

# D-Lab Development

2009.09.16

...continuing conversation on theory of development

Came into question during mid 1960s

- economic growth of countries starts to slow down
- people start asking questions of relation of economic model
- stages of growth theories not applying to countries
- lots of urbanization happening faster than industrialization
- many people going to service jobs
  - {skipping over labor phases
  - was originally thought had to go through labor first}

## 2 Sets of Arguments

VIEW 1

Gov't intervention disrupts market

- How exchange rate gets set
  - encouraged capital intensive investments
  - discouraged labor intensive investments
  - paying too much for labor
  - discouraged hiring of labor
- Intervene wrongly in agriculture
  - gov't tried to set price to feed urban
  - @ a price that discourages farmer's to grow
- Why intervene?

VIEW 2

Gov't controlled by Elite (neo-colonialist)

- {more interested in global world and making more money}
- Not re-investing money into country

Use of technology an important issue in development

- people need a productive role
- meaningful + socially engaging
- give people the technology that they can build upon themselves

Small is Beautiful

- arguing against bigness as solution
- arguing against large scaled economies

## not only use technology use knowledge that people have

HOW YOU DO THINGS MATTERS

- organization setting
- more than technology you are using
- dissemination requires understanding of organization
  - { mechanism for delivery
  - material acquisition
  - marketing

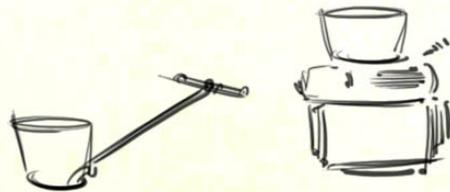
INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY  
+  
APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY



{ Indigenous  
Intermediate  
Industrial }



Video of  
Roofing Tiles



Women who were widows (outcast)

- can now have an income
- limiting factor of production is workshop location (transportation)
- Figuring out how to make this work is dependent on understanding of organization
- Focus on more than technology

- Gadgets don't always turn into income generators for target audience

Shoemaker (S is B)

- Economics as if people mattered. HUMAN SCALE

## APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

What makes something appropriate?

- Need
- Cheap
- Understood/Understandable
- Matches Skills
- Locally Produced
- Matches Local Environment
- Culturally Acceptable
- Applicability
- Reliable/Repairable/Maintainable
- Beneficial
- Environmentally Friendly
- Provides Meaningful work
- Increased Production

Loaded question  
Extended debate  
to be had in  
D-Lab Design

→ Quality

Definition has changed over time...

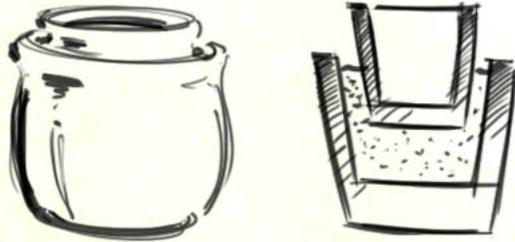
- locally available materials to material able to be obtained locally IE plastic sachets in rural village
- ownership of ideas patents & royalties

## EXAMPLES OF APPRO TECH

### Sari Cloth Filter

Can make a huge difference  
in cholera outbreak

### Pot In Pot



### Whirlwind Wheelchairs

- A complex technology being made locally
- End users producing product
- Appropriate technology can be simple and good

### Light Up the World:

#### Solid State Lights

- Circuit board not produced locally
- Housing made locally

### Grameen Phone

- If you can put in the network/infrastructure people can have access to technology
- Supply chains are more important than the device

"Understanding what is appropriate  
is the crux of the movement."

Bias against market when there was low growth

Market - a powerful mechanism for  
disciplining yourself in design  
- one set of mistakes made in  
early days of appro tech was  
not asking practical questions  
- ask practical questions!!

{ Understand how market works  
Turn it into force that works in your favor. }

- not necessary to de-link yourself  
from gov't + politics + market

Doing things collectively has a sense  
of being morally good

The organization of those people can be difficult

### Understanding the market

- How do big firms work on the ground
- Use their structure to your advantage
- Ask questions + find out links

### Community

- We think it is independent of market + state
- They are linked though



## EFFICIENCY

As idea that you get the maximum out of your investment

- Example of drinking tea from 3 - 4 taking away time later on. Culturally appropriate maybe, but maybe not for the situation. THEY (the poor) need the time.
- Grameen Bank

ritual of singing to weed out people who don't really need the loan

WHY? are people doing what they are doing?  
HOW? can I build on it?

Simplify to basic two or three steps.

ASK of your host organization If there was one thing to change, to make it more efficient, what would it be?

- Trying to do 10 million things at one time is overwhelming
- Decide out of 10 things, which one will make the most impact
- Just because the situation is a result of an intersection of multiple aspects, doesn't mean the solution must be.

} Focus on  
One Thing

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