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.
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.
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.
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
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!