


COMPAS AFRICA

Comparing and Supporting Endogenous
Development

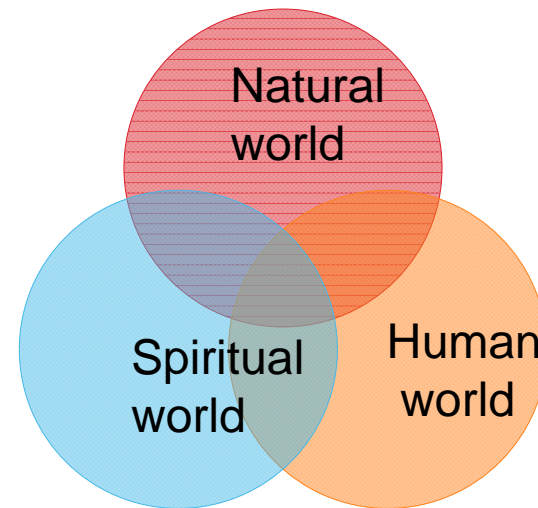
Bernard Guri
Center for Indigenous Knowledge and Organizational Development. Ghana.
www.cikodgh.org

WHAT IS ENDOGENOUS DEVELOPMENT (ED)?

- ▶ Development that is based mainly, but not exclusively, on local strategies, knowledge, institutions and resources.
 - ▶ Key principle is the enhancing of local control of the development process and builds mainly, but not exclusively, on local resources.
 - ▶ Starting point of ED is respect for and understanding of the daily life (culture and spirituality) of the communities involved: their local knowledge, values and belief systems, their worldviews, their social organization and the resources they have, and the way they value and use these resources
- 

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR ED

- ▶ The target is Communities and their worldviews
- ▶ In ED community worldviews are premised on a balance between 3 spheres of life: the natural world, the human world and the spiritual world and well being is where the 3 meet.
- ▶ Cultural, social and spiritual resources are equally if not more important than the more tangible and physical resources



METHODOLOGIES FOR ED

- ▶ Community Organizational Development (COD)
- ▶ Based on “sankofa” principle: *We need to reach out into our past and take back all that works and is positive in order to move into the future.*
- ▶ involves motivating communities to reclaim, revitalise and use their existing indigenous institutions, organizational structures and resources to initiate and lead their own development process.




TOOLS FOR COD

- ▶ Respect for African spirituality and values: totemism, spirit mediums, ancestors, *tengan*, *community cohesion*
- ▶ Tools for COD:
 - Community institutions and resources mapping (CIRM)
 - Community visioning and action planning (CVAP)
 - Community Organizational self assessment (COSA)
 - Community Institutional strengthening (CIS)



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ED

- ▶ Work within the cultural context of the community
 - ▶ Start with their knowledge, their technologies, their resources and some of their tools.
 - ▶ Try to evolve together with them innovations that build on what they have to meet current needs and realities.
 - ▶ Need to free ourselves of the known conventional approaches in order to appreciate other realities (worldviews).
 - ▶ Follow traditional protocol.
 - ▶ Work with the whole community.
 - ▶ Harness collective action and elicit the support of key players in the community.
 - ▶ Use open collective forums, which are inclusive in nature (eg festivals).
 - ▶ Use outside mediators to facilitate open forums.
 - ▶ Use culturally sensitive approaches (stories, proverbs, songs, drama, images, etc)
 - ▶ Go at the pace of the community.
- 

GOAL OF ED

▶ Enhancing Community wellbeing

- Facilitating visioning and planning based on community indicators of well being eg social cohesion, good health, children, wealth creation, good relationship with the spiritual world, etc



APPLICATION OF ED

- ▶ **Supporting local learning and experimentation**
 - helping communities to better understand, revitalize and document their knowledge base
 - giving them access to other ideas and experiences
 - Using Local resource persons and knowledge bearers eg elders, spiritual leaders, traditional leaders



APPLICATION OF ED

Strengthening local institutions

- ▶ Supporting community organization
- ▶ Building on traditional institutions
- ▶ Giving voice to the poor through indigenous/local platforms
- ▶ Acknowledging faith and giving meaning
- ▶ Empowering women and promoting gender equality



APPLICATION OF ED

Supporting livelihoods through local action:

- ▶ Seed diversity
- ▶ Home gardens, pottery, wood carvings
- ▶ Improved grain storage
- ▶ Eco-cultural enterprises
- ▶ Revitalizing local health traditions




APPLICATION OF ED

Creating a supportive environment

- ▶ Supporting evidence-based policy dialogue
- ▶ Transforming university education
- ▶ Local experts in university training
- ▶ Local wisdom in school programmes



Questions

- ▶ What are the commonalities and differences between ABCD and ED?
 - ▶ Where do the two complement each other?
- 

THANK YOU!

