e.g., gender, race, and social.
 - Economic inequality is not the same as poverty – the latter refers to lack of means to fulfill basic human needs or achieve a defined level of material possessions. Inequality can typically be found with poverty, but poverty might be absent when inequality is present, e.g., in some developed parts of the world. The two issues are analytically distinct.
- BEIF is about the relationship of Business with Economic Inequality, rather than the latter per se.
 - Several disciplines investigate economic inequality and its effect on health, politics, crime, demographics, etc. They typically do not examine the effect of economic inequality on business and vice versa; BEIF is specifically focused on this.
- Questions of primary interest to BEIF
 - How does economic inequality in society affect business?
 - How does economic inequality affect managing within organizations – marketing, finance, operations, human resource management, etc. Further, how does it affect strategy, the role of business in society, entrepreneurship, ethics, etc.
 - How does economic inequality within an organization affect business?
 - How does disparity in CEO and worker pays affect business?
 - How does business affect economic inequality in society?
 - Do business strategies, norms, entrepreneurship, etc. contribute to or perpetuate economic inequality?
 - Do management practices (such as benchmarking, compensation policies, disciplinary practices) contribute to or perpetuate economic inequality?
 - Should business try to address economic inequality – why and how?
 - Is economic inequality a threat to business? Does it increase costs of doing business – if so, which costs? Does it decrease revenues for business – if so, how and why?
 - Is economic inequality an opportunity for business? Can organizations create products and services to manage/decrease economic inequality? Can organizations create products and services to alleviate the effects of economic inequality on people?
 - Can business manage/decrease economic inequality through corporate social responsibility initiatives?